



WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

WFD NEWSLETTER

Markku Jokinen
WFD President
Email: wfd@kl-deaf.fi

Newsletter Editor
WFD General Secretariat
Email: info@wfdeaf.org

Website: www.wfdeaf.org

SEPTEMBER 2009

In this Issue

News from the WFD	Page 2
International and United Nations (UN) News	Page 9
News from the WFD Members and Partners	Page 16
Coming Events	Page 19
Donors	Page 21
Books and Publications	Page 21
WFD Merchandise	Page 22

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 central organisation of national associations of Deaf people. It has B-category 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 is also has participatory status with the Council of Europe (CoE). WFD currently has 130 Ordinary Members (national associations of the Deaf). WFD provides a platform for cooperation and information exchange among its members and partnerships. 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, to have better education for Deaf people, and improved access to information technology and services.

News from the WFD

International Week of the Deaf

International Week of the Deaf is celebrated from 21st to 27th September 2009. 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 introduce Deaf culture to the general public and for instance to make gloves that represent signing hands to selected decision-makers to bring more visibility to issues that need to be changed.

International Week of the Deaf is widely celebrated by the Deaf communities throughout the world. This year the week is held from 21st to 27th September culminating with International Day of the Deaf on the last Sunday of the week. The theme is Human Rights through Sign Languages, but this year's focus is placed on lively and colourful Deaf culture to draw the general public's attention to the achievements of Deaf people in a positive and exciting way. This week also increases solidarity among Deaf people and their supporters, and is used as a time to stimulate greater efforts to promote the rights of Deaf people throughout the world.

International Day of the Deaf has a long history. The WFD first launched International Day of the Deaf in 1958; the "day" was later extended to "week." The 1st World Congress of the WFD took place in September 1951, and the choice of September to celebrate the International Week and Day of the Deaf is a commemoration of this historical event.

WFD encourages all Deaf associations to carry out campaigns to draw the attention of politicians, authorities, media and public to the demands and requests Deaf communities have in their countries, but also in the world. Most associations do observe the week, although some prefer to celebrate the week at a different time during the year. WFD encourages Deaf associations to arrange activities and campaigns and introduces one campaign idea to its members, which can be easily produced by Deaf associations and their members, clubs and other cooperation partners to highlight their work.

Give signing hands to your politicians

Here is introduced one campaign idea what associations can do during the International Week of the Deaf. The most important is that the campaign your association decides to carry out, reflects your Deaf community and brings positive attention to the achievements you have accomplished and advocates for change that is needed.



A symbol of Sign language, Deaf March, Belgium 2007

Photo: FF5B

Goal:

- ▶ Positive campaign that brings visibility to Deaf people's concerns that need change from political authorities
- ▶ Give gloves that represent signing hands to all your members of the parliament or selected key authorities or officials

How:

- ▶ Select campaign themes (1 to 5) that you would like to introduce to decision-makers of your country to improve the situation of the Deaf community
- ▶ Select the target group, for example all your Member of Parliament or government representatives, president or any other key decision-makers
- ▶ Decorate gloves. Ask your members, clubs and schools to produce or decorate the required amount of gloves. Gloves can be old or new or made for example of paper or even knitted if you have skills, but don't make it too difficult or expensive and ensure that everyone can participate. The most important thing is that the Deaf person who designs the gloves decorates it to reflect her or his personality and to symbolise the Deaf community and the grassroots voice. Use your creativity in decorating the gloves. National Deaf Associations, clubs or schools can arrange workshops or evenings where the Deaf can decorate gloves together. If you do not get the required amount of gloves or if you get too many, consider if you can use those that you have for creating a work of art, which can be given to politicians or decision-makers.
- ▶ Produce campaign material that include information on campaign themes to be handed with the gloves to the decision-makers
- ▶ Arrange a meeting with at least one decision-maker to whom you can give the gloves and to introduce the themes that require change. If it is a bigger event, arrange cultural event to show colourful Deaf culture. If your association arranges a march, the march can culminate to the event where the gloves are given to the politicians.

Take action

- ▶ Fundraise for WFD. International Week of the Deaf is a great time to promote human rights and to increase solidarity among Deaf communities throughout the world. For this, WFD needs your support. If your association wants to collect funds for WFD during the International Week of the Deaf, please be in contact with WFD office. WFD is interested to discuss more of your association's possibilities to collect funds to support WFD's human rights work. Make sure that legislation is followed and that all required licences are obtained. Contact: wfd@kl-deaf.fi or laura.pajunen@kl-deaf.fi.
- ▶ Invite media representatives to the event. Distribute press releases before the event and be in contact with journalists to get media attention to the themes.
- ▶ Take pictures from the event and distribute information of your event through your websites and newsletters. Please also send your pictures to WFD, so that we can publish the best ones in our newsletter and websites.
- ▶ Arrange side-events such as galas, parties, sign language cafeteria, cultural exhibitions and events to gather together with the Deaf community and general public.



