



# WFD NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

APRIL 2013



2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf  
16 - 18 October 2013 • Sydney - Australia



## Equality for Deaf People

2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf  
Sydney, Australia

**16 - 18 October 2013**

[www.wfdsydney2013.com](http://www.wfdsydney2013.com)

[wfdsydney2013@icms.com.au](mailto:wfdsydney2013@icms.com.au)

We welcome all news, articles, letters to the editor, and other contributions. We reserve the right of acceptance or rejection and the right to edit all submissions that we publish.

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## Front cover:

Workshop for deaf women, Colombia  
(Photo: Martha L.O. Posada)

Kellye Bensley, (Community Engagement Manager)  
Robert Hewison (President of Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand), Mojo Mathers (Member of Parliament, New Zealand), Colin Allen (WFD President & Lachlan Keating (Chief Executive Officer, Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand)  
(Photo: Colin Allen)

WFD Conference  
(Photo: Deaf Society of NSW)

The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) was established in 1951 during the first World Congress in Rome, Italy. The WFD today continues to be an ever-expanding umbrella organisation providing a wide range of support and advocacy services for 133 national associations of the deaf, representing approximately 70 million deaf people worldwide.

The mission of the WFD is to promote the human rights of deaf people and full, quality and equal access to all spheres of life, including self-determination, sign language, education, employment and community life. The philosophy of the WFD is one of equality, human rights and respect for all people, regardless of race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual preference, age and all other human qualities.

The WFD also provides a platform for global cooperation and information exchange among its members and partners. As an international non-governmental organisation, the WFD has a special consultative status in the United Nations (UN) system, where it is represented at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and the World Health Organisation (WHO). The WFD has participatory status with the Council of Europe (CoE), cooperates closely with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and has representatives on the UN Standard Rules for the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and is a member of the International Disability Alliance (IDA).

# ACTING PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

**WILMA NEWHOUDT-DRUCHEN**



Photo: Mr John vander Westhuizen  
Ms Patricia De Beer

## *Greetings to all –*

During the past few weeks as acting WFD President, I have come to appreciate more and more the work done by Mr Colin Allen, as WFD President and the committed WFD Secretariat.

The WFD Board and WFD Secretariat welcome Ms Eeva Tupi as WFD Human Rights Officer. Ms Tupi is also the Secretary of WFDYS and has taken a year leave of absence to perform her work as WFD Human Rights Officer. Ms Tupi has studied Laws with special interest in human rights issues.

Every year in South Africa on 21st March, we celebrate Human Rights Day. We commemorate this day with a Human Rights debate and I was asked to take part during South African Parliament assembly. My topic for the debate was Entrenching the culture and values of human rights in our economy – by addressing structural economic challenges, skewed patterns of ownership and production, as obstacles to the goals of economic transformation, growth and development – and enhancing our strategies for social transformation to empower people to lift themselves out of poverty while creating adequate social nets to protect the most vulnerable in our society.

Reflecting on global human rights, we also take time to reflect how Deaf people in all parts of the world

still today struggle for recognition as deaf citizens in their own countries. The WFD has worked hard to make sure the UN Convention for the Rights of People with Disabilities (CPRD) comes into being. The WFD continues to educate Deaf people all over the world about the CPRD and how it can be applied in their own countries to advance the rights of deaf people and their rights to sign language.

The WFD notes that Gallaudet University in Washington, DC (USA) is currently celebrating the 25th anniversary of the 1988 Deaf President Now (DPN) protest and how we still feel its effects of across the world.

I have been invited to give a talk at Gallaudet this month to reflect on how the spirit of DPN has inspired disability rights movements across the world to reaffirm sign language rights, which includes the important work done by WFD resulting in the CRPD that is being signed and ratified by governments worldwide, including the roles of Deaf people and Ordinary Members of the WFD across the globe.

**Wilma Newhoudt Druchen**

**WFD Vice President**



# NEWS FROM WFD PRESIDENT

Photos: Colin Allen

Here's some brief news on events since the last WFD Newsletter.

## Community Colleges Australia - Outstanding Contribution Award

In late February, it was a great honour to receive the Community Colleges Australia Award for Outstanding Contribution by an Individual to the Community Education Sector. The Award recognised my work with the Deaf Education Network, one of the service departments of the Deaf Society of NSW, which is a provider of adult and community education programs. Deaf Education Network specialises in educational programs and services aimed at deaf, hard of hearing and hearing people. I was chosen by Community Colleges Australia because of my ongoing work at state, national - and most importantly - international level. I received the award from The Hon. Adrian Piccoli, NSW Minister for Education, and his colleagues including my local member The Hon. Victor Dominello, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Citizenship and Communities and Dr Geoff Lee MP.



Colin Allen receives the Community Colleges Australia Award

## New Zealand

In early March, I was invited to be a keynote presenter at Deaf View III - 'Our Changing Community' where there was a pre-conference public forum on New Zealand Sign Language - 'Official recognition of NZSL: How to enable Deaf people's language and cultural identity' in Wellington, New Zealand.

I greatly enjoyed participating in both events, and delivered a deaf human rights presentation related to the United Nation Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the importance of deaf people (including children) having the full right to access in Sign Language. The New Zealand Sign Language Act was adopted in 2006 by the New Zealand Parliament which is now one of New Zealand's official languages

(along with Maori and English). The New Zealand Sign Language Act does not provide full accessibility for all people who use their national sign language to receive access to services. For example, New Zealand Public Education does not provide full time access to a sign language environment in the mainstreamed schools; their parents are responsible to cover additional costs to ensure their child receives a full education.



Colin gives presentation at Deaf View



Colin and Glenis Philip-Barbara, Chief Executive Officer, Maori Language Commission & Mr Paul Gibson, Disability Rights Commissioner, New Zealand Human Rights Commissioner

At the Deaf View III Conference, I delivered a paper "Equality for Deaf People" focused on five key articles of the UN CRPD relating to Sign Language which is the key to achieving equality of rights for Deaf people. The diagram below shows the basic factors which underpin the Human Rights of Deaf People:-

## Basic Factors for Human Rights of Deaf People



Diagram showing basic factors

## IMPLEMENTATION OF FOUR BASIC FACTORS IS TANTAMOUNT TO THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF DEAF PEOPLE

cognition and use of **sign language(s)**, including recognition and respect for deaf culture and identity  
**Bilingual education** in sign language(s) and the national language(s)  
**Accessibility** in all areas of society and life, including legislation to secure equal citizenship for all and prevent discrimination in language **interpretation**

As illustrated, without the implementation and existence of even one of these factors Deaf people will not be able to fully enjoy human rights.

Information on basic factors

I was inspired by the dedicated group of people who made this conference a very successful one, especially as they all gave their time voluntarily. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the team of 12 New Zealand Sign Language Interpreters and the two local interpreters who interpreted my presentations and meetings during my staying in Wellington, New Zealand. In next issue of the WFD Newsletter, there will be an article from the Chairperson of the Deaf View III who has agreed to share stories with all of us around the world about what we learnt from the conference. Once again, I appreciated the wonderful environment at the conference, and the work of the presenters who have dedicated their time to preserving New Zealand Sign Language.

