



# WFD NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

APRIL 2012



WFD –

**Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled (KFPD) -  
Memorandum of Understanding ceremony**



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:

Photo 1: Ri Kwang Son and Colin Allen signed the MOU, Helsinki, Finland, 9 February 2012

Photo 2: Ri Kwang Son and Colin Allen handing over the WFD-KFPD MOUs

Photo 3: KFPD, FAD, WFD and Finnish Foreign Ministry representatives

Photos: Annika Posti

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).



# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

In my last column I mentioned some exciting news about my very short trip to Helsinki, Finland to represent WFD in signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled (KFPD). This memorandum will present great opportunities for members of the Deaf Community in North Korea to learn more about sign language, education and the rights of deaf people. This memorable occasion is the result of a long time spent developing a strong relationship between KFPD and WFD through the work of TOGETHER, an Educational Centre for Deaf, Blind, and Non-Disabled Children Hamhung e.V. based in Berlin, Germany.

I am proud to have been a representative for the WFD Board in signing of this agreement between KFPD and WFD. The board and I wish to acknowledge contributions to this successful collaboration made by our previous WFD President Markku Jokinen and previous WASLI President Liz Scott Gibson, as well as our WFD-KFPD Liaison Officer Robert Grund, all of whom worked tirelessly to make this agreement a reality.

The WFD Board would also like to acknowledge our staff at the WFD General Secretariat who helped to make the event a success. Our thanks also go to the Finnish Association of the Deaf, which hosted the guests from KFPD. Please see page **Page 7** for more about this event and the agreement.

During my four days in Helsinki, Finland, I had time to meet with WFD General Secretariat staff members to ensure we are all up to date with the four-year action plan was adopted by the 2011 WFD General Assembly in Durban, South Africa. We also met with representatives from CBM International to discuss possibilities for WFD partnership support on key issues impacting deaf people in developing countries.

Not long beforehand, I took part on behalf of WFD in a five-day meeting of the governing body of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) in Athens, Greece. WFD is one of the eight international organisations that are full members of IDA along with regional members from Europe, South Asia and Africa.

Agenda items discussed during the IDA meeting were as follows:

1. Discussion and agreement on IDA strategy, action plan and budgetary framework for 2013-2015 including our goals, activities and alliance-building.
2. Draft terms of reference for IDA working groups.
3. Methodological workshop to work on the content of the Training of Trainer and Leaders (ToTAL)

project on the implementation and monitoring of the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

4. Follow-up to CRPD Implementation guidelines project including the right to vote "campaign", the new IDA Journal, thematic networks, CRPD Partnership Forum role and planning for the 2012 Civil Society Forum and Conference of States Parties in New York.

IDA organised a live webcast each evening between 8 and 11 March 2012. The webcast topics were:

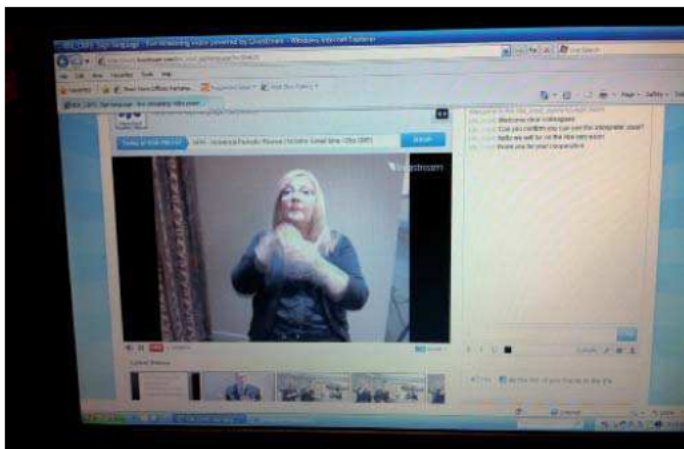
- Reporting process to UN Treaty Bodies and possible use of inquiry procedure, introduced by Victoria Lee. Co-chaired by Maryanne Diamond and Pat Clarke.
- Aid effectiveness and post-Busan. Update on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), introduced by Alexandre Cote. Co-chaired by Javed Abidi and Setareki Macanawai.
- Universal Periodic Review, introduced by Ellen Walker. Chaired by Moosa Salie and Regina Atalla.
- UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and relevance for national DPOs in developing countries, introduced by Tchaurea Fleury. Co-chaired by Colin Allen and Roseweter Mudarikwa.

If you have any feedback about the live webcast, please provide your comments to IDA at [info\[at\]jida-secretariat.org](mailto:info[at]jida-secretariat.org)



WFD team at IDA meeting, Athens Greece (Kasper Bergmann, Colin Allen, Liz Scott Gibson & Jonas Carlsson)

Photo: Colin Allen



Liz Scott Gibson signing during the weblive



Poster of the Greek deaf theatre



Colin Allen along with the IDA representatives at the Panel Discussion, Athens, Greece

During my free time in Athens I had the opportunity to meet with Yannis Yallouros who is Vice President of the European Union of the Deaf (EUD), who lives in Athens. Over a lovely traditional Greek meal we exchanged ideas for collaboration and sharing information between WFD and EUD. I also joined members of the Athenian deaf community to enjoy entertainment by the Greek Theatre of the Deaf, which presented a show called '41 MEPEZ'.



EUD Vice President Yannis Yallouros and Colin Allen

Photos: Colin Allen

Our thanks goes to the Swedish Association of the Deaf (SDR) for undertaking to lead the deaf flag process was initiated at the 2011 WFD General Assembly. WFD and SDR have sent a letter and voting form to Ordinary Members to determine those in favour of the proposed deaf flag design and colour. As WFD President, I encourage your national association of the deaf to have democratic discussions with your board members and the larger deaf community to determine whether the majority of your local deaf community members support the proposed deaf flag design and colour. Please note that voting forms must be received by SDR by 20 May 2012. WFD has requested that SDR furnish its report including recommendations for consideration at the 100th WFD Board Meeting hosted by National Association of the Deaf (USA) in conjunction with its 51st Biennial NAD Conference this July in Louisville, Kentucky. In the next issue we will outline our plans for this summer's board meeting including workshops and presentations. More information the 2012 NAD Conference can be found at [www.nad.org/louisville](http://www.nad.org/louisville). I encourage you to join us there!

I continue to enjoy my role as WFD President, liaising with our staff in Helsinki and interacting with deaf people around the world. If you wish to discuss key issues or concerns with WFD please do email us on [info\[at\]wfdeaf.org](mailto:info[at]wfdeaf.org)

*My warmest wishes to you all for happy spring days in the northern hemisphere, while we, in the southern hemisphere are enjoying the crisp autumn weather.*



Colin Allen

WFD President



## WFD Board Profile – Wilma Newhoudt-Druchen, Vice-President

Wilma Newhoudt-Druchen was elected Vice-President of the WFD at the General Assembly in Durban to serve during the term of 2011 to 2015. During 2007 to 2011 Ms. Newhoudt-Druchen served as a WFD board member and as a president of the WFD Organising Committee, in preparation for the 2011 WFD World Congress in Durban, South Africa.

During the four years as President of the WFD Congress Organising Committee, Ms. Newhoudt-Druchen facilitated all of the Organising Committee meetings, such as strategy planning and training sessions for the Congress.

Ms. Newhoudt-Druchen is currently serving her third term as elected Member of Parliament for the Republic of South Africa (2009 to 2014). She sits on two parliamentary committees - Portfolio Committee Communications (PCC) and Portfolio Committee International Relations and Co-operation. In the PCC, which oversees the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), she focuses on lobbying for access to television by deaf people. Ms. Newhoudt-Druchen's parliamentary time is divided between committee meetings, plenary sessions, oversight visits and constituency relations.

During her second term (2004 to 2009), Ms. Newhoudt-Druchen served as Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring Committee on the improvement of quality of life of children, youth and disabled persons. In this role, she chaired Parliament committee meetings that led to South Africa ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2007.