Deaf March in Belgium, 2007

Photo: FFSB

First court hearing takes place on September 22 in Rome in the lawsuit, ENS against WFD

Next step in the lawsuit that the Italian Association of the Deaf, Ente nazionale per la protezione e l'assistenza dei sordi (ENS), has filed against WFD will take place in Rome, Italy, on Tuesday, 22 September, 2009. This means that since no settlement has been reached so far, both parties will appear before the Court of Rome for the first court hearing.

This first court hearing was initially scheduled for July 2009 but then postponed until September, by Rome court's decision.

The 93rd WFD Board meeting in Uganda coincides with the court hearing in a way which doesn't allow WFD President, to represent WFD in Rome. It was agreed by the WFD Board to send as its official representative Mr. Colin Allen, WFD Board member, accompanied by Ms. Meri Hyske-Fischer, WFD Liaison Officer, to Rome.

WFD Board regrets that no settlement between ENS and WFD has been reached by this date, which would have permitted WFD to concentrate its staff and financial resources to the defence of human and linguistic rights of Deaf people, instead of defending itself against one of its 130 Ordinary Members.

WFD Board does not approve demands presented by the ENS to invalidate the XVII General Assembly and continues to stand behind the resolutions adopted by its Ordinary Members in Madrid, Spain, through a democratic process that respected and followed the statutes of the World Federation of the Deaf.

If your Association wishes to support World Federation of the Deaf's court expenses, please send your donation to:

World Federation of the Deaf
Nordea Bank
Helsinki, Finland
Account No: 155530-111337
Swift Address: NDEAFIHH
International Bank Account Number (IBAN): FI04 1555 3000 113 37

For any further information, please contact: wfd@kl-deaf.fi

WFD Board Meeting

The 93rd WFD Board meeting will be held in Kampala, Uganda from 22 – 24 September 2009. In conjunction with the meeting, the WFD Board will meet the members of Ugandan parliament and also to commemorate the International Week of the Deaf.

WFD calls for the unification in process of Sign Language in the Arab region to cease immediately

The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) is concerned about steps being taken to unify Sign Languages in the Arab region. There are 22 countries and many more indigenous sign languages in the region.

WFD would like to state that such a step is a violation of the linguistic human rights of Deaf people in the region and an unwanted interference with linguistic diversity. Language planning decisions regarding Sign Languages should always remain with the linguistic community, in this case Deaf people, in a similar way as non-native speakers of Arabic language should not interfere with the planning or development of Arabic. Sign Language planning activities should therefore under all circumstances be contrived and realized in cooperation with National Associations of the Deaf.

According to WFD Statement on the Unification of Sign Languages: WFD Board wants to state firmly that any forcible purification or unification of Sign Languages, conducted by governments, professionals working with Deaf people, and organizations for or of the Deaf, is a violation of the UN and UNESCO treaties, declarations and other policies, including the recent UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Deaf people in every country have the sole right to make changes, if necessary, in their own local, provincial and national Sign Languages in response to cultural changes. The control of the development of any Sign Language must be left to any social group where the particular Sign Language is used.

Every sign language in the world, like any spoken language has its own heritage, history, culture and traditions and such a process of forcible purification or unification would be to disregard all of these aspects of a Deaf community. This would be a violation of the linguistic human rights and cultural rights of a sign language community.

The WFD calls for the unification project to cease. In its place, WFD suggests a greater consultation with Deaf people in the region, and strongly recommends cooperation with WFD Ordinary Members. WFD encourages all parties to achieve mutual understanding for better recognition of national sign languages in the Arab region.

World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI)

WASLI strongly support the views of the WFD in its concern about the proposed steps being taken to unify sign languages in the Arab region.

WASLI is aware that many sign language interpreters are not native users of indigenous sign languages. They are aware of the difficulties faced by interpreters of signed languages in conveying new concepts and terms, in interpreting in higher education or televised news broadcasts for example, and of the wish to find a "solution" by creating a new sign.

WASLI fully endorses the WFD/WASLI joint statement which recognises the primacy of organisations of Deaf People to chart the political, cultural, and educational development of sign language in their country, including the dissemination of sign language dictionaries and teaching materials.

WFD Regional Secretariat for Asia/Pacific (WFDRSA/P)

As part of the ODA of the Japanese Government, JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) has been conducting a "Leadership Training Program for the Deaf" for 14 years JICA consigns the actual training to the Japanese Federation of the Deaf (JFD).

Every year, about eight (8) Deaf trainees come to Japan for about two (2) months to receive training on the organizational development of the Deaf community. Those who have received this training in the past have contributed greatly to the development of the Deaf organization and advance of the Deaf movement in their countries.

During the first 10 years of the program, the trainees were chosen from the Asia/Pacific region. But four (4) years ago, the program has been revised to accept trainees from Latin American countries and also Africa. Each year, JICA chooses the countries from which to accept trainees. This year the countries have been chosen are China, Sri Lanka, Colombia and Uganda.

