UNSTORIES

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A NEW VISION FOR RUSSIA

VIDEO

ANATOLIY AT HOME

It’s almost time for the daily commute – Anatoliy Popko grabs a coffee // and says goodbye to his baby daughter // Now he enters the city’s intimidating metro system. (17)

ANATOLIY IN TRAFFIC

ANATOLIY GETS OFF METRO TRAIN

ANATOLIY NAVIGATES ALONG PLATFORM

AUDIO

NARRATION

ANATOLIY: (In English) M

Once I exit the train I have to listen carefully… and then I have to be real careful moving around. (6)

NARRATION

That takes courage // because Anatoliy can’t see – he’s been blind since childhood. (8.5)

NARRATION

Historically, people in Russia with a range of disabilities were sent to institutions– like these blind children in the early twentieth century. Here children learned traditional skills – but their lives were strictly regimented. (14.5)

ARCHIVE BOYS IN INSTITUTION

BLIND WORKERS AT FACTORY, MOSCOW
And today, the marginalisation continues – the blind people who can find work often have no choice but to spend their working lives carrying out menial tasks. (15)

Anatoliy believes that new technologies can help.

Working for the All Russia Association of the Blind, he demonstrates this new voice recognition software which enables users to harness the almost limitless information available on the internet. (17.5)

Anatoliy’s goal is to change Russia not just for blind people – but for all people with disabilities. – and there are signs that his wishes are starting to be fulfilled. Moscow has declared that it will be “barrier-free” by 2020 – meaning that all public buildings and facilities should be easily accessible.

And in 2008 the Russian Federation signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (32)

For Anatoliy, the birth of his new daughter – ten-month-old Polina means new responsibility as a father and a new focus on the future. At heart, he hopes his daughter’s life will be shaped by the same spirit as his own. (21)