As President of Deaf Federation of South Africa (DeafSA), Ms. Newhoudt-Druchen is also involved in the OSISA (Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa) project providing leadership and advocacy training to deaf people from South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana, Zambia and Lesotho. Through her Parliament work she continues to lobby for full access for deaf people, especially access to television.

Ms. Newhoudt-Druchen received an honorary doctorate from Gallaudet University in 2009, during which time she served as commencement speaker for the second time. She is married to Mr. Bruno Druchen, the national director of DeafSA; they have two children.



Wilma Newhoudt-Druchen with the group to celebrate the World Soccer Cup, 2010



Kuva 8 - Wilma at the PCC meeting



OSISA training



Wilma trains to volunteers for the WFD World Congress

Photos: Wilma Newhoudt-Druchen

## Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) elections in September

What does the CRPD Committee do and why is it important for you to be active?

It is the body that receives the periodic State reports and which also receives and takes into account parallel reports prepared by disabled people's organisations (DPOs). On the basis of all this information, the CRPD Committee issues Concluding Observations addressed to the relevant State consisting of recommendations to ensure the effective implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The CRPD Committee plays a key role in the

international monitoring of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Detailed information on how WFD Ordinary Members should be involved in the CRPD Committee election process will be available in International Sign and English sometime soon on WFD website ([www.wfdeaf.org](http://www.wfdeaf.org)). Let's all work together in order to improve the chances of a deaf person being elected to the CRPD Committee.

### NOTE:

**THIS ABOVE INFORMATION IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR WFD ORDINARY MEMBERS!!!**

## International Week of the Deaf 2012 "Sign Bilingualism is a human right"

It is again that time of the year when deaf people around the world gather together to celebrate the International Week of the Deaf.

This year the International Week of the Deaf is celebrated from 24 to 30 September. Deaf Associations throughout the world organise events, marches, campaigns and meetings to highlight current topics that they wish to be addressed by local or national authorities. Their aim is to attract the attention of decision makers, general public, and media to the problems and concerns deaf persons face and make them understand that deaf people have human rights too! So the International Week of the Deaf is all about getting together, feeling united and powerful and showing that force to the rest of the world. This week also increases solidarity among deaf people and their supporters and is used as a way to stimulate greater efforts to promote the rights of deaf people.

For the past couple of years the World Federation of the Deaf has introduced a theme to the deaf community for its celebration. So far we have covered:

In 2009 deaf people's cultural achievements

In 2010 the focus was directed to deaf education and

In 2011 on accessibility to information and communications

For 2013 we would like to propose the theme of "Sign Bilingualism is a Human Right!"

We urge our national members to choose one, two or more issues that are related to this theme and make a campaign around it. For instance you could include in your campaign issues related to language recognition, education system, attitudes towards a sign bilingual society or awareness raising within the Deaf community about their rights as bilingual citizens.

If you have already decided to use another theme for this year don't worry either. This is perfectly fine too.

We would like to report in the next issue of the WFD newsletter how the International Week went and what your association did? We would be very happy if you could send us some photos and/or short articles of your celebrations to [info\[at\]wfdeaf.org](mailto:info[at]wfdeaf.org). The dead line for these submissions is **31 October**.

Moreover, we would like to invite all of you to have a look at WFD's Facebook profile in September, prior to the International Week of the Deaf, and ask you to change your own profile photo to a WFD logo (tailor-made for the Week) for the entire week. Be proud of being a member of the international deaf and/or signing community and ask your friend to join the campaign too! WFD Office will update information on Facebook on different activities that are undertaken during the week all over the world. **If you want to tell others about your organisation's activities, please send photos and texts to [phillipa.sandholm\[at\]kl-deaf.fi](mailto:phillipa.sandholm[at]kl-deaf.fi) during the week. You can also join WFD as an individual member and thus support WFD's work.**

WFD wishes cheerful International Week of the Deaf to all of you!



## WFD – Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled (KFPD) - Memorandum of Understanding

WFD, as the first international disability organisation, signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation with the North Korean disability organisation on 9th of February 2012 in Helsinki, Finland.

The signed agreement recognises of the strengthening the cooperation between the two organisations bring mutual benefit to both parties and also to the world deaf community. It aims to develop cooperation between the two organisations with the view of further improving the living conditions and equal opportunities of North Korean deaf people in all fields including deaf education, deaf culture, arts and deaf sports.

The agreement is also a significant first step for deaf North Koreans to join the world deaf community as WFD and KFPD combine their efforts to facilitate and promote the foundation of a National Association of the Deaf in DPR Korea (North Korea).

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## WFD History a Labor of Love for Author Jack R. Gannon

In 1994 author Jack R. Gannon did not know that writing a history of the World Federation of the Deaf would become a part of his family's life for seventeen years. That's how long it took to document the first fifty years of the WFD. Now Dr. Gannon can look back and enjoy the fruits of his labor.

Creating a book began with three authors: Dragoljub Vukotić of the former state of Yugoslavia, who was elected vice-president of the WFD at the founding congress in 1951 and then elected as president in 1955. He served in that role until 1987 and continued to be involved in developing the book until his death in 1997. Cesare Magarotto was the hearing son of the founder of the Ente Nazionale Sordo-Muti (ENS) of Italy and a principle organiser of the Founding Congress of the WFD in Rome. His dedication to the WFD as general secretary is evident from his 36 years of service (1951-1987). The third member of the trio was Jack R. Gannon of the U.S.A. When colleagues Vukotić and Magarotto passed on, Dr. Gannon alone remained to complete the task.

Vukotić, always gracious and giving, had compiled his personal reflections of the WFD congresses he had presided over. His text was often a starting point for understanding the work of WFD. Yet there was much more information needed to understand the nature of the times, events at the meetings, and direction of the WFD. Writing the WFD history involved intense research and contact with almost every national

association. Dr. Gannon amassed volumes of material sent by organisations and colleagues who shared the history of deaf education and life in their region. Simply keeping track of incoming mail, faxes, email and occasional personal deliveries became a challenge. The complexity of the task was compounded by language differences, conflicting information and ever-changing technology.

The WFD History publication offers more than a synopsis of meetings; it is a window into the landscape of life for deaf people from every continent. Dr. Gannon took great care to bring context to the task by incorporating the history leading up to the 1951 founding of WFD, as well as a discussion on the great diversity of deaf people worldwide. Within each decade of WFD actions, Dr. Gannon includes summaries of what happened during the time, and each Congress is analysed for actions and changes. Quotes, some uplifting and others disturbing, give a sense of the times and issues faced.

Dr. Gannon insisted on inclusion of personal biographies of each awardee of the International Solidarity Merit Award. While others encouraged him to leave this tedious task and not include it in the publication, Dr. Gannon (who might be considered slightly stubborn) put his foot down on behalf of the individual leaders. He argued that to understand the stories of these recipients was a path to grasping the incredible challenges the WFD faced. Their biographical information would help readers understand how the WFD changed over time. Their work also demonstrated the ways that WFD adapted to new ideas, seeing what should be retained and recognising what to jettison.

Dr. Jack and Mrs. Rosalyn Gannon were awarded the WFD International Solidarity Merit Award at the XVI World Congress in Durban, South Africa. Nominated by the USA National Association of the Deaf with great appreciation for their dedication to increasing world understanding of Deaf history and Deaf life, the Gannons were greatly honoured by the recognition. "We studied the biographical information of all of the International Solidarity Merit Awardees over the past 50 years," said Dr. Gannon. "Their stories reveal the barriers they worked through, over and around, the attitudes they faced and changed, and the connection they felt with deaf people from their home countries as well as those from far away. Their work and commitment touched and inspired us. To now receive the same award and be listed among them is deeply touching."

Dr. Gannon dedicated the WFD History publication "to the visionary founders of the World Federation of the Deaf, to those who lit the flame for our national organisations and to the leaders who continue to carry the torch." May we all, like Dr. Jack and Mrs. Rosalyn Gannon, "carry the torch" for the next generation.

**Written by Jean Bergey, Gallaudet University**

To order the WFD History publication, see **Page 20**.

## Donations to the WFD

WFD President Colin Allen celebrated his 50th birthday on 27 January 2012. When his friends asked what he would like for his birthday he told them that instead of giving him gifts, he would like them to donate to the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD).