WFD Regional Secretariat for Mexico, Central American and Caribbean (WFD MCAC)

On 9TH of July 2009, a meeting was held with representatives from Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama, Cuba, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Mexico of WFD MCAC at the National University in Bogotá, Colombia

WFD President Markku Jokinen also attended this meeting and there was an election for the committee of the representatives for this regional secretariat. Mr. Gerardo Carrillo from Costa Rica was re-elected as Regional Director and committee members from Cuba, Mexico and Dominican Republic were elected.

WFD Board Member at Deaf Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Conference 21st Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf Conference, Chicago, IL, USA, 30 June – 4 July, 2009

WFD's philosophy is one of equality, human rights and respect for all people, regardless of race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual preference, age and all other differences. WFD supports and promotes in its work of the many United Nations conventions on human rights, with a focus on Deaf people who use sign language, and their friends and families. WFD works with the aim of solidarity and unity, equality and respect of diversity to make the world a better place.

The Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf (RAD) is an organisation for Deaf Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender which was formed in 1977 to encourage and promote the educational, economical, social welfare, and fellowship, rights and advocate in the interest of the Deaf Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community.

It was the first time that WFD sent a representative to this conference. WFD Board member Mr. Colin Allen as WFD representative attended RAD's 21st Conference in Chicago, Illinois, USA where he was invited as one of the keynote presenters at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the RAD Conference. Mr. Allen joined with 365 participants from approximately 12 countries to celebrate the conference theme 'Our Vision, Our Kind of Life'.

The RAD Conference offered 14 workshops including two workshops presented by Mr. Allen, one on a recent report on 'Deaf People and Human Rights' and the other on 'Deaf People's perspective on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).' Both workshops were well attended with interested participants who are now seriously considering getting involved with WFD, particularly attending the upcoming WFD Congress in South Africa. Also many conference participants strongly supported the idea of starting a new official international conference for Deaf Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender to be scheduled before or after the WFD Congress in South Africa. This conference also organised 10 different Special Interest Groups which included Deaf Youth, Deaf Lesbian, Deaf Leather, Deaf Senior Citizens, Deaf Transgender, Deaf Gay Parents to mention a few.

Mr. Allen joined by co- keynote presenter, Ms Jennifer Ann Cook 'Jac' from San Francisco, USA, both gave a powerful message for every member of the Deaf Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community to reclaim their human rights at any place within the Deaf Community around the world.

Both Ms Cook and Mr. Allen concluded with a conference affirmation for all Deaf Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender to C-A-R-E for each other within their communities which stands for:-

Community - Deaf

Affection

Respect

Equality

WFD wishes to congratulate Windy City Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf for hosting an excellent conference for the Deaf Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community globally.



WFD Board Member, Colin Allen at RAD Conference, Chicago, USA

Photos: Colin Allen

Sixth National Congress of the Deaf Community in Colombia, Sixth Meeting of Deaf Latin Americans & First Meeting of Latin American Sign Language Interpreters, July 2009

The National Federation of the Deaf of Colombia (FENASCOL) hosted the Sixth National Congress of the Deaf Community in Colombia and arranged the 6th meeting for Deaf delegates from Latin America. Both events were valuable where participants were able to share new knowledge and experiences about improving human rights and the quality of life of Deaf people in Latin America. FENASCOL also organised the first ever meeting for Sign Language Interpreters from Latin America to develop collaboration between the Deaf Associations and the Interpreters Associations in Latin America. This meeting is another example of positive steps being taken by countries in line with the Joint Statement signed by both the World Federation of the Deaf and the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters in Madrid, Spain in 2007. The Joint Statement is available on www.wasli.org/WFD_Statement.htm

WFD President Markku Jokinen and WFD Board member, Mr. Colin Allen were invited by FENASCOL to participate in the Congress and meetings of Deaf people and Sign Language Interpreters in Latin America. WFD President Jokinen gave a presentation on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from the point of view of Deaf peoples' human rights. The presentation made people acutely aware of their own human rights. Mr. Allen gave a keynote presentation on 'Deaf People and Human Rights' where he stated that the basic factors for Human Rights of Deaf people are Sign Language Rights, Deaf Education, access to Sign Language Interpreters and Accessibility. During these events and in numerous discussions and meetings WFD's work was acknowledged by more than 430 participants from 19 countries of Latin America.

Mr. Juan Carlos Druetta, Vice President of the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters, and Mr. Marco Nardi, European Representative (WASLI) held a lecture on the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters and its activities. Mr. Druetta also gave a presentation on his experience as Deaf Sign Language Interpreter. Both presentations were well received by the audience.

At the Opening Ceremony of the conference, a representative for the Colombian President presented a merit award: "Merito de Gracias a la Democracia de Nombre de Caballero para FENASCOL" to FENASCOL for its remarkable work and input in the improvement of human rights of Deaf Colombians.

