



WFD NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

AUGUST 2010



ICED: NEW ERA



**DEAF CANDIDATE
TO UN COMMITTEE**

INSIDE EUROPEAN UNION

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Cover pictures:

ICED: From left to right are: Ragnar Veer, President, Swedish Association of the Deaf; Roz Rosen, former President, National Association of the Deaf (U.S.); and Wayne Sinclair, British Columbia Deaf Community activist, chatting during a break between meetings. Photo by Janice Lyons

DEAF CANDIDATE: Berta Luz Pascual Melara. Photo by Asociación Salvadoreña de Sordos

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT by Niclas Martinsson

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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WFD, the World Federation of the Deaf, is an umbrella organisation providing a wide range of support and advocacy services for national Deaf associations. The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) was established in 1951 in Rome, Italy during the first Deaf World Congress. As an international non-governmental organisation, it 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 Organization (UNESCO); the International Labour Organization (ILO); and World Health Organization (WHO). It also has participatory status with the Council of Europe (CoE). WFD currently has 130 national associations of the Deaf as its members. WFD provides a platform for cooperation and information exchange among its members and partners. As an international organisation and through national organisations, WFD is emphasizing on improving the human rights for Deaf persons, the status of national sign languages, better education for Deaf people, and improved access to information technology and services.

ADAM DREAMS OF A MORE ACCESSIBLE EUROPE

By Niclas Martinsson

Adam Kosa is the first deaf member of the European parliament. He does not see himself as a politician, but as a president from the Hungarian Deaf Association, who has been given the chance to represent deaf and other people with disabilities in the EU. The Deaf Magazine (Sweden) met him in Strasbourg.



Adam Kosa at a Transport and Tourism Committee meeting listening to his one sign language interpreter.

A waiter enters a meeting room holding a tray with two stacks of coffee and teacups. The Members of the European parliament, who sit on the Committee on Transport and Tourism, nod without removing their headphones when they accept a hot drink. It looks like they have done it many times. Above them are seven different interpreter groups in their respective stall and translating into the participants' national languages, among them are Italian, Spanish, and German. When the waiter arrives to Adam Kosa's seat, he shows a universal sign for tea. Adam Kosa happily takes a cup and continues to look at his two sign language interpreters, who take turns to work.

– The communication flows well. Many know that I am deaf and understand that they must have eye contact with me. But, in the beginning, there were some who did not know how the interpreter service worked. For example, they believed that the interpreter would sit next to me in the Chamber and not opposite, says Adam Kosa with a smile.

The committee is discussing the design of the improved rights for bus and boat passengers. For air travellers, there are already generous rules, which give them the rights to assistance, information and compensation for cancelled or delayed trips. They, who go in the clouds and have any form of disability, are



Adam Kosa in his office with one of his assistants in the background.

also entitled to information and assistance. The hard nuts to crack here are the bus passengers who should be covered – those who travel by regional bus or by long distance bus, and how big the compensation should be whether a person has lost his luggage. Adam Kosa points at the disability aspect: the right for information in a national language in text displays on board a bus or a boat, and SMS information about eventual problems. Safety features such as visual fire alarms in ship cabins are not involved here.

– There will be another occasion to discuss this, says Adam Kosa, who will soon turn the microphone to one of the interpreters, who translates simultaneous what he says, in Hungarian.

The Hungarian interpreters in the stall translate, in turn, to English. Adam Kosa feels that he can have balanced conversations. He has eight sign language interpreters, who are among the best in Hungary and who relieve each other. The disadvantage is that they are unaccustomed to speak English, which means that Adam Kosa cannot really have corridor talks with other members than those from Hungary. However, he has spread to others that they can always chat with him.

Adám Kosa, in his position of power, has become an important factor for the deaf world. He intends to use his power to help people and is in a special seat. While other members of the parliament primarily defend their country's interests, he is also a representative of persons with disabilities in Europe.

– One of my role models is Nelson Mandela. I have a poster of him in my office in Brussels, where I spend most of the time as a parliamentarian, says Adam Kosa.

And in the parliament in Strasbourg, he has a spartan office decorated with bunk and bathroom on the eleventh floor with a view of the city. He is in Strasbourg only during the sessions, which are three and half days long each and take place twelve times per year. In Brussels there are shorter sessions and meetings in political groups and committees. Adam Kosa is chairman of the Informal Disability Intergroup. The Swedish EU parliamentarian, Cecilia Wikström, from

the Liberal Party, is vice chairman.

– Our cooperation works very well. His presence helps us to keep our discussions in order, says Cecilia Wikström and smiles, and states: EU's work for a more accessible Europe is like a large ship making its way slowly but surely.

Even when Adam Kosa was younger, he knew that he wanted to make life better for people with disabilities. **So you knew early that you have the ability to possibly break barriers?**

– I come from a deaf family who is well suited. My father is a dental technician and one of the most reputable in Budapest. He has also been engaged in the deaf association. So it was natural for me to study to become a lawyer. The next step was to be elected to the board of the deaf association, then to become a president, and finally an EU parliamentarian.

You are still chairman of the Hungarian deaf association. How do you combine this with your EU work?

– Being a parliamentarian is a flexible job. Sometimes I spend three days on it, so the other two days, I am chairman. During my first term of office, I kept an eye on everything and knew what the employees did. Now, in the second period, it is impossible to know everything. So the officials inform me.