After the conference, I attended a number of governmental meetings with dedicated team members from Deaf Aotearoa (Deaf Association New Zealand – DANZ); Robert Hewison (President), Lachlan Keating (Chief Executive Officer) and Kelley Bensley (Community Engagement Manager) to advocate for their needs to be seen and heard by government. The meetings were particularly about reminding government about implementing the CRPD which New Zealand has ratified, and ensuring that deaf children have the right to access their national sign language. Deaf Aotearoa is an ordinary member of the World Federation of the Deaf - more information about them can be found at: <http://www.deaf.co.nz/nz-sign-language>

At one of the meetings it was a great pleasure for me to meet a Deaf Member of the New Zealand Parliament, the Hon. Mojo Mathers, who was elected in November, 2011. We shared our knowledge and discussed the current needs of the deaf community in New Zealand. At the end of our meeting, I praised her for meeting the challenges of her pioneering role as a Deaf MP as one of very few deaf MPs around the world. I also personally encouraged her to join us at the 2nd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf in Sydney, Australia in October.



Colin and New Zealand Member of Parliament Mojo Mathers

Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation to Wilma Newhoudt-Druchen for taking on my role as Acting WFD President and carrying out the voluntary work of the WFD President while I was on temporary leave. Thank you Wilma.

We are now all ready for our next board meeting in St Denis, Reunion Island from 2 May for six days. Following the meeting we will attend the First Deaf Congress of the Indian Ocean, which promises to be a wonderful event.



## WFD Board Profile - Kaisa Alanne

Photos: Kaisa Alanne

**1. Tell us a little about yourself. (Who are you? childhood, family, education)**

I am the second child in my family. My older brother's deafness made my hearing parents to apply for some sign language classes and when I was born, I already had the benefit of parents who used sign language! During my childhood, I was a regular guest of Helsinki Club of the Deaf and there were many children who were the same age as me, some of whom are still my good friends. After business college education, I attended secondary school for adults and will graduate with a Master's degree from the University of Jyväskylä this year. My major is Finnish Sign Language. I would like to make the world better place for children, women, and people with disabilities where their rights are respected. Nature is also close to my heart.

**2. Tell us a little about your work.**

I have worked at the Finnish Association of the Deaf for nearly 22 years. I started my career as a research assistant for the Finnish Sign Language dictionary project and then I was a sign language secretary, a project coordinator and a manager of sign language. Since 2008 I have worked as a director of the development department and am responsible for the sign language and communication units. Human rights, linguistic rights, and language planning and language policy are my specialty. I work as a permanent expert in the Finnish Ministry of Justice, Language Advisory Board.

**3. You are a Board Member of the WFD. What do you do?**

I am a new WFD Board member and I have still a lot to learn in this work. I coordinate WFD expert group efforts with another member, Mr Hasan Dikyuya. I am involved on the WFD financial and fundraising committees. Also, because I am from Finland, so for practical reasons I work as a contact person to support the WFD Secretariat.

**4. What was your most memorable experience on your duty as a Board member or in your life?**

It is a difficult question. I have many good and memorable experiences. The best is my involvement with the Deaf community, because I can share my experiences with other sign language users and partners.

Professional experiences and in particular, international contacts also provides a lot of new opportunities and a wealth of information. My kids are definitely my life's wealth.

**5. What are your wishes for the WFD to achieve?**

The WFD became as an independent organisation a short time ago and has had a lot to learn. There is much more work to accomplish to strengthen WFD's financial position. The WFD is a reliable and strong organization that benefits from experts in other international networks; the WFD is always seeking new experts to support its activities. There are good resources in our databank, but we need more new research materials and related documents. Ordinary members (OMs) should also not be forgotten. We aim to develop our website so that it is more user-friendly for OMs to get information and advice from us.



WFD Board member, Kaisa Alanne in Japan



Kaisa and her family

### WFD Human Rights

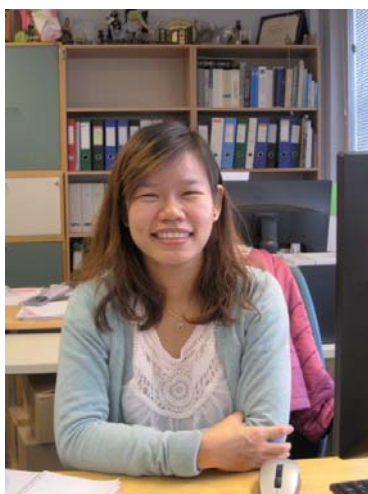
The first month of the Human Rights project was spent in establishing contacts with WFD Ordinary Members in Azerbaijan, El Salvador, and Peru. Human rights training focus is on strengthening OM's competence in collaborating with various stakeholders at the national level in implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). One part of training is practising how to make a parallel report to the CRPD Committee with other organisations of persons with disabilities. Onsite training will be provided in Azerbaijan and El Salvador. With Peru, there will be online consultation.



**Eeva Tupi, Human Rights Officer**  
Photo: Phillipa Sandholm

### WFD Intern

Ms. Noppawan Thamsiriboon from Thailand, an intern from Gallaudet University worked with the WFD Secretariat from January to the end of February 2013. We would like to thank Ms Thamsiriboon for her work in creating a new look for the WFD general brochure and other tasks. The WFD Secretariat wishes her the best of luck with her last year of university studies and her future career!



**WFD Intern Noppawan Thamsiriboon**  
Photo: Phillipa Sandholm

### WFD Conference



### 2nd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf

<http://www.wfdsydney2013.com/>

Are you planning to come to the Conference? Do you want to be part of an exciting event meeting and learning from 500 - 800 other deaf people from around the world? Did you know Sydney, Australia is one of the world's most beautiful cities? Are you passionate about equality for deaf people? Do you want to do something about promoting equality? Come along to the Conference. The wonderful city of Sydney and the Deaf Community there is waiting to welcome you!

### Keynote presenters announced!

<http://www.wfdsydney2013.com/presenters.php>

The conference is pleased to present two exciting keynote presenters, Mr Raghav Bir Joshi and Ms Rosemary Kayess.

Mr Joshi is from Nepal and actively involved in advocating for the rights of deaf people there. He is a founding member of the Kathmandu Association of the Deaf and was the first deaf member of the Constituent Assembly of Nepal, which was responsible for drafting the new constitution.



**Keynote Presenter,  
Mr Raghav Bir Joshi**

Ms Kayess is a Visiting Fellow at the University of NSW in Sydney, Australia. Her areas of expertise are disability and human rights law. She has held ministerial advisory roles with both the state and federal government on disability and carer issues and was the external expert on the Australian Government delegation to the United Nations negotiations for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).



**Keynote Presenter,  
Ms Rosemary Kayess**

You can read more them on the website and watch our films in International Sign. Come and see them share their life's work and be inspired!