The Conference had its daily theme for each of the four days of the conference. The themes were Human Rights for Deaf People, Inclusive Development, Sign Language Interpreters in Latin America and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Each afternoon there were three breakaway sessions for Deaf delegates from Latin America, Deaf Colombian delegates and Sign Language Interpreters. The groups debated the morning's issues in depth and shared their viewpoints.

WFD Regional Secretariat Directors, Mr. Alexeis Vergara Estibill and Mr. Gerardo E. Carrillo Naranjo were actively involved in these events. Each regional secretariat held meetings with the delegates from WFD's

Ordinary Members from Latin America. Both Mr. Jokinen and Mr. Allen also had several meetings with delegates of WFD Ordinary Members.

One of the highlights of the week was a meeting of Deaf women from Latin America. It was led by Ms Martha Osorno Posada, Colombia and Ms Miriam Meneses, Cuba. They both encouraged Deaf women to establish a Working Group for Deaf Women in Latin America, which was strongly supported by all of Deaf female participants in Latin America, the WFD Regional Secretariat Directors and WFD representatives. The participants agreed to arrange a meeting for Deaf Women in Peru in November 2010.



6th National Congress of FENASCOL), Colombia

Photos: Colin Allen

Deaf Human Rights and Capacity Building Training Project in Western and Central Africa

The project has completed the staff appointment for two regional teams based on the written languages (French and English). The French regional team members are Ms. Ablavi Dziku of Togo, who will work as a Regional Co-ordinator and Ms. Megan Youngs from Canada as a Regional Trainer. For the English team Ms. Lucy Upah from Nigeria was appointed as a Regional Co-ordinator and Ms. Caroline Conlon of Australia as a Regional Trainer. In early September, they will receive an intensive training programme on the capacity building for the Sign Language work, Deaf Education, Sign Language Interpreting Services, Building Capacity of Deaf Organisation, Deaf Awareness/Deafhood and on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This training for trainers will enable the teams to finalise the training materials which will be available in American Sign Language and written languages (French/English).

The three-year project will focus on capacity building of Western and Central African associations of the Deaf aiming at strengthening their organisational basis and to give them tools for more efficient lobbying and advocacy work in human rights of Deaf people. The project aims at increasing Deaf awareness and knowledge in human rights, especially on the most important issues for Deaf people in the recently adopted CRPD and other human rights treaties. These include Deaf education, sign language work, access to information and services including sign language interpreting services.

The project consists of training of National Deaf Associations in Western and Central African region which this project has selected 19 countries as a target group. The project arranges two training sessions in each national association in the two topics: capacity building and human rights. In addition, the project arranges a regional seminar, which gathers representatives of each association, to promote regional dialogue as well as to support regional networking and the establishment of permanent Regional Secretariat. Currently, only an interim WFD Regional Secretariat has been established in Western and Central Africa.

Target Country Members are

The project will have two separate regional training teams based on the written language, as following:

English Regional Team	French Regional Team
1. Gambia	1. Benin

2. Ghana		2. Burkina Faso
3. Liberia		3. Cameroon
4. Nigeria		4. Central African Republic
5. Sierra Leone		5. Chad
		6. Congo, Dem. Rep.
		7. Congo, Rep.
		8. Côte d'Ivoire
		9. Gabon
		10. Guinea
		11. Mali
		12. Niger
		13. Senegal
		14. Togo

If you have any further questions of the project, please contact Mr Colin Allen, Project Co-ordinator, email address is deafhumanrights@yahoo.com.au

WFD Conference 2013 (for Ordinary Members only):

If your organisation is interested to host a small WFD conference in 2013, you are welcome to send the bid to WFD General Secretariat and this will be discussed at the WFD Board meeting after the World Congress 2011.

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

International and UN News

IDA and IDA CRPD Forum Steering Committee meeting convened in New York prior to Conference of States Parties

WFD President Markku Jokinen travelled to New York to represent WFD in the meeting of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and its CRPD Forum Steering Committee. This two-day meeting was on purpose called right before the Conference of States Parties in order to have the most up-to date information available and to allow some time to prepare common statements and presentations.

Furthermore, strategies were fine tuned before the Second CRPD Committee which will take place on October 19-23. This time the Committee is likely to approve official documents such as the rules of procedure, working methods and reporting guidelines for the Committee. In addition, extensive discussion about the CRPD article 12 (Equal recognition before the law) will be carried out. Although not specifically defined “as one of the most important” articles for Deaf persons (because it doesn’t contain any mention of sign language or deafness) article 12 is also important for Deaf people. This article reminds that persons with disabilities (Deaf included) have the right to start a business, own property and have a job as well as they are themselves responsible for any decision concerning their health care. They enjoy equal rights to get married and have a family as well as vote and stand for election. More information about the CRPD Committee meeting will be available in the next WFD Newsletter.

Moreover, IDA members discussed what has been done so far and what will be done in the near future with regard external advocacy work (comprising of e.g. UN General Assembly, WHO, UNESCO, UNDP and OHCHR). This fall turns out to be a very busy one also because IDA is currently drafting a document for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on article 33 (national implementation and monitoring of the CRPD). WFD is involved in this process as well.