Donations that WFD receives in President Allen's honour will go towards a number of projects that are organised by WFD. The WFD Board will decide on which projects the money received through donations will be best used; these may include the following:

- Research/survey on Deaf Education around the world;
- Human Rights Training for developing countries;
- Other projects that the WFD Board may decide to conduct in the near future, that will cater to the needs of Deaf people all over the world.

If you wish to donate to WFD in Presidentt Allen's honour, please send your contribution to WFD's bank account as follows:

- \* 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
- \* Reference: Colin Allen's 50th

Your contribution to WFD would mean a lot to President Allen!

Or ask about other payment ways by sending an email to Ms Phillipa Sandholm [phillipa.sandholm\[at\]kl-deaf.fi](mailto:phillipa.sandholm[at]kl-deaf.fi). Please add to the reference of your payment: "Colin Allen's 50th".

WFD will publish the names of all those people who have donated for WFD President's 50th birthday in the next Newsletter (if you wish that your name not be published, please inform Ms. Phillipa Sandholm at the address above).

Are you celebrating your own birthday soon? Would you like to encourage your friends to donate a small amount of money to the WFD instead of buying a gift to you? We have previously had similar campaigns and they have been very successful. For instance Markku Jokinen, WFD Honorary President and Mr. Roland Hermann, President of the Swiss Deaf Association, have made significant donations to the WFD thanks to their birthday campaigns.

## DONORS

WFD wishes to thank members who have made a contribution to support the WFD, as follows.

### General Donors

Stephane Beyeler

Rene da Costa Bueno

Vania Ferrada Gutierrez

British Deaf Association (BDA), United Kingdom

### Colin Allen's 50 th Birthday Donors

Julia Allen

Tracey Annear

Della Bampton

Asger & Ritva Bergmann

Bobbie & Len BTW Blackson

Lise Clews

Margaret Craig

Cameron Davie & Breda Carty

Yvonne de Borde

Ela Fin and Claire Dunne

European Union of the Deaf

Stephanie Feyne

Della Goswell

Florian Gravogl

Sylvia & Martin Gusts

Phil Harper & Carla Anderson

Bryony Harrison

Glenn & Ash Hately

Lance & Kerry Hately

Teresa & Ivan Hately

Tomas Hedberg

Peter Hosper



Heumann  
Berna Hutchins & Silva Gomez  
Stefan Jahn  
David Justice  
Kim Kanstrup Kjeldsen  
K. Kellermann & H. Kleinschmidt  
Jaana Keski-Levijoki  
Christopher & Patricia Levitzke-Gray  
Karen Lloyd & John Louttit,  
Jill D. Lovett  
Gillian McGillicuddy  
Anthony Mackrodt & David London  
Michelle Maguire  
Gillian Mahony  
Kate Matairavula

Melissa Mattieson  
Alastair McEwin  
Carole Noonan  
Norwegian Association of the Deaf  
Nunan, Bridget  
Peters; David & Elizabeth  
Pupich, Danica  
Schembri, Adam  
Shearim, Gerry  
Shot drinkers (Colin's 50th b'day party)  
Taylor, Jane & Vear, Paul  
Turijana, Marijana & Jan  
Viparo (Aro, Markus & Ojanen, Tomi)  
Walters, Cathy  
Warby, Linda

## WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF YOUTH SECTION (WFDYS)

### WFDYS Email Addresses – New!

The WFDYS Board would like to share new contact details with you. All inquiries should be sent to [info@wfdys.org](mailto:info@wfdys.org) so that these can be directed to the appropriate responsible party. Individual WFDYS Board members can be reached as follows:

President Jenny Nilsson: [jenny@wfdys.org](mailto:jenny@wfdys.org)

Vice-President Robert Ssewagudde: [robert@wfdys.org](mailto:robert@wfdys.org)

Secretary Eeva Tupi: [eeva@wfdys.org](mailto:eeva@wfdys.org)

Board Member EunJung Byun: [eunjung@wfdys.org](mailto:eunjung@wfdys.org)

Board Member Braam Jordaan: [braam@wfdys.org](mailto:braam@wfdys.org)

Board Member Jannicke Kvitvaer: [jannicke@wfdys.org](mailto:jannicke@wfdys.org)

Board Member Ana Navas Serna: [ana@wfdys.org](mailto:ana@wfdys.org)

### WFDYS Regional Contacts

Individual WFDYS regional representatives can be reached as follows:

Africa - Robert Ssewagudde

Asia-Pacific - EunJung Byun

Central and South America - Ana Navas Serna

Europe - Jannicke Kvitvaer

Oceania - Braam Jordaan

### WFDYS Website Under Construction

You may have noticed that that the WFDYS website [www.wfdys.org](http://www.wfdys.org) has been down; the website is now under construction, with new content being added. The new website will be launched by the end of April.

## WFDYS Upcoming Board Meetings

The next WFDYS board meeting will be hosted by Kenya National Association of the Deaf in June in Nairobi, Kenya. The WFDYS Board will have another board meeting this year that takes place in November. The aim of the WFDYS Board is to have meetings in all continents before the next World Congress.

## WFDYS Representation

Ana Navas, WFDYS Board member, attended the Second Regional Secretariat of Mexico, Central America and Caribbean (RSMCAC) Youth Section meeting held February 2012 in David, Panama. About 50 youth representatives took part from El Salvador, Costa Rica and Panama. Ms Navas gave presentations on the WFDYS and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); attendees were very interested in these topics and asked a lot of questions. At the end of the meeting, delegates from each country approved Cecilia E. Rodríguez from El Salvador as the next Youth Section meeting coordinator; she will work with Marianela Gamboa from Costa Rica, and Irving Jiménez from Panama. After the meeting, Ana Navas gave another presentation on the WFDYS in Panama City to young people from the Deaf Youth Committee of the Panama Deaf Association.



WFDYS Board member, Ana Navas giving presentation at Panama



WFDYS Board member, Ana Navas with the young deaf Panamians



Ana Navas with the youth group of the deaf association of Panama

Photos: Ana Navas



# WFD DEAF HUMAN RIGHTS & CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING PROJECT - WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA

## The Western and Central Africa Regional Secretariat (WCARS) Board Training and Meeting in Douala, Cameroon

The WFD Deaf Human Rights and Capacity Building Training Project that commenced in September 2009 for a period of 24 months finally topped off with the establishment of the WFD Western and Central Africa Regional Secretariat (WCARS). This happened during the First General Assembly of delegates of Ordinary Members from the region on 14 July 2011 in Durban, South Africa.

Amongst the decisions and votes taken involved the seat of WCARS, the General Assembly unanimously voted Cameroon as the official seat of the Secretariat, mainly due to its official language policy of conducting business in both French and English. This is anticipated to enable access from nations that use one or the other language, ensuring linguistic access for all within the region. The General Assembly also elected members of the new WCARS Board who will work to ensure the successful regional efforts.

The WFD Board requested that the sponsor of the WCAR Deaf Human Rights Project make use of remaining funds from the Project to organise training for WCARS Board members. This request was granted, and will give the WCARS Board practical tools to enhance their capacity to carry out their new duties.

WCARS Board members from The Gambia, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Mali, Senegal and Republic of Congo met in Douala, Cameroon in the last week of January to first week of February 2012 for their first WCARS board meeting. During this time, they also underwent intensive capacity building training that incorporated key modules from the WCAR Deaf Human Rights Project. Emphasis was on the CRPD, board rights and responsibilities, regional communication and networking strategies, fundraising, advocacy and lobbying. Training was facilitated by Ms. Deborah Iyute, a former WFD Board member; Mr. Kasper Bergmann, the WCAR Deaf Human Rights Project Coordinator; and Ms. Lucy Upah, the WCAR Deaf Human Rights Project English Speaking Regional Coordinator.