Registrations are now open! Early bird registration closes on 1 August 2013.

Go online to buy your registration at <http://www.wfdsydney2013.com/registration.php>. We have discounts for those who are WFD members, those from developing countries and those who are students or pensioners. All prices are in Australian dollars. Payment in any other currency will not be accepted.

2nd International Conference of the WFD - Fee Type	Early Bird to 31 July 2013	From 1 August to 15 October 2013	Onsite from July 16 October 2013
Standard Registration	\$550.00	\$700.00	\$750.00
Standard Registration – WFD Member* <i>(Applicable to 2 delegates from each WFD Ordinary Member, one from Associate and International Members, and to all WFD Individual Members)</i>	\$500.00	\$650.00	\$700.00
Standard Registration – Developing Countries <i>(see the list of developing countries on the website)</i>	\$450.00	\$500.00	\$550.00
Standard Registration – Concession <i>(full time students, seniors and pensioners) *</i>	\$450.00	\$500.00	\$550.00

\*Please fax or email evidence the Conference Organiser on +61 3 9818 7111 or [wfdsydney2013@icms.com.au](mailto:wfdsydney2013@icms.com.au)

### Standard Registration Entitlements

- Entry to all sessions
- Lunches, Morning and afternoon tea daily
- Attendance at the Welcome Reception
- Entry into Exhibition
- Conference Bag
- Copy of Final Program and Abstract Book

### Official Languages

The official languages of the Conference are:

- International Sign
- Australian Sign Language
- English

### Captioning

All conference sessions will have real time captioning in English.

### Program

The Conference Program is currently being finalised. A submission for abstracts has closed and we were impressed to have over 80 submissions.

### Be wowed by Sydney!

If you have never been to Sydney before, this is a perfect opportunity to start your journey as some of the Conference events will show off the best parts of Sydney.

The Welcome Reception (16 October 2013) at the Museum of Contemporary Art is right on Sydney Harbour with sweeping views of the Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House. When the sun is setting and the lights from the city come on it is a spectacular place to be. The cost of this is included in the Standard Registration fee.

The Conference Dinner (18 October 2013) at the Ivy Room. People who live in Sydney dream of going to The Ivy. It is the place to be seen; cool, trendy and it will be a night to remember.

### Continue your adventure

<http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/centenary>

The Deaf Society of NSW is the host of the Conference. They are turning 100 years old in 2013. Two days after the Conference there will be three Deaf Community events that you might want to stay on for: The International Deaf Film Festival, The International Deaf Festival and The Centenary Afternoon Tea (19-20 October 2013). All of these events are in iconic parts of the city. They are places you would visit anyway even if you planned a holiday. If you want to meet the local Deaf Community and meet deaf people of all ages and types, it would be worth staying on for these events.



## WFD Experts

The WFD Expert Working Group headed by WFD Board Members Ms Alanne and Mr Dikyuva reviewed the applicants and proposed a list of candidates for the following WFD Expert Groups and Ad Hoc Groups. The WFD Board has approved appointments for each group. The groups are:

1. Deaf Education
2. Bioethics
3. Accessibility and Technology
4. Sign Language and Deaf Studies
5. Children and Women
6. Health
7. Developing Countries
8. Human Rights

List of the members of each group:

### Deaf Education

Coordinator: Dr. Marianne Rossi Stumpf (Brazil)

**WFD Expert coordinator  
on Education,  
Ms Marianne Stumpf**



Members: Ms. Anna Komarova (Russia)  
Dr. Roz Rosen (USA)  
Prof. Marta Vinardell Maristany (Spain)  
Mr. Lucas Magongwa (South Africa)

### Bioethics

Coordinator: Prof. Stuart Samuel Blume (Netherlands)

**WFD Expert coordinator  
on Bioethics,  
Dr Stuart Blume**



Members: Dr. Theresa Blankmeyer Burke (USA)  
Dr. Steven D. Emery (UK)

### Accessibility and Technology

Coordinator: Mr. Philip Harper (Australia)

**WFD Expert coordinator on  
Accessibility & Technology,  
Dr Phil Harper**



Members: Mr. Daniel Andres Ocampo Arias (Colombia)  
Mr. Masayuki Inoue (Japan)  
Mr. Benjamin Soukup (USA)  
Dr. Christian Phillipp Vogler (USA)  
Mr. Bruno Druchen (South Africa)  
Mr. Filip-Andre Cornelius Vestræte (Belgium)

## Sign Language and Deaf Studies

Coordinator: Dr. Robert Adam (Australia)



**WFD Expert coordinator on  
Sign Language & Deaf Studies,  
Dr Robert Adam**

Members: Ms. Tatiana Davidenko (Russia)  
Prof. Ulrike Zeshan (UK)  
Ms. Melissa Draganac-Hawk (USA)  
Mrs. Maria Luz Esteban Saiz (Spain)  
Dr. Myriam Maria J.J. Vermeerbergen (Belgium)  
Dr. Verena Krausneker (Austria)  
Mr. Sam Lutalo-Kiingi (Uganda)

### Children and Women

Coordinator: Dr. Donalda Ammons (USA)

**WFD Expert coordinator  
on Children & Women,  
Dr Donalda Ammons**



Members: Prof. Martha Lucia Osorno Posada (Colombia)  
Ms. Susan Kagwiria Kirima (Kenya)  
Ms. Lucy Erima Upah (Nigeria)  
Ms. Barbara Earth (USA)

### Health

Coordinator: Dr. Johannes Fellingner (Austria)

**WFD Expert  
coordinator on Health,  
Dr Johannes Fellingner**



Members: Dr. Andrew John Cornes (Australia)  
Dr. Michael McKee (USA)  
Dr. Carolyn Stern (USA)

### Developing Countries

Coordinator: Mr. Ambrose Murangira (Uganda)

**WFD Expert coordinator  
on Developing Countries,  
Mr Ambrose Murangira**



Members: Mr. Henry Modesto Meija Royet (Colombia)  
Mr. Sibaji Panda (India)  
Mr. Justin Smith (UK)  
Ms. Eupharasia Mbewe (Zambia)  
Mr. Kasper Bergmann (Denmark)  
Dr. Karin Hoyer (Finland)  
Mrs Annelies Maria Jozef Kusters (Belgium)

### Human Rights

Coordinator: Dr. Alastair McEwin (Australia)

**WFD Expert Coordinator  
on Human Rights,  
Mr Alastair McEwin**



Members: Mrs Francy Milena Cordillo Segura (Colombia)  
Mr. Hiroshi Tamon (Japan)  
Dr. Filipe Venade de Sousa (Portugal)  
Ms. Alexis Kashar (USA)  
Mr. Humberto Insolera (Italy)  
Mrs. Maartje De Meulder (Belgium)

## WFD Regional Secretariat for Oceania

In the previous issue of the WFD newsletter for February on page 7, it was noted that WFD President Colin Allen attended the WFD Regional Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific meeting in Hong Kong last year. The WFD Regional Secretariat for Oceania is now established as of 1 January 2013, with contact details as follows:

Regional Director: Mr. Lachlan Keating

PO Box 15770 New Lynn

Auckland 0640, NEW ZEALAND

Email: lachlan.keating@deaf.org.nz

Skype: lachlan.keating

## World Health Organization (WHO) – World Report on Disability in International Sign

The World Report on Disability is now available in International Sign and as well as in other languages in the WHO website: [http://www.who.int/disabilities/world\\_report/2011/report/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/report/en/index.html)

This report was published by the WHO and the World Bank in 2011.