Currently, 14 EU countries have ratified the UN convention on the rights of people with disabilities. Adam Kosa will personally meet members of the European parliament from the nations that have not ratified, for example Finland and Poland, so they in turn put pressure on their respective government.

If we use an example from your country, Hungary, where Romani people are persecuted and harassed, although the country claims to follow human rights, how can we be confident that the EU can change the situation for people with disabilities better?

– Firstly, the EU must have better control, together with civil communities, and secondly, each EU member state establishes an independent institute that monitors the rights of people with disabilities and that they are being respected, says Adam Kosa, and gives an example:

Hungary has received grants from the structural fund, which aims to lift deprived regions and disadvantaged folks.





Gap between the European parliament and the people - or the houses - is not always huge.

– The appropriation was used, among others, to construct new buildings. Only entrances are accessible for disabled people, but not the rest of the buildings, says

Adam Kosa, who wants the structure fund to be conditioned to accessibility requirements and provide more money beginning in the year 2014.

Adam Kosa is also critical of the fact that Germany has blocked an EU proposal to an anti-discrimination directive, which means that all the member states are required to have laws against discrimination on grounds of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. Germany wants to know the cost consequences first.

Another challenge for Europe is the aging population. Therefore, according to Adam Kosa, the disabled people have a potential to be used, not only the migrants, to fill the vacancies when older people have been working a long time and are ready to retire.

“Deaf people visiting another EU country and demanding an interpreter, who uses international signs, is possibly an option in the future.”

As to make the interpreter service more equal between the EU countries, a directive has been developed and aimed at suspected criminals should have the right to an interpreter if they do not speak the languages which are spoken in the present country. Sign language is also being included. Adam Kosa works for a more equal interpreter service for sign language users throughout the EU. Deaf people visiting another EU country and demanding an interpreter, who uses international signs, is possibly an option in the future. Interpreters can also be deaf themselves, who act as relay interpreters for the hearing interpreters and translate between domestic sign language and international signs.

A politician must have patience. How do you experience it in person?

– I do not see myself as a politician but as a man from the Hungarian deaf association who is here to fight for a more accessible Europe. Since I know that the goal is reachable, I can have patience. If it was an impossibility, I would not be able to continue, says Adam Kosa. ■

Source: The Swedish Deaf Magazine (Dövas Tidning), #4 2010.

Author: Niclas Martinsson

WHO'S WHO

NAME: ADAM KOSA

AGE: 35 IN JULY

RESIDENCE: BUDAPEST

FAMILY: WIFE, AND TWO DEAF BOYS (6 AND 8 YEARS).

PREFER TO PRACTICE: DIVING.

PREFER TO READ: SCIENCE FICTION.

PREFER TO WATCH TV: NOTHING. I'D RATHER WATCH DVDS.

FAVOURITE SIGN: WHALE.



TOWARDS NEW ERA

The 2010 ICED Organizing Committee opened the 21st International Congress on the Education of the Deaf in Vancouver, Canada with a long-awaited sweeping repudiation of the 1880 Milan ICED resolutions. These resolutions banned sign language in educational programs for deaf children, resulting in deprivation of access to quality education and minimal equality in life for Deaf citizens all over the world.

Photo by Janice Lyons



WFD President Markku Jokinen hugs both B.C. Deaf Community activist, Wayne Sinclair, and ICED 2010 Organizing Committee Chairperson, Claire Anderson, after the presentation of two sculptures of Finnish reindeer as a symbol of working together in an unity between the global Deaf community and the global educational establishment. A loud thunderous applause from more than 500 participants accompanies the show of symbolic unity.

The Vancouver ICED 2010 Organizing Committee and the British Columbia Deaf Community (BCDC) collaborated on the statement, “A New Era: Deaf Participation and Collaboration” which rejected the Milan resolutions, expressed deep regret for the detrimental effects of the Milan resolutions, and promoted the acceptance of and respect for all languages and forms of communication in educational programs. The New Era Accord begins with the statement of working with national governments to adhere to the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities (CRPD) which states that sign language is a human right and that education includes full acquisition of language, academic, practical and social knowledge. The other statements include endorsement of the resolutions adopted by the World Federation of the Deaf at its 15th Congress in 2007 including equal and appropriate access to a multi-lingual, multi-cultural education; inclusion of Sign Languages as legitimate languages equal to the nation’s spoken languages; the inclusion of Deaf people in all aspects of education from the very onset; and the promotion of human rights for all.

After **Joe McLaughlin**, member of the Organizing Committee, read the Statement of Principle and Accord for the Future to the plenary audience of about 750 participants, there were emotional cheering and standing high-fives ovations in response to this significant dawning of a new era of human rights and alliances. (The full document can be viewed on www.ICED2010.com or <http://tinyurl.com/27774pu>) Participants at the ICED Congress and the BCDC were invited to sign the document.

The unifying message of the diverse plenary speakers during this Congress was the importance of Sign Language, Culture and Community for all Deaf children, across various communication options and with or without hearing devices.

At the ICED Closing Plenary Session, Joe McLaughlin stated that 600 participants had signed the New Era Principles and Accord during this Congress. The Hong Kong Association of the Deaf brought a letter with 356 more signatures. McLaughlin called World Federation President **Markku Jokinen** to the stage to receive the New Era document, which will continue to gather signatures, travel to the 16th WFD Congress in South Africa in 2011, and ultimately return to the ICED Congress in Greece, 2015, as a continuous beacon of and commitment to our new understandings and partnerships around the globe. The document represents a new chapter where human right principles, as set forth in the United Nations CRPD, will become entrenched in educational practices and become part of the legacy of the 2010 Vancouver ICED Congress.