**Group Photo of Members of the WCARS Board with Training Facilitators**



**WCARS General Assembly in Progress at Blue Waters Hotel, Durban South Africa, July 2011**

**Photos: Lucy Upah**



Sign Post of Centre d' Education Specialisee et de Rehabilitation des Sourds et Malentendants

One day was set aside for WCARS Board members and training facilitators to visit a deaf school in Bafoussam, 350 kilometres west of Douala. The group visited the Centre d' Education Specialisee et de Rehabilitation des Sourds et Malentendants (CERSOM) in Bafoussam, one of 15 deaf schools in Cameroon established by deaf individuals.

CERSOM was established by Innocent Djonthe, National President of the Cameroon Association of the Deaf. The school started with five (5) deaf children, and over the course of 25 years, it has educated about 2,000 deaf children.

CERSOM is situated in the region of West Cameroon and uses both French and English as the languages of instruction. The mode of communication is Cameroonian Sign Language and oral (French and English). CERSOM has nine (9) teaching staff out of which, four (4) are deaf. Of 125 deaf children enrolled during academic year 2011/2012, 60 reside in the school dormitory.

In addition to grades 1 through 7, there is also a vocational centre. Students who wish to further their education after grade 7 are specially trained to sit for entrance examinations to mainstream colleges. CERSOM also runs educational extra-curricular services for deaf students in mainstream colleges.

CERSOM gets much of its funding support from spirited individuals, foreign NGOs (non-governmental organisations), notably from France and other countries. In addition CERSOM raises additional funds for its maintenance from the state-of-the art Audiology Centre situated in the school, which provides audiology services for Cameroonian residents.

Photos: Lucy Upah

WCARS Board members and facilitators, during the field visit to CERSOM, also had the opportunity to discuss the importance of Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its relevance to Deaf Education within the WCARS region.

WCARS Board members were appreciative of the opportunity to meet in Cameroon, the official seat of the WCARS, including board meetings and training efforts that took place. WCARS President Mr. Lamin Ceesay from The Gambia, on behalf of the Board, thanks SHIA, the WFD Board and WFD facilitators for their support in enabling the Board to meet, deliberate on, and commence the process of registering WCARS with the appropriate authorities in Cameroon and with other regional organisations.

By Lucy Upah



CERSOM pupils and staff welcoming the WCARS Board members and facilitators



## 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 4)

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

### BY NOW

- 113 ratifications of the Convention
- 153 signatories to the Convention

### OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION

- 65 ratifications of the Optional Protocol
- 90 signatories to the Optional Protocol

### RECENT SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS:

- Bulgaria ratified the Convention on 22 March 2012
- Greece ratified the Convention on 10 April 2012

## Human Rights Council, Geneva

On 1 March 2012, the Human Rights Council (HRC) held a debate, which was focused on the right of persons with disabilities to participate in political and public life (article 29 of the CRPD). To support the debate, the Office of High Commissioner produced a thematic study on this topic, please click here to access the study [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Disability/PoliticalParticipation/A.HRC.19.36\\_en.doc](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Disability/PoliticalParticipation/A.HRC.19.36_en.doc)

Mr. Pat Clarke, President of Down Syndrome International represented the International Disability Alliance (IDA) on this panel.

On the same day, there was a short concert in the Bar Serpent by Signmark, a deaf Finnish rap artist, which was sponsored by Finland in cooperation with IDA and the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG).

IDA has also undertaken an analysis of other reports that have also been prepared for the 19th session of the HRC. Click here to access this analysis:

[http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/disalliance.e-presentaciones.net/files/public/files/Report%20on%20Annual%20Interactive%20Panel%20dialogue%20on%20the%20rights%20of%20persons%20with%20disabilities%201%20March%202012\\_Revised%20version.doc](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/disalliance.e-presentaciones.net/files/public/files/Report%20on%20Annual%20Interactive%20Panel%20dialogue%20on%20the%20rights%20of%20persons%20with%20disabilities%201%20March%202012_Revised%20version.doc)

Source: International Disability Alliance

## Fifth Conference of States Parties to the CRPD

The fifth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be held 12 to 14 September 2012 at the UN Headquarters. Prior to the Conference, a Civil Society Forum will be organized by IDA with the support of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) with a view to engage NGOs and DPOs in a discussion and promote coordinated civil society involvement in the Conference of States Parties and in preparation for the High-Level meeting of the General Assembly on disability and development to be held on 23 September 2013. More information is forthcoming at: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1535>.

Source: UN Enable

## European Disability Forum (EDF) – Freedom Guide and Other Resources

The Freedom Guide is an important outcome of the EDF campaign addressing Freedom of movement. The disability rights movement, experts from NGOs, from the industry and academics have contributed to this document and stated how Europe can be made accessible. This is a key tool to help design a barrier free Europe, and a good reference to help understand the work of the European Commission and the European Accessibility Act.

More information:

[http://www.edf-feph.org/Page\\_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=29268](http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=29268).

Also available from the Academy of European Law “EU Disability and the CRPD” at:  
[http://www.edf-feph.org/Page\\_Generale.asp?DocID=22112&thebloc=29406](http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=22112&thebloc=29406).

Subscribe to the Disability Voice - EDF Monthly Newsletter:

[http://www.edf-feph.org/Page\\_Generale.asp?DocID=29408&thebloc=29408](http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=29408&thebloc=29408)

Source: UN Enable

## A Unique Partnership To Advance The Rights Of People With Disabilities

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) provides a framework for the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by people with disabilities. The World Report on Disability provides evidence that few countries have adequate mechanisms in place to respond to the rights of people with disabilities, yet also provides data, knowledge, and practical advice to support implementation of the CRPD.

All of us – national governments, civil society including organizations of people with disabilities, agencies of the UN system – have a responsibility to make the CRPD become a reality.

To help meet this challenge, six UN entities – the Department of Social and Economic Affairs, the International Labour Organization, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF and the World Health Organization – have joined hands in a unique partnership: the UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD).

The UNPRPD will strive to develop the capacities of national stakeholders for the effective implementation of the CRPD. It will do so by focusing on a number of critical areas which are in line with the recommendation of the World Report on Disability including:

- Facilitating legislative and policy reform;
- Improving the delivery of services;
- Encouraging dialogue between governments and persons with disabilities;
- Improving data and research.

In all these areas, and in the governance of the partnership, it will promote the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities.

To support the work of the UNPRPD, a Multi-Donor Trust Fund has been established. The Government of Australia has provided an initial two million Australian dollars to the Fund. The Governments of Finland and Sweden as well as the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil have indicated their intention to contribute to the UNPRPD Fund in 2012.

Source: World Health Organisation



WFD Honorary President Markku Jokinen,  
Colin Allen & Ri Kwang Son, director of KFPD  
Photo: Annikka Posti



## INDIA

Volunteering opportunity in India 2012-13

**Host:** All India Federation of the Deaf, India

**Working program:**

- Programme and activities evaluation
- Empowerment activities and planning grassroots development projects
- Creating a vision/work plan for year 2020
- Providing sustainable recommendation to the organisation
- Restructuring the local deaf organisations and a master plan creation

**We will provide:** Free accommodation and food

**You will bear:** Flight costs, medical insurance and other travel logistics.

**Place of work:** Based in New Delhi, however may require travelling to visit local deaf organisations in rural and semi-rural areas.

**When:** Anytime

**Period of duration:** Six (6) months to one (1) year.

**Who can apply:** Deaf persons from anywhere in the world

**You should have evidence of the following:**

- Previous experience working for another deaf organisation
- Experience in empowerment activities for deaf organisations
- Knowledge of laws and international policies on deaf and sign language rights
- Willingness to adjust to local Indian conditions and culture

**How to apply and contact:**

You can send your CV with a letter of interest or a five-minute video in International Sign explaining why you are interested and what you will benefit to do the work mentioned above.