## WFD Ordinary Membership Fees

Ordinary membership fees must be paid in full (including debts from previous years) before the upcoming WFD Conference. An invoice was sent to all Ordinary Members at end of January and on the first week of February 2013. Payment of membership fees as soon as possible would be greatly appreciated. Payments can be made in cash, prior to attending the WFD Ordinary Members' workshop, which takes place on 16 October 2013 in Sydney, Australia (see more information below).

## WFD Ordinary Member's workshop, 16 October 2013, Sydney Australia

The WFD Secretariat has sent email with attached letter and participation form on 31 October 2012 and as well as 8 February 2013.

**PLEASE DO SEND YOUR PARTICIPATION FORM BY EMAIL ([phillipa.sandholm@kl-deaf.fi](mailto:phillipa.sandholm@kl-deaf.fi)) TO THE WFD SECRETARIAT BY 30 AUGUST 2013!**

## DONORS

The WFD also wishes to thank individual members and friends who have made contribution to support WFD, as follows:

### General Donors:

Tsubyuka University of Technology students (Japan)

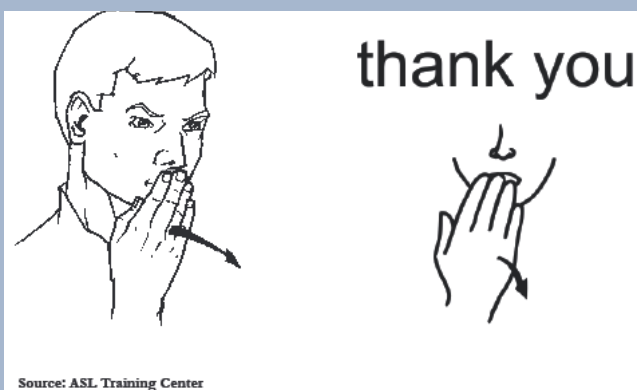
German Deaf Association

Interfonden, Denmark

Pekka Rissanen

Filip Verhelst

Deaf View 3 Committee, New Zealand



## CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD)

5 ARTICLES REFER DIRECTLY TO SIGN LANGUAGES AND THE DEAF:

Article 2: Definitions

Article 9: Accessibility (2 e)

Article 21: Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information (b and e)

Article 24: Education (3b, 3c and 4)

Article 30: Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport (4)

### BY NOW

- 129 ratifications of the Convention
- 155 signatories to the Convention

### OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION

- 76 ratifications of the Optional Protocol
- 91 signatories to the Optional Protocol

### RECENT SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS:

- Albania ratified the Convention on 11 February 2013

## Sixth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 17-19 July 2013

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution 61/106 of 13 December 2006. It came into force on 3 May 2008 upon the 20th ratification. Article 40 of the Convention stipulates that “The States Parties shall meet regularly in a Conference of States Parties in order to consider any matter with regard to the implementation of the present Convention.” Since 2008, five sessions of the Conference of States Parties have been held at United Nations Headquarters, New York. (<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1606>)

Source: UN Enable

## High-level Meeting on disability and development (23 September 2013)

The High-level meeting of the General Assembly on disability and development (HLMDD: <http://www.un.org/hlmdd2013>) is expected to take place at the level of the Heads of States on 23 September 2013. Prior to the meeting, a draft text of the outcome document will be produced by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States, along with input from organizations of persons with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders, through online discussions and informal consultations. Toward this end, DESA, in partnership with UNICEF will conduct online consultations under the existing platform of the World We Want 2015 from 8-28 March 2013. (<http://www.worldwewant2015.org>)

Source: UN Enable

## Commission for Social Development concludes its session

The 51st session of the Commission for Social Development (CSOCD) met in New York from 6 to 15 February under the theme: “Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all”. Two reports were presented to the Commission at this sessions: “Report of the Secretary General on Mainstreaming Disability in the Development Agenda” (E/CN.5/2013/9) and “Report of the Special Rapporteur to the 51st Session of the Commission for Social Development: Monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities” (E/CN.5/2013/10). The Special Rapporteur on Disability, Shuaib Chalklen, also presented his statement to the Commission. (<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=48&pid=38>)

Source: UN Enable



## **New Enable webpage on Indigenous persons with disabilities**

DESA has prepared a new web page to draw attention to issues related to indigenous persons with disabilities. While no global data exists regarding indigenous persons with disabilities, available statistics show that indigenous peoples are disproportionately likely to experience disability in comparison to the general population. Indigenous persons with disabilities often

experience multiple discrimination and face barriers based on their indigenous status, as well as their disability. The international community has also recognized that special measures are required to protect the rights of the world's indigenous peoples. This web page will continue to develop as a hub of news, resources and links related to indigenous persons with disabilities. (<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1605>)

Source: UN Enable

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## **ITEMS OF INTEREST**

### **The Essence of the Linguistic and Cultural Aspects of the Rights of the Deaf under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (1)**

“Disability is a human rights issue! I repeat: disability is a human rights issue.” (2)

Over time, the Deaf suffered discrimination and were excluded from society, without being able to actively participate in society as well as in political life. In the twentieth century, we have seen a paradigm shift for the Deaf on the issue of human rights, fighting up and up claiming equal rights and respect for their dignity in society.

The CRPD is the first international treaty, which has a binding force, that is has effectively mandatory application in domestic law, that is, the State is obliged to take to comply with the CRPD, effective measures against rights recognized, mentioning for the first time, specifically the Rights of the Deaf, for example, sign language and their cultural and linguistic identity, the right to bilingual education and the right to sign language to communicate and express themselves anywhere.

The CRPD does not create new rights, but rather ensures the enjoyment of the same rights that everyone else has. Effectively, the CRPD guarantees and promotes the Deaf

in being able to fully enjoy their human, linguistic and cultural rights, that is sets of rights inherent to human beings, involving the dignity, freedom and equality of human beings. Such rights are guaranteed, respected and universally recognized by international legal order, and also that apply to domestic law, which are binding and will always be basic rights, universal, interdependent, indivisible and inalienable for all.