Mr. Markku Jokinen continues to participate in one internal working group of IDA CRPD Forum, the one concentrating on Inclusive education. This working group has been asked to produce a detailed interpretation

of article 24 of CRPD. As soon as this document will be accepted by the IDA CRPD Forum Steering Committee it will be distributed to WFD Members for their own advocacy work.

IDA has opened a new web site at <http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/>. Check it out for useful information about the Human Rights machinery

Second Conference of States Parties (COP) gathered in New York on September 2-4

September 2, 2009 marked the opening day of the Second Conference of States Parties of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). For two and a half days states parties of the CRPD, a number of signatories, as well as representatives from the civil society discussed issues such as the relationship between poverty and the impact of economic crisis on persons with disabilities, legal capacity and access to justice as well as accessibility and reasonable accommodation. One of the sessions was devoted to the legislative measures for the implementation of the CRPD where IDA CRPD Forum was represented by its Chair, Jan Peter Strömngren. In the common IDA presentation Mr. Strömngren transmitted IDA CRPD Forum's wishes to the Conference and stated that there still are important legislative changes which need to be carried out by states to fully comply with the CRPD. Furthermore IDA CRPD Forum encouraged states to ratify without any reservations and asked those which have done so to withdraw them in the near future.

As a matter of fact it seems that at present very few states have actually started legislative revision in order to comply with the treaty. In addition, IDA CRPD Forum noted that many changes that are occurring at the moment are inconsistent with the CRPD. This highlights the fact that non-governmental organisations on national level need to be fully aware of the processes and national strategies to make sure that their opinions are included as well.

One of the various proposals presented by IDA contained the need to find sufficient funds from the United Nations to support the participation of representatives of global south to the Conference of States Parties and CRPD Committee. It was also highlighted that CRPD should be considered as the superseding UN disability-specific instrument instead of older instruments such as the World Programme of Action.

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 (2e)

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:

142 signatories to the Convention

85 signatories to Optional Protocol

65 ratifications of the Convention

42 ratifications of the Optional Protocol

LATEST:

Belgium ratified the Convention on 8.7.2009.

Dominican Republic ratified the Convention on 18.8.2009.

Dominican Republic acceded to the Optional Protocol on 18.8.2009

Serbia acceded to the Optional Protocol on 31.7.2009

USA ratified the Convention on 30.7.2009.

Do check on the website for more information about this Convention: www.un.org/disabilities

OHCHR: Human Rights Handbook for Civil Society is now also available in Arabic and Russian

In February 2009, The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) launched [Working with the United Nations Human Rights Programme - A Handbook for Civil Society](#). This handbook provides civil society actors working on human rights with guidelines on how to engage with the various United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms. It is now also available in [Arabic](#) and [Russian](#). French, Spanish and Chinese versions of the Handbook are expected in the coming months.

Disability Rights Fund request for proposals for our second round of grant making in 2009.

The Disability Rights Fund (DRF)—a groundbreaking grant making collaborative supporting the human rights of people with disabilities—today announced the second round of its 2009 grant making, “Raising Our Voice.” This round opens another year of possible funding to disabled persons’ organizations (DPOs) in: Ecuador, Nicaragua, Peru, Ghana, Namibia, Uganda, and Bangladesh and adds an additional region to the Fund’s reach – the Pacific. In the Pacific, 14 island countries are targeted: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

The broad objective of the Fund¹—which was officially launched in March 2008—is to empower DPOs in the developing world and Eastern Europe/former Soviet Union to participate in ratification, implementation and monitoring of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

In 2008, the Fund made one-year grant to 33 organizations in 7 countries (Ecuador, Nicaragua, Peru; Ghana, Namibia, Uganda and Bangladesh), totaling USD 800,000. Grants ranged from USD 5000 - 50,000 and supported CRPD awareness-raising, strengthening coalitions and networks, and rights advocacy.

In the second round of 2009 grant making, applicant organizations may apply within one of two categories: a) single organizations or partnerships and b) national DPO coalitions. Grants to single organizations will range from USD 5,000 to 30,000 and support efforts to build voice and visibility and to develop rights-based advocacy and monitoring on the CRPD. Grants to national DPO coalitions will range from USD 30,000 to 70,000 and will support advocacy toward ratification of the CRPD, passage of specific legislation to accord with the CRPD, or the production of shadow reports.

Interested organizations are urged to review the full eligibility criteria and application details posted at the Fund’s website, <http://www.disabilityrightsfund.org/grant.html>. Any questions on the proposal process should be directed to info@disabilityrightsfund.org by August 15. The deadline for applications is September 15, 2009.

DRF’s donors include the Aepoch Fund, the American Jewish World Service, an anonymous founding donor, the Australian government’s foreign aid department AusAid, the Open Society Institute, The Sigrid Rausing Trust, and the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development.

Australian AUSAID is offering Human Rights Grants between AUD \$20,000 - \$100,000.