Markku Jokinen congratulated the ICED Organizing Committee and all participants for being part of this significant movement to repudiate the damaging resolutions set forth by the 1880 Milan ICED Congress and to embrace the New Era guiding principles reinforcing human rights and alliances in education. He shared his reflections on the essence of education and the far-reaching implications of the New Era Accord.

“Education, which is much more than just scores, curriculum, and pedagogies, means nurturing deaf children to become full human beings with rights, knowledge and skills. It means enabling them to their maximum potential as individuals in today’s society. We must also recognize and value diversity within the Deaf community – Deaf, hard of hearing, Deaf-blind -- with full rights to language, culture, community and choices.

“The principles in the New Era Accord are derived from the United Nations Convention on Human Rights for Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which has been ratified by many of the countries represented at this Congress. The CRPD, an official doctrine articulating our human and educational rights, should inform our work with our respective governments in our planning and implementation of educational policies and programs. Education is laden with values, which will vary among individuals. Thus, taking the lead from those individuals, families and professionals need to



WFD President Markku Jokinen having signed one of the four original copies of the New Era document in Vancouver.

vary their approaches to incorporate those basic and individual human values and preferences while adhering to the fundamental CRPD principles.

“The tremendous support for the New Era Accord shown at this Congress is inspiring. However, our work has only just begun. It will take time, patience and wisdom to sustain permeating change. We all have been hurt, excluded, marginalized and angry at

“Education, which is much more than just scores, curriculum, and pedagogies, means nurturing deaf children to become full human beings with rights, knowledge and skills.”

hearing people for the damage visited upon us over generations, 130 years since Milan. We need to forgive ourselves and those others, to become spiritually liberated to forge forward with new alliances towards a positive, productive future together.

“I am honored to be here to receive the document stating the principles of human rights and education for all. We welcome you to join us at our 2011 WFD Congress in South Africa, to

work alongside us to enable Deaf youngsters to achieve full, enriching lives as self-actualizing human beings. WFD has 130 member countries. To show our great appreciation to the ICED Organizing Committee and to the British Columbia Deaf Community for creating this monumental New Era alliance, I would like to give this reindeer sculpture to each organization. In Finland, from where I hail, reindeer are small but powerful animals which depend on each other in the pack to survive. Like reindeer, we need and value each other.”

There was a group hug and a standing ovation as **Claire Anderson** (ICED) and **Wayne Sinclair** (BCDC) received the symbolic gifts from WFD. “Partners in Education,’ the theme of ICED2010, emphasizes the importance of working together,” said Anderson, Congress Chair, “ It is with respectful partnerships of educators, parents, students, and the Deaf and hard of hearing communities that we will maximize opportunities for meeting the educational needs of our students.”

“History has been made today and the words of the Vancouver Statement can replace the hurt caused by the Milan decision,” stated McLaughlin.

Text by WFD Honorary Member Roz Rosen

XVI WORLD CONGRESS OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

The XVI WFD World Congress is from 18 – 24 July 2010 in Durban, South Africa. The program of the World Congress ranges from presentations, special interest groups, workshops and training to cultural and theatre presentations, exhibitions and related events for people of any ages from all over the world. For further information on programs of the Congress, do click on this website address: <http://www.wfd2011.com/events/programme.html>

The deadline for early bird registration is on **15 April 2011**. For further information, check on WFD Congress website: www.wfd2011.com

ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

The call for papers is available now, in which you could go into the World Congress website. This Congress is to focus on the XVI World Congress of the WFD theme “Global Deaf Renaissance” from birth to adulthood on the following sub-themes:

- **DEAF EDUCATION** – Equal access to Education and Becoming Multilingual
- **SIGN LANGUAGES AND DEAF STUDIES** – Achieving Legal Recognition of Sign Language and Why Deaf?
- **DEVELOPING COUNTRIES** – Intelligent Conflict Management and Social and Economic Empowerment
- **HUMAN RIGHTS**

SPECIALINTERESTGROUPS’ topics will be covered: Deaf Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Bisexual People (LGBT), Deaf Ethnic Groups, CODAs – Children of Deaf Adults, Deafblind, Deaf Mental Health, Sign Language Interpreters, Families and Technology

The deadline for sending the abstract is on **31 October 2010**.

NEWS FOR EXHIBITION

If you would like to have an exhibition space at the WFD World Congress, it is possible to register your space online at www.wfd2011.com or contact Ms. Alison Swannack at exhibitions@wfd2011.com