The Deaf have certain sets of rights, and enshrined in the Convention: the sets of linguistic and cultural rights that are considered human rights, and these are: the right to language, the right to cultural identity, the right to education in sign language, the right to equal opportunities and non-discrimination on grounds of language and, finally, the right to access, through sign language interpreters in public services. On the one hand, linguistic rights are also understood as a right to language, that is, has the right to communicate any expressions formulated in any language to communicate, express, access and be served in a particular language chosen mainly based on respect for dignity; freedom of expression and equality and non-discrimination on grounds of language. The CRPD, under articles 2 and 21, recognizes and proclaims definitely sign language as a means of communication, which is legally effective and valid, used by Deaf, and therefore the state has an obligation to ensure and promote the use of sign language in any context, which has its own grammatical structures equating to other languages, for example, the Portuguese or English, and the language is seen as belonging to the cultural identity of the Deaf as public recognition of language rights enshrined the Deaf .

In other words, the Deaf have the right to use sign language to express and communicate anywhere in public and private sectors, including public services in general, administrative, judicial and other public policies and, under article 21, b) and article 9, paragraph 2, relating to accessibility.

Moreover, cultural rights are also understood as sets of rights, with an essentially cultural, that are intended to ensure and promote cultural diversity, respect for cultural identity, participation in cultural life and access to culture based on respect for dignity, equality and non-discrimination.

Consequently, the Deaf are entitled to recognition and promotion of their cultural and linguistic identity of the Deaf Community in accordance with article 30, paragraph 4 in conjunction with article 24, paragraph 3, subparagraph b) of the CRPD and still have the right access to their own culture, Deaf culture, which has an essentially symbolic and visual, to develop their personal identity having the own cultural identity.

The articles in question involve the State the obligation to take measures to safeguard and promotion of cultural and linguistic rights of the Deaf, in particular, their language and their own cultural identity. And, not least, in accordance with article 24, numbers 3 and 4 of the CRPD, which recognizes the Deaf the right to receive bilingual education, or to acquire the two languages, the language in which they live and the language itself, their sign language. It is true that the right to education is seen as a powerful and effective for the full exercise of human rights, otherwise it will be hindered or limited the exercise of other human rights for Deaf people.

Given the legal status of the Deaf people, that can lead to conclude that the rights of those persons must take into account full access to the exercise of rights, that is, the linguistic and cultural rights, being on equal treatment and opportunities with remaining. Without a doubt, the sign language is the first element that characterizes the fundamental rights granted to the Deaf, namely sign language is seen as the means of communication used by Deaf, essential to facilitate the integration of those persons in the full exercise citizenship in the society where they live and help overcome communication barriers that hinder the exercise of its rights as all other Persons.

We can also consider that the Deaf are viewed as members of a linguistic minority with its own characteristics. The rights of the Deaf are viewed in light of the duality of protection, in a complementary way, among minority rights and the rights of persons with disabilities, in accordance with the Convention, which constitutes the starting point of this work. This perspective of minority rights and of persons with disabilities does not contain incompatible terms. On the contrary, the elements are interrelated and interdependent. This is a perspective of human rights specifically related to the cases of the Deaf. In fact, the Convention is the first international treaty that clearly mentions the rights of the Deaf, given the existence of their own language – sign language – and a cultural and linguistic identity.

I leave a phrase to remind us of the significance of sign language:

"As long as we have deaf people on earth, we will have signs. And as long as we have our films, we can preserve signs in their old purity. It is my hope that we will all love and guard our beautiful sign language as the noblest gift God has given to deaf people"

George Veditz, The Preservation of the Sign Language, (1913)

(1) This work was partially adapted from my Master's Thesis in Human Rights at the University of Minho (Portugal). This work was awarded by the National Institute for Rehabilitation (which is a state institution that promotes policies and exercise of fundamental rights in the context of persons with disabilities) in the year 2012. About juridical studies on the Rights of the Deaf, see Filipe Venade de Sousa, The Human Rights of Deaf Person [text in Portuguese], p. 13, Vol. 8 (2011), Journal of Federação Portuguesa das Associações de Surdos (Portuguese Federation of Associations of the Deaf); Filipe Venade de Sousa, The Rights of Deaf People: the constitutional recognition of Portuguese Sign language, [text in Portuguese], p. 9, Vol. 9 (2011), Journal of Federação Portuguesa das Associações de Surdos (Portuguese Federation of Associations of the Deaf); Filipe Venade de Sousa, The Rights of Deaf People as matter of Human Rights: Without Sign Language there is no human right!, [text in Portuguese], Master's Thesis in Human Rights, University of Minho – Portugal, 2012.

(2) Bengt Lindqvist, Special Rapporteur on Disability of the United Nations Commission for Social Development, at the nineteenth Congress of Rehabilitation International, Rio de Janeiro, 25 – 30 August 2000, in GERARD QUINN ET AL, The current use and future potential of United Nations human rights instruments in the context of disability, p. 13 (United Nations ed. 2002)

**Filipe Venade de Sousa, Master of Human Rights (Law), Expert Member for Human Rights of WFD**



## CANADA

Inuit Sign Language should be recognized as a right, expert says Nunavut - "I think the health system needs to step up to the plate" - when Dr. Jamie MacDougall, a deafness researcher working on the Inuit Sign Language in Nunavut, gestures towards his chest in a patting motion, deaf Inuit often ask him, "Why are you afraid all the time?" ... Nunatsiaq Online [http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories/article/65674recognition\\_of\\_inuit\\_sign\\_language\\_should\\_be\\_deemed\\_a\\_right\\_expert\\_say/](http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories/article/65674recognition_of_inuit_sign_language_should_be_deemed_a_right_expert_say/)

Source: World Without Hearing

## USA

A research group based in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa announced March 1, 2013, that they have confirmed the existence of a previously undocumented sign language in Hawai'i, called Hawai'i Sign Language (HSL). The announcement was made in conjunction with the Third International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation held at UH Mānoa from 28 February 28-March 2013.

ASL instructor Linda Lambrecht, an active member of the Deaf community in Hawai'i, has been a tireless champion of HSL over the years. Linda learned HSL as a young child and has long been an advocate for its proper documentation. Occasional mention of this sign language may be found in various places, including the Internet. But there had never been an attempt to document it or to determine whether it is a separate language, a dialect of ASL, or simply an improvised pidgin.

In 2010, Lambrecht and her former student, Barbara Earth, who is currently a Research Fellow in the Department of American Sign Language and Deaf Studies at Gallaudet University, began searching for funding for a documentation effort. With support from many sources (see below) they assembled a team to locate and interview 19 elderly Deaf people and two adult children of Deaf parents (CODAs) on four of the Hawaiian islands. The project was based in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and fieldwork was carried out in Aug-Sept, 2012.

Professor James Woodward, Adjunct Professor in the Department of Linguistics at UH Mānoa and Co-Director of the Center for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, has extensive experience in documenting sign languages. He, Lambrecht and Earth presented initial findings in a presentation given 1 March 2013 at the Third International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation, held in Honolulu. In the presentation, Woodward explained that lexicostatistics is the appropriate method for analyzing the similarity or difference between ASL and HSL.