The 2009 -10 Human Rights Small Grants Scheme (HRS GS) is now open for applications.

In 2009 -10 the HRS GS has expanded its geographical focus to include all of Africa and Latin America, in addition to the Asia-Pacific, Caribbean and Middle East. For further details on eligible countries under the Scheme, refer to the List of Eligible Countries below.

Important Dates

Applications for the HRS GS must be submitted by 2 October 2009. Refer to the Applicant Guidelines below on how to submit an application. Successful applicants will be announced on Human Rights Day, 10 December 2009.

To read more about applying for fund, do go to this website:

<http://cambodijobs.blogspot.com/2009/09/ausaid-human-rights-small-grants.html>

South African disability rights leader named United Nations Special Rapporteur of Commission for Social Development

Shuaib Chalklen of South Africa has been appointed the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development for the period 2009-2011.

The newly appointed Special Rapporteur is a prominent leader who has made extensive contributions to the advancement of persons with disabilities within both regional and global frameworks.

Mr. Chalklen earned a bachelor's degree in social science from the University of Cape Town in 1991. He also studied at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology and at the Senior Executive Programme at Harvard University.

His appointment brings considerable national and regional experience to the advancement of the rights of persons with disabilities in the global arena. He has assumed numerous positions in the fields of disability, governance and administration at the national, regional and global levels, including: Senior Policy Analyst in the Presidency of South Africa (2006-2007); Chief Executive Officer of the Secretariat for the African Decade of Disabled Persons (2003-2006); and Director of the Office on the Status of Disabled Persons in the Presidency of South Africa (1996-2001). He has worked closely with the United Nations, the World Bank and other entities of the United Nations system, as well as with bi-lateral donor countries in Europe and other regions.

The mandate of the Special Rapporteur is to monitor the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the General Assembly in 1993, and to advance the status of persons with disabilities throughout the world.

Bengt Lindqvist (Sweden) was the first Special Rapporteur, holding the position from 1994-2002. The second Special Rapporteur, Sheikha Hessa Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani (Qatar), was appointed in 2003 and served until June 2009.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2009/bio4105.doc.htm>

News from the WFD Members and partners

Australia

Dr Brendan Nelson, Member of Australian Parliament had excluded the voice of deaf people from discussions about the needs of deaf babies and children.

Dr Nelson was hosting a parliamentary symposium on infant and early childhood deafness at Parliament House, Canberra 20th of August 2009. According to a list sent out on 4th August, 24 people have been invited to the symposium. Of these 24 people, 12 are providers of audiology, cochlear implant and speech training programs which exclude the use of Auslan (Australian Sign Language); four are medical doctors, three of these specifically cochlear implant surgeons; and two are Cochlear Limited (the manufacturer of the cochlear implant) representatives. The remaining six are a provider of general support services for deaf children; a parent representative; an education expert; a representative of the general deafness field, including service providers; a deaf person who has recently published a book about his life experiences; and Health Minister Nicola Roxon's advisor.

A total of 22 hearing people (including only one representative of parents of deaf children), and two deaf people came together to decide what is best for deaf children. However, of the two deaf people, one was representing service providers as well as deaf people so is hardly likely to be in a position to put the interests of deaf children before the interests of service providers. This leaves only one deaf person who is, however, able to represent only his own personal views.

Concerned about the serious lack of representation for parents and deaf people, and the obvious bias towards cochlear implants as "the solution" to infant and childhood deafness, Deaf Australia wrote to Dr Nelson requesting a place at the symposium. Dr Nelson refused this request.

Recently the Australian Government released a report, Shut Out! which details the lived experience of people with disabilities and the shocking extent to which they are excluded from Australian society.

“Dr Nelson is clearly intent on continuing this appalling record of exclusion by deliberately refusing to allow at the symposium an advocate for the very people – deaf people themselves – who have most to offer the discussion and the most important stake in the decisions made,” said Deaf Australia President Kyle Miers.

“Until policy makers look outside the medical and allied professions and make an effort to understand and accept what bona fide representatives of deaf Australians and their families have to say, deaf children will continue to have access only to very limited services that do not address the needs of the whole person or ensure they receive the best possible language acquisition and education programs to fulfill their potential. This is the tragedy of the current situation in Australia and we see this symposium as unlikely to do anything to improve it,” Mr Miers said.

Recently Deaf Australia sent to the Australian Government a policy advice paper outlining the current situation for early intervention programs for deaf and hard of hearing children, and calling for the development of a national plan for the widespread provision of world’s best practice bilingual early intervention programs for deaf children, including those who have a cochlear implant.

Bilingual early intervention programs, provided that they also support the family to acquire Auslan, are the only programs that allow the child to acquire a native language (Auslan) naturally and to also acquire a spoken language. Every child should be enabled to develop to the extent possible their ability to speak. No child should be denied access to Auslan.

“Regardless of what happens at this symposium, Deaf Australia will continue to work with the Australian Government towards reforming our early intervention programs for deaf and hard of hearing children,” said Deaf Australia Executive Officer Karen Lloyd AM.