**Contact:** Mr. Sibaji Panda - [Signdeaf@yahoo.com](mailto:Signdeaf@yahoo.com)

## NEW ZEALAND

Minister for Disability Issues - The Hon. Tariana Turia, Minister for Disability Issues, congratulated the Speaker of the House, Rt Hon Lockwood Smith, for making funds permanently available for electronic notetakers to support Deaf Member of Parliament (MP) Mojo Mathers to fulfil her role and responsibilities as a Member of Parliament. "While the process to secure the funding took some time, the outcome was successful for Ms. Mathers as well as for the House of Representatives by making sure all of its members can participate," said Minister Turia. "The process has also given New Zealanders an increased awareness of some of the barriers disabled people face in the workplace as well as the effort it takes to 'get it right.' The decision to fund an electronic notetaker for Ms. Mathers shows leadership from the Speaker by demonstrating a clear example of how employers need to make reasonable accommodations in the work place so that everyone has the same opportunities to participate and contribute." Minister Turia also supports the development of a captioning service in the House. "This is a service that displays the spoken word into text on a television, video screen or other visual display to provide additional or interpretive information to individuals who wish to access it. Once developed, this service will benefit all hearing impaired and Deaf people by providing a service that they too can use when watching proceedings in the House of Representatives" said the Minister. "It would be great to see Parliament TV in the same league as Sky TV, TVNZ and TV3, offering closed captioning services across its network. It will be another step towards achieving a truly inclusive society."

Source: World without Hearing

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## SLOVENIA

Internet television for deaf and hard of hearing is a special social program provided by the deaf and hard of hearing Clubs Association of Slovenia, (hereinafter ZDGNS) since 2007. Representatives of disability organization ZDGNS, which celebrated their 80th anniversary in 2011, are very aware of communicational obstacles, hearing impaired people have to cope with, in their everyday life. Therefore, by adapting newest information-communication technologies, it implements their right upon access to public information in Slovenian Sign Language (SSL), in accordance with national and international legislation, particularly the Article 21 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

As the World Health Organization (WHO) places deafness among the severest disabilities which is, together with unadjusted education and information system, the very cause for a low educational level of the deaf and hard of hearing, in 2007 ZDGNS set up a special information program called "Internet Television for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing" [www.](http://www.)

deaf-tv.si, which is the only media in Slovenia that provides multimedia contents in SSL, with subtitles and sound. The architect of the project "Deaf TV" is M.Sc Aljoša Redžepovič, former long-standing secretary at ZDGNS, who recognized the importance of establishing a special information media for the deaf in the SSL. Apart from the Internet television, the deaf in Slovenia, also have a television program called "Prisluhimo tišini" (Let's Listen to Silence), aired on national television since 1980, special newsletter "Iz sveta tišine" (From the World of Silence) and "Video časopis" (Video Newspaper). The particularity of these media is that they are being co-created by the deaf. The Deaf TV Team consists of 20 deaf, hard of hearing and hearing co-workers, who create multimedia contents in bilingual environment: in SSL and Slovenian language.

At the same time, this media functions as a training program for the deaf staff: journalists, forecasters, cameramen and editors; the training program has been carried out with financial support of European Social Fund. In this way, Deaf TV represents the only career path which prior to this was as a rule not inaccessible to them. Great recognition and importance of our work comes from the fact that the President of the Republic of Slovenia has chosen our studio for recording his multimedia messages.

Each day, our viewers set us a mirror of our quality. That this media is well recognized prove the statistics of rating: every month our website is visited by 12 000 viewers on average. In the first year of its activity (2007), Deaf TV registered 53.000 hits, in 2009 already 150 000 visitors. Deaf TV has faithful viewers for whom we provide services 24/7 with a diverse and quality program scheme: airing actual news, documentary films, education, information, culture, sport programs, talk shows and entertainment. We interpret programs from national and commercial televisions into SSL and including subtitles. By so doing, we enable the deaf and hard of hearing viewers access to programs they could not watch otherwise.

In 2011, Deaf TV produced 422 stories and all together over 2.000 multimedia contents in its four years activity; and the information that our annual budget is only 65.000 EUR is not at all insignificant.

We consider it an honour that we are often the only media reporting on problems, rights, life and success of other groups of disabled. We act proactively. Above all, we seek positive information and good practices and by covering that encourage further continuation of good practices. Since with our multimedia contents we want to reach a broad range of people and indirectly influence a forming of a more tolerant attitude of Slovenian public towards disabled by spreading information of the needs of the disabled, we cooperate with numerous local televisions across the country, which airs our program every week.

Because satisfaction of our users is our primary and only goal, we conducted two empirical polls (in 2007

and 2011), in which our respondents expressed not only their high satisfaction with Deaf TV but also defined it as their major source of daily information. Deaf TV with news from the field of deafness from abroad and its stories in International Sign gradually wins recognition in international sphere as well. The Editor of Deaf TV, M.Sc Tina Grošelj, was invited to report from the general assembly of European Disability Forum (EDF) as the only representative of the Slovenian media. Deaf TV regularly reports from assemblies of European and World Federation of the Deaf, international sport events and other important events. In 2009, we thus reported from Deaflympics in Taiwan, in 2010, attended World Deaf Nation Expo in the USA, and last year, a congress of the WFD in South Africa.

The importance of Deaf TV and its activities were also acknowledged by the Director of European Union of the Deaf (EUD) Mark Wheatley, who presented our media at the official website of EUD as an example of good practice of information for the deaf. As we are well aware of the importance of good practice, we are actively collecting financial means to cover various professional excursions; on ways of informing persons with hearing impairment, we've so far reported from Great Britain, the Netherlands, Brussels, Denmark, Hungary and Finland.

In order to provide relevant public information to deaf people in sign language ZDGNS carried out the project "E-accessibility for deaf people", co-funded by European Social Fund. Three people from the vulnerable group (deaf / hard of hearing) were employed on the project in 2010-2011. Their work was to select relevant public information, such as 'disability legislation', constitution and other contents from various public Internet sites. Extensive negotiations took part to reach the agreement on cooperation of public institutions such as Ministry for public affairs, Human rights Ombudsman, National Assembly and European Commission in the project. Project group transformed written web texts into SSL, recorded the content in the Association's television studio and edit video clips to be published on public institutions' official Internet sites. (See more information in the last issue of the WFD newsletter – February 2012)

Now, deaf citizens finally have the possibility to become fully acquainted with the content of "The Constitution of the Republic Slovenia" in SSL Web site of Human rights Ombudsman is also partly accessible in SSL. Thus, the first step towards full accessibility to deaf has been made with the project, with many to follow.

The project has also enabled deaf children and adults to follow Slovenian national story tales in sign language for the first time. Furthermore, deaf together with hearing professionals have written the script, played and produced five social-awareness video clips, intending to promote SSL, culture and rights of deaf people within the hearing society. Ex.: 'All different, all excellent. Deafness is invisible disability' video clips, which include also deaf and hearing celebrities, have reached



wide audience so far and to help promoting the “deaf cause” in our country.

In 2010, Deaf TV got a new modern visual image. Our web portal also enables interactivity: evaluation and recommendation of stories. From the beginning of 2012, our multimedia contents are also embellished by new introductions. At the professional level we strive for constant improvements, positive influence on Slovenian disability policy and extension of our program scheme - also in international sign.

Watch us at [www.deaf-tv.si](http://www.deaf-tv.si).

**Written by: M.Sc Tina Grošelj (Chief Editor of Deaf TV) and M.Sc Anita Ivačič (Journalist)**

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## EUROPE

On 15 March 2012, the European Platform on Deafness, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblindness met to discuss its future collaboration. The Platform formally agreed on the name and adopted the text of the agreement, which will be signed at the General Assembly of the European Disability Forum (EDF) in May.

The Platform is a co-operation between five European NGOs:

1. EURO-CIU: European Association of Cochlear Implant Users;
2. EDbN: European Deafblind Network;
3. EFHOH: European Federation of Hard of Hearing;
4. FEPEDA: European Federation of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children;
5. EUD: European Union of the Deaf

The Platform aims to meet regularly to defend the rights of d/Deaf (including sign language users), hard of hearing, deafened, and deafblind people and their families. It wants to send a strong message of collaboration to enhance the lobbying effects for all its members to ensure a barrier-free Europe. It follows the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and wants to influence the proposed European Accessibility Act to include the rights of all persons who are d/Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deafened, or deafblind, regardless of the assistive technologies they use, or whether they use sign language.