Using the Swedish word list modified for sign language research, basic core vocabulary in the HSL and ASL were compared for possible cognates. Pairs of items were considered cognate only if they were identical or could be shown to be related using the same standards linguists use in working on spoken languages. It was found that HSL and ASL only have 20% possible shared cognates. Therefore HSL and ASL are distinct languages that belong to different language families.

Limited data analysis suggests that HSL

- has SOV word order.
- has Noun+Adjective+Numeral order
- has Verb+Negative order
- has sentence final WH-Q words.

However much more data needs to be collected and analyzed.

The linguistic evidence of an indigenous sign language includes historical documentation. In 1821, Hiram Bingham, leader of the first company of missionaries in Hawaii wrote a letter to his friend Thomas H. Gallaudet. Gallaudet was founder of the first Deaf school in America in 1817, located in Hartford, Conn. In the letter, Bingham described signs being used by a Deaf man in his village. Bingham marveled at the ease with which the man could make himself understood with villagers as well as communicate with Bingham. The letter also mentioned the presence of other Deaf people in the village.

As the missionaries never worked with Deaf people nor sign language in Hawaii, it is clear that HSL is a natural sign language that originated with Deaf Hawaiians. Later, as tens of thousands of immigrants came to the Hawaiian Islands starting in 1852 to work in sugar plantations, Deaf descendants of immigrants brought new influences to the sign language, based on their experiences in the plantation settlements and diverse cultural backgrounds. ASL slowly trickled into Hawaii, but did not become dominant until the 1950s. Though the elderly signers now mix HSL and ASL, it will be possible, with linguistic techniques, to further identify the vocabulary and features of HSL.

HSL scores 92% on the scale of Endangerment used by Catalogue of Endangered Languages, indicating that HSL is "critically endangered", the highest level of endangerment on the scale. The team hopes to continue the research with additional funding, and a strong revitalization effort is planned. With an enthusiastic Deaf community in Hawaii, it may be possible to bring this sign language back from the brink.

### The Research Team

Linda Lambrecht, American Sign Language instructor at Kapi'olani Community College in Honolulu. As a child, she learned Hawai'i Sign Language and her recollections of it ultimately led to its rediscovery and documentation. Together with Barbara Earth, she led the research team that located and identified elderly users of HSL.

Barbara Earth, PhD, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics, UH Mānoa and Research Fellow, Department of American Sign Language and Deaf Studies, Gallaudet University. Together with Linda Lambrecht, she is primarily responsible for documenting the existence of Hawai'i Sign Language.

James Woodward, PhD, Co-Director of the Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong and Adjunct Professor of Linguistics at UH Mānoa. He is renowned for his work on previously



unstudied sign languages of Asia and the Pacific; he helped confirm the uniqueness of HSL and its status as an independent language. He will play a key role in the next step in researching Hawai'i Sign Language.

William O'Grady, PhD, Professor, Department of Linguistics at UH Mānoa. He was the recipient of a grant (co-authored with Barbara Earth) from the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities that helped support fieldwork on O'ahu and on the neighbor islands. He served as University of Hawaii on-campus coordinator for the project, and chaired the press conference that announced the group's findings.

### **Other members of the research team**

Rebecca Siu, MA Linguistics, Chinese University of Hong Kong and MA, ASL and Deaf Studies, Gallaudet University. She played a major role in the fieldwork and technical aspects of filming and editing.

Ākeamakamae Kiyuna, MA (UHM linguistics), currently an instructor at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. She participated in the fieldwork, served as a liaison to the Hawaiian community, and researched references to Deaf people in Hawaiian-language newspapers.

Ben Bahan, PhD, Professor, Department of ASL and Deaf Studies, Gallaudet University. He was Co-Principal Investigator (with Barbara Earth) of a grant from Gallaudet University, he participated in the fieldwork conducted on Molokai, and served as advisor to the research team.

Research on Hawai'i Sign Language have been made possible by the generous financial support of the following:

The Hawai'i Council for the Humanities  
Gallaudet University

The Gallaudet University Regional Center for the Pacific  
The College of Languages, Linguistics and Literature (UH Mānoa)

The Department of Linguistics (UH Mānoa)  
Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind (HSBD)  
Aloha State Association of the Deaf (ASAD)  
Patty Sakal

A video demonstration of ASL and HSL can be viewed at: <http://vimeo.com/uhmanoa/review/60799119/4450697e1a>. The lady on the left is using ASL and Linda is demonstrating HSL.

### **Barbara Earth on behalf of the research team**

## **Tolima's Deaf Women Empowered Themselves with their Female Gender Condition.**

### **Tolima, Colombia**

Through Tolima's deaf association (Asortol) they called a meeting for the women of the region for the First workshop directed to this community.

Last 23rd of February in Ibague, 25 deaf women from different municipalities, united in the 1st encounter of deaf women of the region called by Tolima's Deaf Association and led by Lina Maria Cespedes Cruz (Human Rights Committee Coordinator) who participated in the 5th forum of Women and Disability in 2010.

We counted on the special participation of Martha Osorno (International and National leader), who since 2007, makes part of the expert commission in the topic of Deaf Women of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD/FMS), and has contributed with the hands of the other women leaders to open training for deaf and disabled women in Colombia, such as the 5th forum Women and Disability with the support of MIUSA international.

The workshop had a conscientious purpose for the feminine community for the importance of improvement in actions to get recognition of their rights in society from history knowledge and the international instruments. Likewise to promote the participation and creation of the Female Committee inside of the organizations that fight and ensure for the interest of the female group and that helps to the execute of different kinds of programs to their benefit. Besides in order to achieve the joint with other women's groups we invited "La Red Local de Mujeres" (local women's network) and also the Direction of the Secretary of Education Quality, Mrs. Amparo Betancourt.

In the spoken topics, you find the international norms, objectives and projections of the World Federation of Deaf concerning to what the region is doing about it, and the different country members from the Nationals Federations of Deaf and also their associations.

Asortol, soon will call for a meeting all deaf women of the region to collect information and review the proposals they receive. Also it will continue doing rapprochements and generating alliances with local organizations that work with the same purpose like The Local women's Network (Red Local de Mujeres) and the leader Mrs. Amparo Betancourt director of the Secretary of Quality Education, who showed interest to support the actions and projects we perform.

To conclude, this event represents a major achievement for all women who participated.

**Martha L. O. Posada**



# BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

## WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF: A HISTORY, by Jack R. Gannon

World Federation of the Deaf: A History is a comprehensive overview of the first 50 years of the WFD. From its foundation as an idea during a chance meeting of friends from Italy, Austria and Yugoslavia in 1949, through its 50th Anniversary in 2001, this book covers it all! Highlights of the quadrennial WFD Congresses, board meetings and the decades as well as quotations taken from Congress proceedings show our changing world views through the issues of the day. Also included are biographies of all WFD award winners, histories of the Deaf associations in each member country of the WFD, and a colour section of international stamps recognising the deaf and disabled communities.