OM Belgium

Milestone for equal educational opportunities for deaf students: Flemish government sentenced for discrimination.

The court in Ghent has sentenced the Flemish government for refusal of reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities – a legal form of discrimination. With this sentence, the demands from three deaf students and their parents are granted. The Flemish Deaf Association is very pleased with this outcome.

In March 2009, four parents submitted a formal complaint against the Flemish Minister of Education and several Flemish schools to claim the right to accessible inclusive education for their deaf children. The parents were witnessing their children, due to a huge shortage of interpreting service hours in the classroom, are denied communication and access to education during more than half of their teaching time. The children concerned can only use the service of a Flemish Sign Language Interpreter for an average of 7 out of 30 teaching hours. Also, the procedure for applying for these interpreting services was not meeting the minimal demands of transparency and objectivity.

The court of Ghent has indeed found the Flemish government guilty of discrimination, because the current amount of interpreting hours of the deaf students is a refusal of reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities.

Belgian Deaf Federation (Fevlado) is very pleased with this fundamental sentence of the Ghent court and calls this an important milestone for equal educational opportunities for deaf students. After more than 10 years (when for the first time, a Flemish deaf student could use an interpreter in education) the right of all deaf children and young people for equal educational opportunities is now finally recognized. This is all the more important since Flemish deaf schools can’t grant diplomas. So if deaf students want to have access to higher education and to the labour market, they have no other choice than to go to mainstream hearing schools. This is only possible for them if these hearing schools are fully accessible by means of Flemish Sign Language interpreters.

Fevlado hopes that the new Flemish Minister of Education and Equal Opportunities will provide the necessary reasonable accommodations now and for the future –not only for the three students concerned, but for all deaf children, young people and adults in secondary and higher adult education levels.

For more information, you can contact Fevlado: belangenverdediging@fevlado.be

OM Estonia

Starting from this Autumn Estonian Television Channel ETV2 will be broadcasting News program in Sign Language

The news program in sign language will be edited and presented by Aivo Erm and Kristel Laansoo and the program will start at the end of August 2009.

This summer, the journalism course of Estonian Broadcasting were attended by six hearing-impaired persons. The course included topics about the basic knowledge of journalism and social science, the ethics of journalism, compilation of journalistic texts, broadcasting and appearance in television. During the course, the students also visited Finnish broadcasting company YLE in Helsinki for getting acquainted with the ways of sign language news program that is made there. All of the students became eager journalists with whom, the news service is willing to keep further contacts for making contribution in the future. The skills learned at the courses were useful for working in different media-linked organisations or for making the information on webpages more available for hearing-impaired people.

For 11 years, the news program „Aktuaalne kaamera” has been interpreted by sign language interpreters, but from now on hearing-impaired people themselves will be choosing and presenting the news. Besides the general news, the broadcast will also contain the news, essential for the community of deaf and hard of hearing. Starting from the 31st of August, the news in sign language will be shown on Estonian TV channel ETV2 daily at 19.20. (7.20pm).

The mentioned course were carried out in cooperation with the Estonian Deaf Union. The project was funded by EU European Social Fund measurement 1.3.1. „The Increase of Skilled Labour”, which aim is to promote employment, raise qualification and increase the coherency of society.

OM France

The Association of M.A.I.N.S in cooperation with the French Federation of the Deaf is going to celebrate the International Day of the Deaf in Paris, France on 26 September 2009. For more information about this event, do click on their new website: www.mains-france.com

OM Hungary

A new initiative has been set up by the Hungarian Ombudsman Office namely Parliamentary Commissioner for Civil Rights – Hungarian National Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is very involved with this project too – which is called *The special project about the rights of people with disabilities*. If you would like to have more information about this special project, please do contact to Hungarian National Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SINOSZ) by email: foldes.dalma@sinosz.hu

OM Macedonia

On 18 August 2009 the Parliament of Republic of Macedonia has adopted the **Law for recognition of Sign Language** in Macedonia. The Macedonian Sign language according, to this law is recognized as a fully natural way of communication to equality as spoken language. This legal recognition of Macedonian Sign Language and equal status with other languages is a historical moment for all Deaf and Hard of Hearing community in Macedonia. This act has proved Macedonia using the Article 2 from UN Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Congratulations to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community of Macedonia for their efforts

OM Uganda

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) translated into Uganda Sign Language

Uganda National Association of the Deaf (UNAD) has translated the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) into Uganda Sign Language (USL) for easy understanding by Deaf people.

OM USA

On July 30th, the United States signed the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD) which will help to ensure equal rights for people with disabilities throughout the world. President Obama is expected to submit the CRPD to the United States Senate for its approval in the near future. When the Senate approves the CRPD, it may provide additional support to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) was invited to a reception at the United States Mission to the UN in New York City, to celebrate the United States' participation in the CRPD. Historically, the United States does not sign UN treaties because the United States often has laws that provide the same or more than the treaties require. In this situation, the Bush administration said the CRPD would interfere with what the ADA already provides in this country. On the other hand, the Obama Administration, by lending its support to the CRPD, apparently does not have the same concerns about the impact that international treaties could have on United States laws.