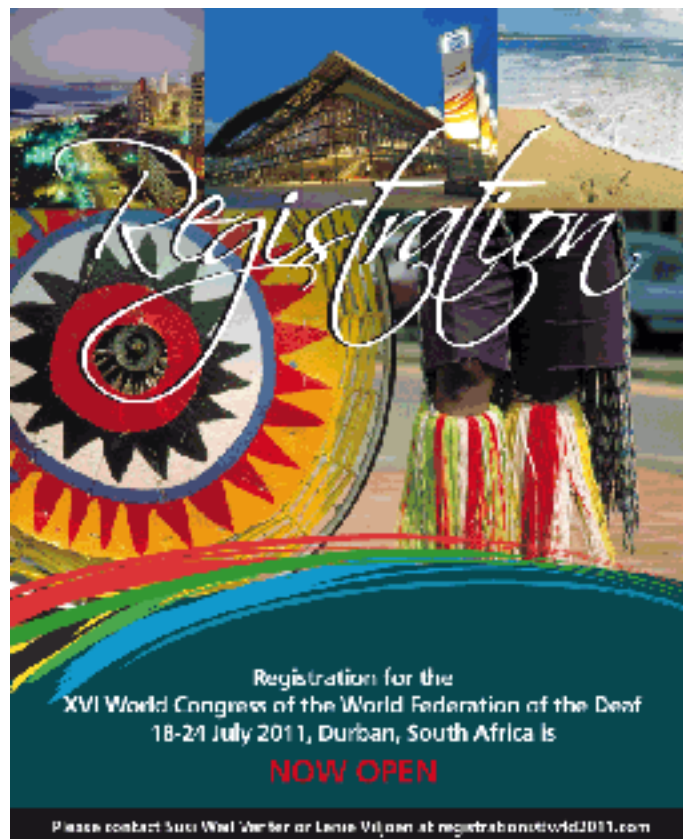
WFD BOARD

The 95th WFD Board meeting will be held in Seoul, South Korea from 9 – 11 September 2010. It is the second time for OM Korea to host the WFD Board meeting.



The WFD Congress Registration is available now online. For fees and registration, please visit:

<http://www.wfd2011.com/>
<http://www.wfd2011.com/registration/>



Registration for the XVI World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf 18-24 July 2011, Durban, South Africa is NOW OPEN



WFD INVITES BIDS TO HOST 2013 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

FOR WFD ORDINARY, INTERNATIONAL AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ONLY:

World Federation of the Deaf is inviting bids to host an International Conference in 2013. International Conference is arranged between World Congresses and it may be organized by an Ordinary, International or Associate Member of the World Federation of the Deaf. It is smaller in scale than the World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf and more select in character aiming to facilitate exchange of information on the selected topic.

All received bids will be reviewed by the Board after the World Congress 2011. Thus, if your association is considering submitting a bid to arrange the WFD conference of 2013, it is now time to start preparing your plans and negotiate with partners for financial support.

The organiser hosting the international conference shall submit a proposed theme, application and financial plan to the Board for approval. The host has all financial responsibilities for the conference arrangements. If your organisation is interested to host a WFD conference in 2013, you are welcome to request any further information about the conference or to send the bid to WFD General Secretariat.



Last WFD International Conference was held in Helsinki, Finland in 2005.

The deadline for sending the conference bids is 31 August 2011.

If you would like further information about the conference bids, please contact Ms. Phillipa Sandholm, WFD Administrative Secretary by email: phillipa.sandholm@kl-deaf.fi

DO YOU CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL WEEK?

It is again that time of the year when Deaf people all around the world gather to celebrate.

International Week of the Deaf is celebrated from 20 to 26 September 2010. Associations throughout the world arrange events and campaigns to get attention to the concerns Deaf people face with. This year, WFD encourages its national members to focus on Deaf Education, which continues to be one of the most contested issues in the history of Deaf people.

We would like to report in the next issue how International Week has been celebrated around the world, thus, please send us articles and pictures of your celebrations to info@wfdeaf.org.

WFD wishes cheerful celebrations to everyone!

Read more about Silent Shout (page 12), which is arranged during the International Week of the Deaf in New York.

STATES ELECT NEW MEMBERS TO THE CRPD COMMITTEE

The third Conference of States Parties to the Convention (COSP) will be held from 1-3 September 2010 at UNHQ in New York. This session, under the theme: “Implementing the Convention through Advancing Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities”, will begin with the election of members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and include substantive roundtable discussions and an interactive informal session with civil society.

Elections for members of the Committee will be held in accordance with article 34 of the Convention. As the total number of ratifications has passed 80, the membership of the Committee will increase by six to a total of 18 members. Additional elections will be held for the six members whose term expires in 2010. A Deaf candidate Ms. Berta Luz Pascual Melara from El Salvador is running for the CRPD Committee (read her personal coverage on the next page). In addition, Guinea has submitted Mr Alpha Boubacar Diop from Guinea as a candidate for the second time.

The meeting will also discuss the education rights of all children and current education programmes. Mr Markku Jokinen, WFD president, has been invited to deliver a 10 minutes speech regarding deaf education in this session.

WFD ARRANGES A SIDE EVENT ON EDUCATION

In conjunction with the UN meeting, the World Federation of the Deaf arranges a side event “Towards barrier-free education for Deaf children: Understanding the concept of bilingual education” for state representatives and UN officials to open key issues on deaf education and to discuss other specific issues that relate to the human and linguistic rights of Deaf people. Experts will open the concept of bilingual education and provide best practises from the world to increase awareness and to give tools to State Representatives to improve the education settings for Deaf children. Speakers include Mr Markku Jokinen, President of the World Federation of the Deaf, Mr Shuaib Chalklen, UN Special Rapporteur on Disability and Dr Joseph Murray, Assistant Professor from Gallaudet University. The event is open for participants who have permission to enter the UN premises.

Read more: <http://www.un.org/disabilities>



WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

THIRD CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES / CRPD

Why deaf children remain illiterate more often than the majority population and are unable to have comprehensive education of good quality responding to their needs? Does inclusion or inclusive education support full access and education rights of deaf pupils? Welcome to learn more about sign languages, education policies and education rights of deaf people from the specialists.