Jack R. Gannon – *“My hope is that this book will become an important resource for Deaf people everywhere to better understand the remarkable efforts of our leaders who founded and sustained the WFD and our national organisations of the Deaf. At the same time this book can serve to enlighten those who are not deaf and share our struggle for human rights and the celebration of human difference.”*

This soft cover book has 566 pages and has over 250 photos, including endnotes and index. The book costs USD \$80.00 and is available through National Association of the Deaf, (NAD) USA. Shipping charges will be calculated based on weight and destination. Upon receiving your order, NAD will contact you with the shipping cost. Brokerage fees, taxes, duties and customs charged by the country package are being shipped to be the responsibility of the purchaser.

Here is the website link to order the book: <http://www.nad.org/WFDbook>

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## PERSPECTIVES ON THE CONCEPT AND DEFINITION OF INTERNATIONAL SIGN, Dr. Johanna Mesch

International Sign (IS) is commonly used at the General Assembly (GA) of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and of the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf, and also in many other international meetings and events. The status of International Sign as a language has been debated for a long time due to its flexibility and possibilities as a communication system. A dictionary of Gestuno (The British Association of the Deaf 1975) was published for use in international communication, especially for conferences. It had a

limited vocabulary, and did not include any grammar. The system of Gestuno itself is no longer used to communicate. International Sign Language (ISL) is the other most used term. Today, the term International Sign (IS) is preferred because IS varies depending on the language background of the signers who use it.

The publication on the **Perspectives on the Concept and Definition of International Sign** is now available in PDF format from the World Federation of the Deaf General Secretariat. If you would like a copy of it, please be in contact with Ms. Phillipa Sandholm, email: [phillipa.sandholm\(at\)kl-deaf.fi](mailto:phillipa.sandholm(at)kl-deaf.fi)

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## COUNTRY NAME-SIGN

A popular book published for WFD (2003) - Collection of data: Japan Institute for Sign Language Studies and Tomas Hedberg, Swedish National Association of the Deaf. The Country Name-Sign books are available in the WFD General Secretariat.

If you would like to order a copy, please do contact by email: [info@wfdeaf.org](mailto:info@wfdeaf.org) and then we will send you an invoice for payment of the order.

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## DEAF PEOPLE & HUMAN RIGHTS

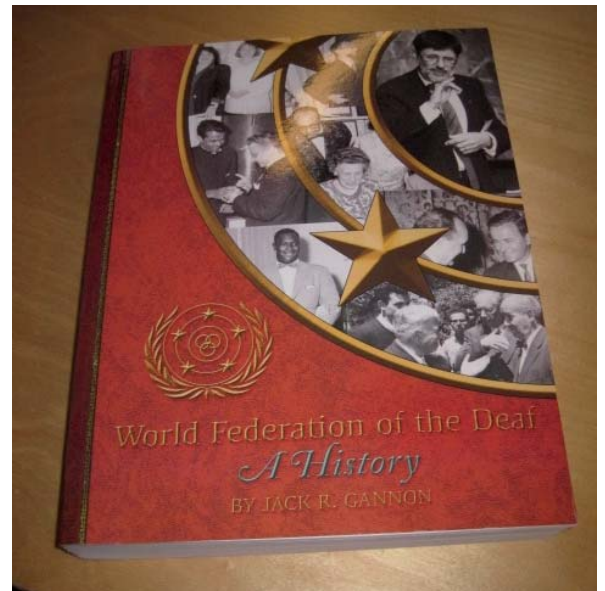
A report written by Ms Hilde Haualand, researcher and Mr Colin Allen, project coordinator and report assistant.

The “Deaf People and Human Rights” report is based on a survey that is, up until now, the largest knowledge database on the situation of Deaf people. The lives of Deaf people in 93 countries, most of which are developing countries, are addressed. The Swedish National Association of the Deaf and the World Federation of the Deaf initiated the survey, with funding from the Swedish Agency for International Development Co-operation (Sida) and the Swedish Organisations of Disabled Persons International Aid Association (Shia).

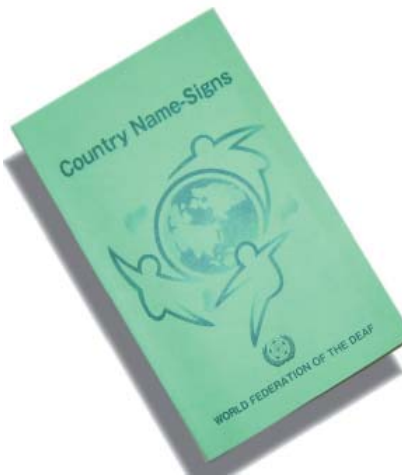
The report is available on the WFD Website in English and International Sign. You can also order a DVD of the report in International Sign for postage fee (11 €).

**If you wish to receive the DVD, please contact WFD General Secretariat Office at [info@wfdeaf.org](mailto:info@wfdeaf.org).**

# WFD MERCHANDISE



Please see information on Page 16 to obtain an order of the WFD History book



If you are interested in ordering items from WFD, such as **DVD – Suggested International Signs for use at the WFD General Assembly**, **T-shirts (golf, woman and ordinary)**, **WFD Pins**, watches and caps, you can make an order through email, which is [info@wfdeaf.org](mailto:info@wfdeaf.org) Here is the price list of the items:

COUNTRY NAME-SIGN BOOK – 5 €

DVD – SUGGESTED INTERNATIONAL SIGNS FOR USE AT THE WFD GENERAL ASSEMBLY – 7 €

DVD - DEAF PEOPLE AND HUMAN RIGHTS - 11 €

ORDINARY T-SHIRT (BLUE OR WHITE) WFD LOGO ON THE FRONT – 5 €

T-SHIRT ART DESIGN (WHITE ONLY) - 5 €

WFD PEN - 2 €

WFD KEY NECKLET - 3 €

NOTEPAD - 3 €

WFD PIN – 2 €

WFD CAP – 2,50 €





# COMING EVENTS

## **4th Toronto International Deaf Film & Arts Festival**

**Date:** 9 – 13 May 2013

**Place:** Toronto, Canada

**Email:** [info@tidfaf.ca](mailto:info@tidfaf.ca)

**Website:** <http://tidfaf.ca/>

## **The Participation of Deaf People in Political and Public life:**

### **Implementation of CRPD Article 29**

**Date:** 27 – 29 May 2013

**Place:** Oslo, Norway

**Email:** [article29conference@gmail.com](mailto:article29conference@gmail.com)

**Website:** <http://al.fhs.no/>

## **4th Business Convention and Expo of the Deaf**

**Theme:** Innovation + Collaboration=Success!

**Date:** 12 – 15 June 2013

**Place:** Chicago, Illinois, USA

**Email:** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Business-Convention-and-Expo-of-the-Deaf/174799545897270>

**Website:** [www.deafbusiness.org](http://www.deafbusiness.org)

## **Festival Clin d’Ceil 2013**

**Date:** 5 – 7 July 2013

**Place:** Reims, France

**Email:** [contact@clin-doeil.eu](mailto:contact@clin-doeil.eu)

**Website:** <http://www.clin-doeil.eu/>

## **Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR)**

**Place:** London

**Date:** 10 – 13 July 2013

**Organiser:** The Deafness, Cognition and Language (DCAL), University College London (UCL)

**E-mail:** [tislr2013@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:tislr2013@ucl.ac.uk)

**Website:** [www.ucl.ac.uk/dcal/tislr](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dcal/tislr)

## **22nd Summer Deaflympics**

**Place:** Sofia, Bulgaria

**Date:** 26 July - 4 August 2013

**Email:** [info@ciss.org](mailto:info@ciss.org)

**Website:** <http://www.sofia2013.com>

## **Global Methodist Mission for the Deaf Conference**

**Theme:** “The right time is now, change and believe the good news” Mark 1:15

**Place:** Nairobi, Kenya

**Date:** 5 – 9 August 2013

**Email:** [jkingori09@gmail.com](mailto:jkingori09@gmail.com) or [disability@methodistchurchkenya.org](mailto:disability@methodistchurchkenya.org)

**Website:** [www.gmmcd.or.ke](http://www.gmmcd.or.ke)

## **From Hand to Mouth: A dialogue between spoken and signed language research Seminar**

**Date:** 5 – 8 September 2013

**Place:** Zurich, Switzerland

**Contact:** Ms Sarah Ebling, The Conference Organising Committee

**Telephone:** +41 44 635 71 45

**Email:** ebling@uzh.ch

**Website:** [http://www.hand-to-mouth.uzh.ch/index\\_de.html](http://www.hand-to-mouth.uzh.ch/index_de.html)

### **2nd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)**

**Theme:** Equality for Deaf People

**Date:** 16 -18 October 2013

**Place:** Sydney

**Organiser:** The Deaf Society of New South Wales

**Website:** [www.wfdsydney2013.com](http://www.wfdsydney2013.com)

### **International Conference of Sign Language Teachers**

**Date:** 18 – 21 October 2013

**Place:** Prague, Czech Republic

**Email:** [raduska.novakova@gmail.com](mailto:raduska.novakova@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.lesico-conference.com](http://www.lesico-conference.com)

### **15th World Deaf Magicians Festival**

**Place:** Chicago, Illinois USA

**Date:** 26 October – 1 November 2014

**Organiser:** Matthew Morgan

**E-mail:** [deafmagic2014@gmail.com](mailto:deafmagic2014@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.deafmagic.com](http://www.deafmagic.com)

### **17th World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)**

**Theme:** Strengthening Human Diversity

**Place:** Istanbul, Turkey

**Date:** 28 July – 2 August 2015

**Organiser:** Turkish National Federation of the Deaf

**Website:** <http://www.wfdcongress2015.org>



If you know about an upcoming conference or regional or international interest, be sure to send us information about it for our Calendar of Coming Events in WFD newsletter and also in the website.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)**

**Email:** [info@wfdeaf.org](mailto:info@wfdeaf.org)

**Website:** <http://wfdeaf.org>

**Join us on Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/Wfdeaf.org?ref=hl>



# World Federation of the Deaf

*Invite you to become a member*



Photographers:  
Mr. John van der Westhuizen  
and Ms. Patricia De Beer.

The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) represents 70 million deaf people around the world to the United Nations (UN) and its agencies. The organisation has B-category status with the United Nations and is represented on many UN groups, including the World Health Organisation and the World Bank.

The WFD held its 18th General Assembly in Durban, South Africa, on 16-17th July 2011. On the second day of the General Assembly, 114 delegates from 73 countries voted for the next country to host the World Congress and elected new board members, President and Vice-President.

The General Assembly elected Mr. Colin Allen as its new WFD President (2011-2015) with 41 votes from 71 eligible votes cast. The other candidates included Dr. Joseph Murray from USA and Dr. Terry Riley from the UK.



Newly Elected WFD Board  
2011-2015

*Mr Colin Allen is a highly experienced  
world leader in Deaf Community development, human rights and advocacy.*

Mr. Allen has worked extensively over many years with the WFD both as a board member and a project coordinator. He has also been involved in various development cooperation projects all over the world and led the local and national deaf associations in Australia. In addition Mr. Allen has previously been actively involved in the World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section through attending various camps. In his presentation to the General Assembly prior to the vote Mr. Allen strongly emphasised the importance of team work in accomplishing deaf human rights in conjunction with WFD's Ordinary Members.

## WFD Action Plan

The WFD's action plan for the next four years has been adopted by the members of the General Assembly and contains:

### **WFD Vision:**

Deaf people have full human rights in an equal world where they and their sign languages are recognised and included as part of human diversity.

### **WFD Mission:**

The WFD promotes and advances the human rights of deaf people through cooperation with the United Nations and its agencies, national organisations of deaf people, and other partners.

### **WFD Goals:**

1. The WFD promotes human rights of deaf people by working in close cooperation with the United Nations and its human rights mechanisms.
2. The WFD aims to establish Human Rights Training Projects for members of the Deaf Community globally.
3. The WFD aims to streamline its communications with its members and interested parties by enhancing the capacity of the website to respond to information requests.
4. In order to fully implement the objectives of this Action Plan, the WFD will continue to seek partners and funding in line with its longstanding goals.

**The WFD invites you to join as a member – please complete the next page to apply to become a member of the WFD.**





*Legal Seat – Helsinki, Finland*

**WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF**

An International Non-Governmental Organisation in official liaison with ECOSOC, UNESCO, ILO, WHO and the Council of Europe. WFD was established in Rome in 1951

**PO Box 65, 00401 Helsinki, FINLAND**

**FAX: +358 9 580 3572**

**[www.wfdeaf.org](http://www.wfdeaf.org)**

**WFD INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM**

My details (please fill in your details below)

Name [Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms]

Address

Country

Postcode

Email

**Membership Fee**

I would like to pay (*please tick one circle*):

☐

50€ (Group 1)

☐

20€ (Group 3)

☐

30€ (Group 2)

☐

15€ (Group 4)

(See attached – country membership group list)

**Payment options (*please tick one circle*)**

☐

Online (<http://wfdeaf.org/become-an-individual-member>)

☐

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

☐

Credit Card (*See next page*)

**Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)**

Please give your bank the following account details for WFD.

World Federation of the Deaf  
Nordea Bank  
Helsinki, Finland

Account No: 155530-111337  
Swift Address: NDEAFIHH  
International Bank Account Number (IBAN): FI04 1555 3000 1113 37

Credit card

I would like to pay by (please tick one circle):

☐

Visa

☐

Mastercard

Credit Card Number

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Last three digits on the back of card (above the signature panel): \_\_\_\_

Name as shown on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's signature:- \_\_\_\_\_

Date:- \_\_\_\_\_

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MEMBERSHIP ISSUES, EMAIL TO [MEMBERSHIPS@WFDEAF.ORG](mailto:MEMBERSHIPS@WFDEAF.ORG)