Source: European Union of the Deaf (EUD)

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## USA

In October of 2011 the Gallaudet University Museum opened an exhibition entitled Making a Difference: Deaf Peace Corps Volunteers. Development was on a tight schedule, mostly because we thought it would be a simple and small concept to present. Initially the exhibition idea was “Deaf people served in the Peace Corps too.” As Volunteers started to respond to the call for photographs and information, it became clear that their experience was far more complex and compelling than could fit on one wall.

The Peace Corps is a United States governmental agency founded in 1961 by former President John F. Kennedy. Its purpose is to increase cross-cultural understanding while providing skilled workers in areas of need. Deaf people first joined the Peace Corps in 1967. Of the 61 deaf volunteers who served their full two-year term in the Peace Corps, most worked in education, though their responsibilities also included health care, organizational planning and increasing employment opportunities. Many volunteers describe their time in the Peace Corps as a life-defining experience.

Thirty-four deaf volunteers flooded the Gallaudet Museum office with over 450 photographs and countless stories. They served in Kenya, Ghana, The Philippines, St. Lucia, Malaysia, Sierra Leone, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Ecuador, Nepal, Central African Republic, Benin, Zambia, and Guyana. Several Deaf “returned” Peace Corps Volunteers stepped forward to help. Norma Morán (Kenya) worked daily as Senior Advisor, participating in every step of the exhibition development. Julie Hochgesang (Kenya), Allen Neece III (Kenya, Zambia and Guyana), Donna Platt (The Philippines), Pauline Spanbauer (The Philippines) and Joshua Swiller (Zambia) joined the script advisory team. All of the 34 donors of photographs shared poignant and revealing tales of their Peace Corps experience.

Conceptually, the exhibition evolved from simply stating that deaf people also served to examining ways Peace Corps service of deaf volunteers aligns with and diverges from the experience of hearing Volunteers. Comments from deaf returned Peace Corps Volunteers reveal the challenging circumstances and resourceful solutions that most, if not all, deaf volunteers encounter. They also suggest that skills gained from a lifetime of being Deaf such as comfort with being seen as an outsider and acceptance of the spectacle of signing become tools that enhance international service.

One of the most critical contributions deaf volunteers expressed is that they embody proof that deaf children can learn and deaf adults can lead. On many occasions the Volunteers remarked that when they wrote to others it was seen as almost miraculous. Demonstrated literacy inspired families with deaf children. Volunteers despaired when youth arrived at school as teens or older with no language skills because it was assumed they were uneducable. This idea of “living proof” is most important where having a deaf child is seen as



evidence of past sins of the parents. The presence of deaf volunteers challenged accepted notions about what it means to have a deaf member of the family or community.

Volunteers struggled with the issue of language importation and working to learn local signed, written or spoken languages. To communicate with families who use a distinct dialect or village language might require multiple interpreters or modes of conveyance. Increasingly greater care was made in respecting and using local sign language, while at the same time it was often difficult to convey meaning without known vocabulary.

Stories by Deaf Peace Corps volunteers reveal what it means to grow up deaf in countries that are still working on basic human rights issues. Recollections from 44 collective years of service demonstrate progress in education, access and attitudes on what it means to be deaf. They teach us much about the ways societies respond to human difference.

Opening day for the Making a Difference: Deaf Peace Corps Volunteers exhibition was a multi-generational reunion for those Deaf people who had served from the earliest days to current times. During a panel discussion moderated by a student from Gallaudet's International Development program Volunteers described their Peace Corps service revealing many similar experiences. The exhibition opening drew a large and enthusiastic crowd, and a "living exhibit" performance was a time to listen to powerful stories.

The creation of a new archival collection of images along with video interviews and taped public events offers the opportunity for a more in-depth exploration of Deaf Peace Corps service. The exhibition is only the first part of a longer journey, but it has been an awakening in terms of understanding international Deaf experience.

**Jean Lindquist Bergey, Exhibition Curator  
(Gallaudet University)**



**Senior Advisor Norma Moran, who served the Peace Corps in Kenya, at the opening of the exhibition.  
Photo: Dick Moore**



**Pauline Spanbauer, the first Deaf Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines, is interviewed by a television reporter.  
Photo: Matt Vita**



**Jerry Geist, who served the Peace Corps in Ecuador, describes his service, while fellow Volunteers look on.  
Photo: Matt Vita**



**Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams (seated) with some of the Deaf returned Peace Corps Volunteers at the opening of the Making a Difference: Deaf Peace Corps Volunteers exhibition, October 25, 2011.  
Photo: Douglas Slaunwhite**



## AUSTRALIA

On 24 February 2012 I was honoured to be awarded the honour of Knight of St Sylvester. This is an award from Pope Benedict XVI for “distinguished services to the Church in the Archdiocese of Sydney”.

When I first received the letter from the Archdiocese I had to do some research about St Sylvester. Thank heavens for Google! I discover that St Sylvester was born in Rome in the year 280 (in the 3rd century). As a young man, he became known as someone who was very welcoming to Christians passing through Rome – he did this in the name of Christ. He was a young priest at a time when persecution of Christians was very bad – Sylvester took many risks in the name of his faith. He was ordained as Pope and remained as Pope for 21 years and this was a very important time in the development and formation of the Church. Many of the great churches, including St Peter’s Basilica in Rome, were built during his reign. He died in the year 335.

I also had to find out what the Order of St Sylvester was, as I knew nothing about this! The Papal honours system dates back many centuries – the award is given in recognition of work performed for the Church and the community. The Order of Saint Sylvester is an honorary title created by Pope Gregory XVI in 1841.

The award which I received was granted by Pope Benedict XVI and was presented to me by his Eminence Cardinal Pell on behalf of the Holy Father.

Receiving the award was unexpected—but I was honoured to receive it on behalf of the Deaf community. In all of my work over the years for the Deaf community, I have been well-supported by a dedicated and hardworking team of staff and volunteers, without whom I would not have been able to undertake this work. The award is also an acknowledgement of their hard work. In addition, I was honoured to be appointed as director of the Ephpheta Centre (the Catholic Centre for Deaf and Hearing Impaired People, which serves 3 diocese in the greater Sydney area), in 2005 by his Eminence Cardinal Pell – this was the first appointment of a Deaf person as the leader of an organisation within the Catholic Church in Australia. My appointment as director by Cardinal Pell was but one example of the tremendous support which our work at the Ephpheta Centre, and in turn the Deaf community, has received from the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. The Archdiocese of Sydney has supported the Ephpheta Centre since its inception in 1979. It is recognition by the Church of the importance of understanding the needs of the Deaf community by way of our language, our culture and our need to learn the Good News via sign language. We in the Deaf community are blessed to have this support. Deaf People are one of God’s gifts to the church and to society. The Church’s willingness to learn and understand the Deaf community, our language and our culture has been a God given grace.

As I was preparing to receive this award, which was such a tremendous honour to receive, I reflected on the last 10 years of my life, which has been a roller coaster of a journey! Many things have happened in this time – I was appointed Director of the Ephpheta Centre, serious health challenges, a bad bike accident, which affected my wife and I – the list goes on! During this journey I have asked for God’s help many times - or maybe it’s the other way around and that God is always reminding me of my purpose to lead the Deaf community. Those low points in my life were like a jolt – but always! - He made me aware of His presence and His Love and I think He has a job for me in serving the Deaf community.

It is a privilege and an honour to serve the Deaf community in our work at the Ephpheta Centre. Many people in the Deaf community suffer extreme isolation from social, business and educational communities. In our daily work we aim to address this isolation. We support and assist all Deaf people and much of our work includes making visits to Deaf people (in their homes, nursing homes, hospitals and gaols) and providing opportunities for community development and empowerment of the Deaf. We provide Mass for the Deaf throughout the Greater Sydney area and assist Deaf people with sacramental preparation including weddings and funerals. We work with schools to raise awareness of issues of the Deaf and to break down barriers. We offer support and advocacy for Deaf people who are in need. We organise community events for the Deaf and hearing impaired. Our work includes making services and materials accessible for Deaf people and for creating an awareness of the needs and value of the Deaf community. We have a strong focus on community development and support projects that enable, encourage, educate and benefit Deaf people.