TOWARDS BARRIER-FREE EDUCATION FOR DEAF CHILDREN: UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2, 2010
1:15 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM A
SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION

LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

Speakers:



MR. MARKKU JOKINEN
PRESIDENT
WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF



MR. SHUAIB CHALKLEN
UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON DISABILITY
UN COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



DR. JOSEPH MURRAY
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

Organised by the World Federation of the Deaf and co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations

BERTA LUZ PASCUAL MELARA

A DEAF CANDIDATE TO THE CRPD COMMITTEE

"I am proud to be deaf, I am proud to be a woman, and in this condition I am proud to have the opportunity to fight for the rights of people with disabilities, and look for ways to provide them a better quality of life. I thank the people with disabilities of El Salvador, who have placed their trust in me. Since the day of my election, I am no longer only part of the Salvadorean Deaf Community, now I am and I owe myself to the Disabled Population of El Salvador" (Berta Luz Pascual Melara)



In June 2009, El Salvador began a process of consultation with various civil society organizations, seeking the democratic election of the candidate who would represent people with disabilities before the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the United Nations Organization (UN).

That was how each sector of disabled people elected its representative to deliver a lecture about the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which our country signed in March 2007 and ratified in October of that year. The Convention entered into force in May 2008.

On July 16th, 2009, representatives of the various associations of persons with disabilities in El Salvador, and representatives of the Council for the Comprehensive Care for People with Disabilities (Consejo de Atención Integral a las Personas con Discapacidad CONAIPD), Secretary of Social Inclusion, as well as representatives of the Office for the Defense of Human Rights Ombudsman Office, came to the election to verify the process.

In this process Eduardo Santos Pasasin participated as the representative of the Visually Impaired Sector, Jesús Martínez as the representative of the Physical Disabilities Sector and me (Berta Luz Pascual) representing the Deaf community.

Later in September 2009, the Salvadorean Government through the Permanent Mission of El Salvador in New York presented to the United Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva my candidature for the election of new members of the

Committee of People with Disabilities, to be held on September 1, 2010.

Aware of the rights as disabled people, we have been recognized in domestic laws and international Conventions ratified by my country El Salvador, and being aware of the precarious situation of the few opportunities for participation in public policies and social and economic development of my country, I joined the Salvadorean Association of the Deaf, and from there we have launched several initiatives for people with disabilities. For example, one of our first achievements was the creation of the first high school for the deaf, which allowed us to study afterwards at an University. The support and assistance of my family has also been important to me.

PROMOTING SALVADOREAN SIGN LANGUAGE

Currently I work as a promoter of Salvadorean Sign Language (Lenguaje de Señas Salvadoreñas LESSA), hired by the Salvadorean Association of the Deaf to assist the educational community of the School for the deaf "Griselda Zeledón" in the city of San Salvador. This opportunity has been given to me thanks to the agreement signed between the Ministry of Education of El Salvador and the Association of the Deaf, which has been delegated the task of promoting the development of Salvadorean Sign Language.

Moreover, one of the fundamental pillars for gradually overcoming social barriers and achieve the participation in decisions that benefit people with disabilities is the full access to education. This is so because it will allow us to incorporate into the productive life of our country, and also will give us the opportunity to show our capabilities and contribute to social and economic development of our country, El Salvador. Of course it is also important to have the opportunity to enjoy the rights to health, rehabilitation, recreation, culture and empowerment, and eliminate the architectural and communication barriers.

I thank God, the organizations of people with disabilities and my family for their support and the opportunity to represent El Salvador as a candidate to qualify for a seat at the United Nations Committee for Persons with Disabilities. This has allowed me to inform at national and international level about our situation and make some proposals to contribute to the improvement of that situation. From my part, my commitment is to continue to fight for the enforcement and respect for our equal rights and opportunities.

Source: Asociación Salvadoreña de Sordos

SSSHHH...IT'S SILENT SHOUT NY

"You have the power of change in your hands; use them to sign for equality"

A live Sign Language music performance led by world's first Deaf hip-hop artist Signmark will take over New York City **23rd of September**, in Washington Square Park at 5pm.

As a part of the International Deaf Awareness week the Silent Shout group wants to start a movement through a collective cultural act towards building a society where everyone has the equal opportunity to participate and dream. The idea of this flash mob event is to collect a crowd in New York City's Washington Square Park to sign in sync a chorus line with Signmark. The song is called "Against The wall".

Everyone is free to join the performance, for the aim is to build bridges between different cultures and make it easy for everyone to try how much fun signing could be. The target audience includes both deaf and hearing people. The Silent Shout group would like to encourage everyone to unlock his or her potential and be a part of the signing live performance!

In order to join, you only have to learn the signs in advance from the Internet and be at the Washington Square Park. Silent Shout concept has been already done successfully in Helsinki, Stockholm and Hong Kong.

SIGNMARK

Signmark was born deaf into a world where music is for the hearing. He pursued his childhood dream and became the first deaf artist in the world to sign a record deal with a major label. Signmark wanted to show

the world that deaf people could do everything. His dream is to empower the deaf community to strive for their dreams. Signmark has gained international interest by touring in over thirty countries, including Japan, USA, Australia, Iceland, China and Ethiopia.

The strong beats and clean bass-line of hip-hop music help's the deaf artist to feel the music and adapt to the rhythm as he signs his lyrics. Hip-hop culture has the tradition of stretching boundaries of art, politics, and society. Rap helped the signing community to find their own voice.

UN FOCUSED SEMINAR

In addition to this public flash mob event there will be an UN-focused seminar "Label us able - Respect diversity and free the full potential of all individuals" at the Consulate General of Finland. Signmark as well as the Finnish Foreign Minister will be present at that event. The Finnish Government has enabled these events as a part of actively promoting human right including rights of the disabled people. The Silent Shout concept is owned by Signmark Productions and it was co-created with Hahmo Design.

More info: <http://mysilentshout.com>

DISABILITY INCLUDED IN MDG REPORT 2010

The 2010 Millennium Development Goal Global Report, which has recently been issued, includes several references to disability and persons with disabilities, especially under MDG2 - achieving universal primary education. This Report comes five years before the target date for the Millennium Development Goals, and leaders from around the world will be gathering at the United Nations this September to undertake a comprehensive review of progress and together chart a course for accelerated action on the MDGs between now and 2015. The inclusion of disability perspectives and persons with disabilities in realizing the achievement of the MDGs has been reiterated by the General Assembly in its resolutions 63/150 and 64/131. See the full Report at:

<http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010>

Source: DESA, Enable Newsletter May / June 2010



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

- 146 signatories to the Convention
- 89 signatories to the Optional Protocol (OP)
- 90 ratifications of the Convention
- 56 ratifications of the Optional Protocol (OP)

LATEST

- Lithuania ratified the Convention and OP on 18-8-2010
 - Honduras ratified the Optional Protocol on 16-8-2010
- See more on <http://www.un.org/disabilities>

NEWS FROM THE WFD MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

AUSTRIA

REPORT TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

The Austrian Association of the Deaf has submitted its individual UPR submission for the 10th Session of the Universal Periodic Review working group in January 2011. The Austrian Association of the Deaf also joined the Austrian NGO Platform on Human Rights to draw up a joint submission. It consists of 270 NGOs, coordinated by the Austrian League for Human Rights.

The report is supported by a further 90 organizations. Parallel to this, the Austrian Association of the Deaf is working on a report for the Committee on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights with disabilities (CRPD), which is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Source: Österreichischer Gehörlosenbund

HUNGARY

RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES OR DISABLED RIGHTS? THE HUNGARIAN PARALLEL REPORT WAS LAUNCHED IN BUDAPEST

The Hungarian Disability Caucus presented the parallel report on the rights of persons with disabilities on a press conference on 10 August 2010 at the Central European University.

The report was presented by the experts of the national and international disability organisations, inter alia Gábor Gombos (Mental Disability Advocacy Centre, MDAC), Dr. György Könczei (member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities), Melinda Kovács (Hungarian Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability, ÉFOÉSZ), Tamás Verdes (Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, TASZ), Erzsébet Földesi Szöllősiné and Lajos Hegedűs (National Federation of Disabled Persons' Association, MEOSZ), Dr. Ádám Kósa (Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, SINOSZ), and Réka Vályi (Hungarian Autistic Society, AOSZ). The government was represented by Imre Nyitrai, Vice-Secretary and Dr. Ilona Hontvári, Press Rapporteur of the Department of Social, Family and Youth Affairs of the Ministry of National Resources, and Dr. László Szőke, Chief of the Disability Department. Dr. István Lakatos, Human Rights Ambassador of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Dr. Gergely Tapolczai, MP also honoured the event with their presence.

The Hungarian Disability Caucus started to work on the document in December 2009. The coordinators of the content were Gábor Gombos (MDAC) and Dalma Földes (SINOSZ) who also did the general and technical coordination of the project together with Barbara Vitrai (SINOSZ). The project was sponsored by the Open Society Institute, EGT/Norwegian Financial Mechanism, Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation and Co, SINOSZ and MDAC.

The 254-page report analyses the national realization of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The problem defined by the document as the root of most of the disability issues is the lack of a unified, legal definition of the persons with disabilities in the Hungarian legislation. The parallel

report discusses the anomalies of the education, right to vote, employment, independent living, community inclusion and accessibility both by doing fact-finding based on official data and documents, and offering specific solutions for the decision makers at the same time. According to the parallel report, the problems related to disability issues can be solved and a real result can only be achieved if other fields, such as social politics, education, employment, social policy, are also included.

Beyond the legal analysis the Caucus paid special attention so that the report reflects the lived reality of people with disability, which was contributed to by the members of the participating organisations. Instead of the present exclusively assimilative and homogeneous society, the report aims an integrative one which requires reasonable accommodation according to the personal needs of the persons with disabilities (elderly, persons suffering from temporary or permanent illness etc). The improvement can not be accessed primarily by the creation of new legal norms but by the adherence of the already existing laws and by the creation of an inclusive social and political medium. Due to the final conclusion of the parallel report, there is not a single area where the national environment is exquisitely in harmony with the provisions of the CRPD. Consequently, beyond the fulfilment, there are also serious tasks of legal harmonisation that the government in power has to realise.

According to the CRPD, the Hungarian government has to prepare the first national report until next autumn. The English version of the parallel report will be sent to the Committee in order to facilitate the interactive conversation between the government and the Committee. The Conference of the State Parties will be held with civil participation on 1-3 September 2010 at the UN Headquarter in NYC.

Prepared by Dalma Földes/SINOSZ (Hungarian Association of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing)

PALESTINE / GAZA

EU FOREIGN AFFAIRS CHIEF VISITS DEAF IN GAZA

The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union and First-Vice-President of the European Commission Baroness Ashton visited Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children and held a meeting with representatives of the civil society and private sector in the main hall of the organization.