I look forward to continuing to support the Deaf community through my work at the Ephpheta Centre. The award has been a source of joy and pride not only to myself and my family, but also to the Deaf community and those who work and volunteer at the Ephpheta Centre. I take pride in my work with the Deaf community at the Ephpheta Centre and I hope that with God’s guidance and love I can continue in this work for many years.

**Written by Stephen Lawlor, Award of the Order of St Sylvester**



Stephen Lawlor (photo)

# 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: [orders\(at\)wfdeaf.org](mailto:orders(at)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 Hauland, researcher and Mr Colin Allen, project coordinator and report assistant.

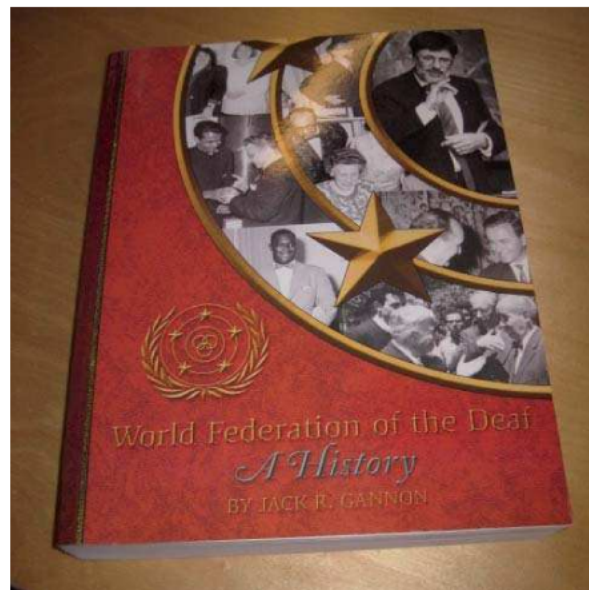
The “Deaf People and Human Rights” report is based on a survey that is, up until now, the largest knowledge database on the situation of Deaf people. The lives of Deaf people in 93 countries, most of which are developing countries, are addressed. The Swedish National Association of the Deaf and the World 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 [orders\(at\)wfdeaf.org](mailto:orders(at)wfdeaf.org).**



# WFD MERCHANDISE



Please see information on Page 20 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 [orders@wfdeaf.org](mailto:orders@wfdeaf.org) Here is the price list of the items:

COUNTRY NAME-SIGN BOOK – 10 €

DVD – SUGGESTED INTERNATIONAL SIGNS FOR USE AT THE WFD GENERAL ASSEMBLY – 15 €

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) - 10,00 € **NEW!!!**

WFD PEN - 2 € **NEW!!!**

WFD KEY NECKLET - 3 € **NEW!!!**

NOTEPAD - 3 € **NEW!!!**

WFD PIN – 2 €

WFD CAP – 2,50 €



# COMING EVENTS

## 5th World Congress on Mental Health and Deafness

**Date:** 23 – 25 May 2012  
**Place:** Monterrey, Mexico  
**Organiser:** Facultad de Psicología UANL  
**Email:** organizacion@mhd2012mexico.com  
<organizacion@mhd2012mexico.com  
**Website:** <http://www.mhd2012mexico.com/>

## Deaffest United Kingdom 2012

**Date:** 25 – 27 May 2012  
**Place:** Wolverhampton, United Kingdom  
**Organiser:** Light House  
**Email:** jackie@zebra-uno.com  
mija@zebra-uno.com  
info@light-house.co.uk  
**Website:** <http://deaffest.co.uk/>

## 5th International Contemporary Art Biennial

**Date:** 29 May – 9 June 2012  
**Place:** Rome, Italy  
**Organiser:** Associazione Leonardo Da Vinci Arte  
**Email:** [info@leonardodavinciarte.com](mailto:info@leonardodavinciarte.com)  
**Website:** <http://www.leonardodavinciarte.com/>

## 1st International Congress on Family-centred Early Intervention for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

**Date:** 30 May – 1 June 2012  
**Place:** Bad Ischl, Austria  
**Contact:** Hospital of St. John of God  
Institut of Neurology and of Senses and Languages  
Seilerstätte 2, 4021 Linz, Austria  
**Email:** [fcei2012@bblinz.at](mailto:fcei2012@bblinz.at)  
**Tel.:** +43 (0) 732-7897-23706  
**Fax:** +43 (0) 732-7897-23798  
**Website:** [www.fcei2012.org](http://www.fcei2012.org)



# Deaffest 2012

**Fri 25 - Sun 27 May 2012, Light House Wolverhampton**

Deaffest is the UK's leading Deaf-led film and arts festival. It celebrates and showcases the talents of Deaf filmmakers and media artists from all over the world. This year Deaffest will have a 1950s theme to coincide with the Jubilee celebrations.

During the weekend there will be free screenings of films produced by UK & international filmmakers, Young Deaffest Showcase & Awards, along with a variety of stalls & activities for families on Saturday.

Saturday night will see the Ben Steiner Bursary Evening including live entertainment followed by The *Keep Calm & Carry on Signing* Party including live entertainment (tickets required).

Visit [www.deaffest.co.uk](http://www.deaffest.co.uk) for more information about the programme.

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<b>Ben Steiner Film Bursary Evening</b> (including admission to the <b>Keep Calm &amp; Carry on Signing</b> Party) on Saturday 26 May. Doors open at 7pm, 7:30pm start. Full price: £14.90 Early Bird: £12.75 (purchase from now until 5pm Friday 4 May)	<b>Keep Calm and Carry On Signing Party</b> on Saturday 26 May. Doors open at 8pm, with entertainment starting at 10:45pm. Full price: £9.95 Tickets will be available to purchase nearer to the festival weekend.
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Tickets for the Saturday night can be purchased online via [www.deaffest.co.uk](http://www.deaffest.co.uk) or from the Light House box office in person or on 01902 716055.  
*Online ticket purchases are subject to a 10% booking fee.*

Deaffest is supported by the National Lottery through the BFI and Creative England. It is supported by Light House, Wolverhampton City Council, Zebra Uno and University of Wolverhampton.





### **Warsaw FEAST (Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign language Theory)**

**Date:** 1 – 2 June 2012  
**Place:** Warsaw, Poland  
**Organiser:** Section for Sign Linguistics, Head  
Faculty of Polish Studies University of  
Warsaw  
**Email:** FEAST@uw.edu.pl  
**Website:** <http://www.plm.uw.edu.pl/FEAST.php>

### **World Deaf Camp 2012**

**Date:** 2 – 9 June 2012  
**Place:** Salou, Spain  
**Email:** WorldDeafCamp@gmail.com  
**Website:** [http://www.worlddeafcamp.com/World\\_Deaf\\_Camp/Home.html](http://www.worlddeafcamp.com/World_Deaf_Camp/Home.html)

### **50th International Eucharist Congress**

**Theme:** Communion with Christ and with  
another  
**Date:** 10 – 17 June 2012  
**Place:** Dublin, Ireland  
**Email:** [info@iec2012.ie](mailto:info@iec2012.ie)  
**Website:** <http://www.iec2012.ie/>  
(The organisers of the IECE 2012 are involving the  
Deaf community, cooperating with the International  
Catholic Foundations for the Service of Deaf persons  
and the Irish National Chaplaincy for Deaf people)

### **Universal Design Conference 2012**

**Theme:** Public space: Inspire, Challenge, and  
Empower  
**Date:** 11 – 13 June 2012  
**Place:** Oslo, Norway  
**Email:** [ud2012@bufdir.no](mailto:ud2012@bufdir.no)  
**Website:** <http://www.ud2012.no>

### **Games of the Patriots**

**Date:** 13 – 17 June 2012  
**Place:** Kiev, Ukraine  
**Organiser:** Ukrainian Society of the Deaf  
For more information on application and regulations,  
contact by email:  
[cputog@ukr.net](mailto:cputog@ukr.net)  
**Website:** [www.utog.com.ua](http://www.utog.com.ua)