On 18 July 2010 a high level European Union delegation headed by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union and First-Vice-President of the European Commission Baroness Catherine Ashton visited Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children. The delegation took a tour of the Society departments getting to know more about the services offered by Atfaluna expressing their admiration at the achievements made and offered to the deaf sector in the Gaza Strip.

In conclusion of the tour Mr. Sharhabeel Al Za'eem, ASDC Chairman presented Baroness Ashton with a hand-embroidered photo album enclosed in it a number of photos of the school activities and photos of Baroness Ashton's previous visit to the Society.

Mr. Sharhabeel Al Za'eem commented on the visit and said: "This is the second visit made by Baroness Ashton the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union and First-Vice-President of the European Commission in less than four months. This shows her deep interest in Atfaluna Society and its achievements, which she considers to be a true representation of the hard work and success."

The Director of Atfaluna Mr. Naim Kabaja said:

"The visit of such a highly esteemed personality of Atfaluna and her choice to hold a meeting with the representatives of the private sector in our Society is a great honor to Atfaluna Society and to the employees in it." Naim added that the Society receives funding from the European Union through CBM the main partner of Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children.

Upon completing their tour of Atfaluna the delegation held a business lunch in the main meeting hall of the Society a number of key Palestinian personalities were invited. The guests included Mr. Sharhabeel Al Za'eem, Mr. Raji Al-Sourani, Ms. Rawiya Shawa, Mr. Sami Abdel-Shafi, Mr. Amjad Al-Shawa and, Mr. Amer Hamad.

Baroness Ashton and the visiting delegation discussed with their guests the social, economic, political, and human rights situation in the Gaza Strip. At the end of the visit Baroness Catherine Ashton commented on how pleased she is with this visit and expressed her appreciation for the work and time spent on providing different services to the deaf.

Mr. Sharhabeel Al Za'eem stated that "The meeting was very informative and useful; Ms. Ashton was updated on the problems which the Gaza Strip still suffers from and the members of the meeting emphasized their refusal of the Israeli blockade, requesting from Ms. Ashton to help lift the siege from all the Palestinian borders and ports; and the immediate reopening of the Safe Passage between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children, a registered Palestinian NGO located in Gaza city, has been working in the field of deaf education and allied services since 1992.

Source: Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children

UGANDA

SIGN LANGUAGE IN DEAF EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The conference will discuss the role of sign language in Deaf education, from elementary school up to University level. We will look at the history of Deaf education in East Africa, and the prevailing situations at the moment. Then think about how education can improve for Deaf people in future.

Do you work in Deaf education, or sign language teaching and research? Are you interested in the empowerment of Deaf people in East Africa? If so, this conference is the right one for you!

WHEN: Friday 17 and Saturday 18 September 2010 (two full days). Participants will arrive on the evening of Thursday 16 September, and leave in the morning on Sunday 19 September.

WHERE: Kyambogo University, Kampala, Uganda

WHO IS ORGANISING THE CONFERENCE:

- Faculty of Special Needs and Rehabilitation, Kyambogo University, Kampala
- University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana
- University of Central Lancashire, UK
- Uganda National Association of the Deaf

The conference is sponsored by the British Council, and is part of the Education Partnership in Africa (EPA) project. In particular, we would like to welcome people from East African countries: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda. Of course, people from other countries are also very welcome to join the conference! The languages of the conference will be: International Sign, Ugandan Sign Language and spoken English. There is no registration fee, so it is free to attend the conference. Food and accommodation will be provided, only if you are a confirmed participant (see the information below).

We will also pay for your travel costs to the conference, and back home again after. However, we will only pay for public transport (bus or train) and we will not pay for you to travel by airplane. You must keep valid receipts for the travel costs that you want to claim.

HOW DO I REGISTER: There are a limited number of places for this conference. If you would like to come as a participant, please request the application form from KyUConf2010@hotmail.co.uk. You must return the form before Sunday 5 September 2010. We hope to meet you soon in Kampala!

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

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@wfdeaf.org and then we will send you an invoice for payment of the order.

REPORT OF THE STATUS OF DEAF PEOPLE IN REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

The Development Cooperation of the Embassy of Finland published short information on the embassy's homepage <http://www.finlandkosovo.org> (in English and in Finnish) about the important event on 1 July 2010 of the "Release of a publication regarding the status of deaf people in Kosovo". Here is the link below about the report: <http://www.finlandkosovo.org/public/default.aspx?contentid=197139&nodeid=42593&contentlan=2&culture=en-US>

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 orders@wfdeaf.org.

DONORS

WFD wishes to thank to those WFD members who have made a contribution to support the WFD. Here are the names of the list of the contributors:

Donation to support WFD:

John Bosco Conama
Nancy Bloch
Helder Duarte
Jerry Nelson



WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

WFD MERCHANDISE

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, water bottles, watches, pens and caps, you can make an order through email, which is 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 – 30 €

DVD - DEAF PEOPLE AND HUMAN RIGHTS - 11 €

ORDINARY T-SHIRT (BLUE OR WHITE) WFD LOGO ON THE FRONT – 10 €

WFD PIN – 2 €

WFD CAP – 5 €

COMING EVENTS

6th ACSA Disability Expo and Conference

Date: 16 – 18 September 2010
Place: Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
Website: www.disabilityexpo.co.za

2nd Festival of Short Films

Date: 18 September 2010
Place: Badalona (Barcelona), Spain
Contact: Llar de Persones Sordes de Badalona
C/General Welyer, 180-182
Telephone/Fax: +34 93 383 12 29
E-mail: llarsordbad@msn.com
Website: www.llarsordbadalona.org

1st Hong Kong International Deaf Film Festival

Date: 17 – 19 September 2010
Place: Hong Kong SAR, People Republic of China
Contact: Ms Denise CHAN (info@hongkongdeaf.org.hk) or Mr. Adam NG (info@hongkongdeaf.org.hk)

10th Conference Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR10)

Date: 30 September – 2 October 2010
Place: Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA
Contact: Beering Hall of Liberal Arts and Education
Room 1289
100 N. University Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2098
USA
Website: <http://www.purdue.edu/TISLR10/>

First European Congress on Visual Impairment

Theme: III ASPREH Rehabilitation & Attention of People with Visual Impairment
Date: 22 – 24 October 2010
Place: Valladolid, Spain
Email: info.eurovision@evento.es
Website: www.eurovisionrehab.com

2nd International Film Festival of the Deaf

Date: 30 – 31 October 2010
Place: Milan, Italy
Contact: "SENZA PAROLE"
c/o Association of the Deaf
Email: ippocampusciak@yahoo.it
Website: http://www.teatrosenzaparole.it/festival2010/eng_home.html

International Workshop "Accessibility and the contribution of International Standards"

Date: 3 – 4 November 2010
Place: Geneva, Switzerland
Organiser: World Standards Cooperation (WSC)
Website: http://www.iso.org/sites/WSC_Accessibility_2010/index.html

WORLDDEAF Cinema Festival

Date: 4 – 7 November 2010
Place: Gallaudet University
800 Florida Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
USA
Website: <http://wdcf.gallaudet.edu>

5th International Deaf Academics and Researchers

Theme: Inclusion of Deaf at the University
Date: 21 – 24 November 2010
Place: Florianópolis – SC, Brazil
Organiser: Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina / UFSC
Email: deafacademics@projectaeventos.com.br
Website: www.deafacademics2010.com

New Zealand Sign Language Teachers Association – 11th National Conference

Theme: Challenges in Sign Language Teaching
Date: 27 – 28 November 2010
Place: Wellington, New Zealand
Email: conference@nzslta.org.nz
Call for Papers: deadline 31 May 2010

2nd International Deaf Expo: Conference on Empowering Technologies in Education of the Deaf/ Hard of Hearing

Date: 13 – 17 December 2010
Place: New Delhi, India
Contact: DEAF LEADERS,
DEAF EXPO 2010
C/o. S.K. Rai,
16/10, New Faiz Road,
Crossing, Karol Bagh,
New Delhi 110 005
INDIA
Website: www.deafexpo2010.com
E: Mail: info@deafexpo2010.com / deafleaders@airtelmail.in
Mobile: +91 98940 58898

Education Culture Congress

Theme: World Education - Arts, Sciences and Education Culture
Date: 12 – 15 January 2011
Place: New Delhi, India
Website: <http://www.we-asc.org/home>

17th Winter Deaflympics

Date: 18 February – 26 February 2011
Place: Vysoké Tatry, Slovakia
Contact: ul. Nová 4432/8
031 01 Liptovský Mikuláš
SLOVAKIA
Email: info@deaflympics2011.com
Website: www.deaflympics2011.com

WASLI Conference

Theme: Think Globally, Act Locally

Date: 14-16 July 2011

Place: Durban, South Africa

Registration to the conference: <http://www.wasli.org/ThinkGlobally-ActLocally.htm>

Website: <http://www.wasli.org/registration-for-conference-14-16-july-2011-p94.aspx>

16th World Congress of the WFD

Theme: Global Deaf Renaissance

Date: 18 – 24 July 2011

Place: Durban, South Africa

Telephone: +27 11 482 1610

Fax: +27 11 726 5873

Email: [secretariat\(at\)wfd2011.com](mailto:secretariat(at)wfd2011.com)

[personalassistant\(at\)wfd2011.com](mailto:personalassistant(at)wfd2011.com)

Website: <http://www.wfd2011.com>

8th Deaf History International Conference

Theme: Telling Deaf Lives: Biographies & Autobiographies

Date: 24 – 29 July 2012

Place: Toronto, Canada

More information will be announced later

22nd Summer Deaflympics

Date: 31 July – 13 August 2013

Place: Athens, Greece

Email: info@2013deaflympics.org

If you know about an upcoming conference of 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.



Legal Seat – Helsinki, Finland

WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

An International Non-Governmental Organisation in official liaison with ECOSOC, UNESCO, ILO and WHO

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FAX: +358 9 580 3572
www.wfdeaf.org

President
MARKKU JOKINEN
Email: wfd@kl-deaf.fi

APPLICATION FORM

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

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 or General Secretary of WFD, I give below reasons for my interest in membership.

If my application is approved, I agree to pay the membership fee fixed for Individual Members, which is currently 50, 00 € (EUROS) annually.

I understand that payment of the annual fee entitles me to receive the **WFD NEWS** magazine for one year, plus other information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Country: _____ Email address: _____

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

Reasons for interest in membership of the WFD:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail or fax this form to:

WFD General Secretariat
PO Box 65
FIN 00401 Helsinki
FINLAND
Fax: +358 9 580 3572
Email: memberships@wfdeaf.org