### **3rd Business Convention and Expo of the Deaf**

**Theme:** Grow Your Business  
**Date:** 20 – 24 June 2012  
**Place:** Hilton Disney World Resort  
1751 Hotel Plaza Boulevard L  
Lake Buena Vista, Florida  
USA  
**Website:** [www.deafbusiness.org](http://www.deafbusiness.org)  
Our facebook page is waiting for you at:  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Business-Convention-and-Expo-of-the-Deaf/174799545897270](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Business-Convention-and-Expo-of-the-Deaf/174799545897270)

### **International Federation of Hard of Hearing World Congress 2012**

**Theme:** A Better Quality of Life  
**Date:** 25 – 28 June 2012  
**Place:** Bergen, Norway  
**Email:** [ifhoh2012@hlf.no](mailto:ifhoh2012@hlf.no)  
**Website:** [www.ifhoh2012.no](http://www.ifhoh2012.no)

### **Universal Learning Design conference**

**Date:** 11 - 13 July 2012  
**Place:** Linz, Austria  
**Tel:** +420 549 49 1119  
**Fax:** +420 549 49 1120  
**E-mail:** [info@uld-conference.org](mailto:info@uld-conference.org)  
**Website:** [www.uld-conference.org](http://www.uld-conference.org)

### **Deaf Business Exhibition**

**Date:** 22 – 24 July, 2012  
**Place:** London, United Kingdom  
**Organiser:** Nazia Bidi  
**Contact:** The Executive Centre  
344-354 Gray's Inn Road  
London, WC1X 8BD  
UNITED KINGDOM  
**Tel:** +44 207 164 2140  
**Email:** [deafexpo2012\(at\)btinternet.com](mailto:deafexpo2012(at)btinternet.com)  
**Website:** [www.deafbizexpo2012.com](http://www.deafbizexpo2012.com)

### **XIX International AIDS Conference**

**Date:** 22 – 27 July 2012  
**Place:** Washington, DC, USA  
**Website:** <http://www.aids2012.org>

### 8th Deaf History International Conference

**Theme:** Telling Deaf Lives: Biographies & Autobiographies  
**Date:** 24 – 29 July 2012  
**Place:** Toronto, Canada  
**Email:** chair@dhiconference2012.ca  
**Website:** www.dhiconference2012.ca

### Changing Perceptions, Increasing Effectiveness, Embracing Advocacy

**Date:** 26 – 28 July 2012  
**Place:** 81 Kim Keat Road  
Singapore  
#12-00 NKF Centre  
328836  
Singapore  
**Contact:** Academy of Medicine, Singapore  
**Telephone:** +65 6593 7800, +65 6593 7868  
**Fax:** +65 6593 7860  
**Email:** apcd@ams.edu.sg  
**Website:** 203.127.83.176/hosting/APCD2012/index.html

### Deaf Nation World Expo

**Date:** 29 July – 1 August 2012  
**Place:** Las Vegas, Nevada, USA  
**Organiser:** Deaf Nation  
**Website:** <http://deafnation.com/dnwe/>

### III Sign Language Translation and Interpretation Research Conference

**Date:** 15 – 17 August 2012  
**Place:** Florianópolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil  
**Email:** congressotils@projectaeventos.com.br  
**Tel:** +55 48 3028 2004  
**Website:** <http://www.congressotils.cce.ufsc.br/2012/>

### European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters Conference

**Theme:** Sign Language Interpreter Training: An Integrated Approach  
**Date:** 7 – 9 September 2012  
**Place:** Vienna, Austria  
**Contact:** itat@uni-graz.at (Subject: efsli Seminar)  
**Website:** <http://www.uni-graz.at/itat/>

### 5th German Culture Days of the Deaf

**Theme:** One more culture: Sign Language “ deaf people present their culture and language  
**Date:** 20 – 22 September 2012-01-20  
**Place:** Erfurt, Germany  
**Telephone:** +49 89 /99 26 98-90  
**Fax:** +49 89 / 99 26 98-895  
**Email:** info@gehoerlosen-kulturtag.de  
**Website:** www.gehoerlosen-kulturtag.de

### Association of Sign Language Interpreters (ASLI) conference

**Theme:** Back to Basics  
**Date:** 22 – 23 September 2012  
**Place:** Bristol, United Kingdom  
**Contact:** Jackie Griffiths  
**Email:** jackieginterpret@AOL.COM  
**Website:** <http://www.asli.org.uk/conference-2012-p454.aspx>

### World Deaf Golf Championship

**Date:** 9 – 12 October 2012  
**Place:** Tsu, Mie Prefecture, Japan  
**Contact:** Japan Deaf Golf Association  
**Head Office:** 1-15-6-6F Hiroo,  
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo,  
Japan  
**E-mail:** jdga@gsi-inc.cc  
**Website:** <http://www.2012wdgcjapan.com/index.php>

### Conference of Interpreter Trainers conference (CIT)

**Date:** 17 – 20 October 2012  
**Place:** Charlotte, North Carolina, USA  
**Website:** <http://www.cit-asl.org/conf/presenters.html>

### 2012 Business Boot Camp of the Deaf

**Theme:** Boost Your Profits  
**Date:** 25 – 27 October 2012  
**Place:** San Diego, California  
USA  
**Website:** [www.deafbusiness.org](http://www.deafbusiness.org)  
**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Business-Convention-and-Expo-of-the-Deaf/174799545897270>



### III International Film Festival in Sign Language

**Date:** 10 November 2012  
**Place:** Tolosaldea-Goierri, Spain  
**Organiser:** Deaf People of Tolosaldea – Goierri  
“GAINDITZEN”  
**Email:** culturasantolosa@hotmail.com  
**Website:** <http://www.gainditzen.com>

### 2nd International Conference of the WFD

**Theme:** Equality for Deaf People  
**Date:** 16 – 18 October 2013  
**Place:** Sydney, Australia  
**Email:** [wfdsydney2013@icms.com.au](mailto:wfdsydney2013@icms.com.au)  
**Website:** [www.wfdsydney2013.com/](http://www.wfdsydney2013.com/)

### Deaf World Cruise 2013

**Departure:** Rome, Italy  
**Arrival:** Athens, Greece  
**Date:** July 2013  
More small exotic tours will also be offered prior very special Deaf World Cruise

**Contact:** Michael Ubowski  
**Email:** [sales@deafcruise.com](mailto:sales@deafcruise.com)  
**By mail:** Deaf Cruise  
14700 North Frank Lloyd Wright  
Boulevard #157, PMB #379  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85260  
**Phone:** +1 866 922 3090  
**Fax:** +1 480 657 0744  
**Website:** [www.DeafWorldCruise.com](http://www.DeafWorldCruise.com)

### XVI World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf

**Date:** To be announced later  
**Place:** Istanbul, Turkey

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.



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)



# World Federation of the Deaf



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

## Invite you to become a member

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)

President

COLIN ALLEN

Email: [wfdpresident@gmail.com](mailto:wfdpresident@gmail.com)

### **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP - APPLICATION FORM**

I would like to become an **INDIVIDUAL** Member of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD).

Understanding that my application is subject to approval by the President of WFD, I give below reasons for my interest in membership.

If this application is approved, I agree to pay the membership fee fixed for Individual Members, which is currently **50 € (EUROS) annually (For developing countries - Group 2 – 30 €, Group 3 – 20 € and Group 4 – 15 €), as categorised by the World Bank – please refer to 2nd page of the amount of the membership fees)**

I understand that payment of the annual fee entitles me to receive **WFD Newsletter** six (6) times a year, and plus other information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am **DEAF** / **HARD OF HEARING** / **HEARING**  
(Please circle which applies)

#### **Payment Method:**

**Credit card** (Please tick one box)

MasterCard

Visa

Card Number:

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Last three digits on the back of card (above the signature panel)

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

Submit applications to:  
**WFD General Secretariat**  
**PO Box 65**  
**FIN – 00401 HELSINKI**  
**Finland**  
**Email: [memberships@wfdeaf.org](mailto:memberships@wfdeaf.org)**