At the reception, Ms. Jarrett said that, by signing the CRPD, the United States was showing its commitment for the fundamental rights for all persons with disabilities around the world to equal treatment. Ms. Jarrett also announced the creation of a position within the United States State Department which would focus on the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities around the world and to implement the CRPD.

The NAD is hoping that the Obama Administration recognizes that there is a lot to be done under the ADA in this country, especially for the deaf and hard of hearing community. Employers continue to discriminate against deaf and hard of hearing people by refusing to hire them and support their advancement. Doctors, lawyers, and others continue to refuse to provide communication access. The United States Department of Justice is overwhelmed with all of the complaints that have been filed and are often unable to respond in a timely fashion. The use of the United States court system is also unrealistic for many of them. In short, implementation and enforcement of the ADA continues to be a massive undertaking, even 19 years after it was passed.

Maldives Deaf Association

When Ahmed Ali was just 12 years old, he moved from Raa atoll Agolhitheemu to the capital Male' where he met another deaf person for the first time. Before, he says, he felt alone and frustrated, unable to communicate with those around him.

Ahmed, 32, left school at a young age and at home, used only very basic sign language to express himself. Now, he works as a labourer at the airport and in his spare time is a financial director at the Maldives Deaf Association (MDA).

The MDA was set up last year with the help of Amaresh Gopalakrishnan, an avuncular teacher at Jamaludheen School, who since arriving from India to the Maldives two years ago, has worked toward establishing a standardised form of sign language.

He towers above the other students as we make our way to the trio of classrooms set aside in the school for deaf pupils. Once settled in the computer room with four other members of the MDA, all deaf, he talks about the forthcoming publication of the Maldives' deaf dictionary.

In Male, they have a mixture of sign language as there's a difference between the older and younger generation and this is completely different from the islands where they have just developed a language through their own signs.

Amaresh, whose parents are both deaf, says that he was hesitant about staying in the Maldives at first. But, the necessity to establish better quality education was greater.

He soon discovered that teachers were using a unique form of communication; a blend of their own gesticulations as well as signs learnt from the children and from two dictionaries, one American and one British.

But the teachers were still under the misconception that they had to use speech to communicate and so would continue to write on a board.

The dictionary, funded by Handicap International, will for the first time provide a resource to deaf people, parents and teachers to allow them to communicate in one standard language. The signs from both the atolls and Male' have been incorporated into the lexicon.

To teach the public about deafness is one of the association's primary objectives and on 22 June 2009 the group hosted a Deaf Fest at Jamaludheen School, to raise both funds and deaf awareness.

USA

In USA, there is a very good website with lots of information on medical, such as swine flu epidemic, etc, which you can check on the website: www.deafmd.org.

Coming events

Workshop on Deaf Education and Sign Linguistics

Date: 21 – 23 September 2009

Place: Bakuriani, Georgia

Contact: ILLC, University of Amsterdam

Plantage Muidersgracht 24

1018 TV Amsterdam

The Netherlands

Phone: +31 20 5256051

Fax: +31 20 5255206

Website:

http://ingezwitserlood.ruhosting.nl/conferences/DeafEducation_SignLinguistics/Workshop_on_deaf_education_and%20sign_linguistics.html

Registration through website: <http://www.illc.uva.nl/Tbilisi2009/Registration>

International Week of the Deaf celebrations by Austrian Association of the Deaf

26 September 2009 in Vienna

More information: <http://oegl.at/behindthesign/>

5th International Deaf Clownery Festival (CANCELLED)

23 – 27 September 2009

Kiev, Ukraine

European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters Conference

18 – 20 September 2009

Tallinn, Estonia,

(see more information in website:

www.evkyt.ee/eng_efsl2009/index.html)

International Conference

Theme :“Human rights. Yes!”

Date: 25 September 2009

Time: 9:30 to 17:30

Place: European Youth Center,

1028 Budapest, Zivatar utca 1-3.

Hall “A”

Contact: Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SINOSZ)
Address: 1068. Budapest. Benczúr utca 21.
Telephone: + 36 1 351 0434
Fax: + 36 1 342 1989
Email: foldes.dalma@sinosz.hu
Website: <http://www.sinosz.hu>

1st Symposium in Applied Sign Linguistics

Theme: Sign Language Learning and Teaching
Date: 26 September 2009
Place: University of Bristol
Website: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/deaf/english/about/symposium2009/>

World Federation of the DeafBlind conference

22 – 27 October 2009
Place: Kampala, Uganda
Website: www.wfdb.org

Global Conference on Inclusive Education Salamanca

Theme: “Confronting the Gap: Rhetoric, Rights and Reality? Return To Salamanca”
Date: 21 – 23 October 2009
Place: Salamanca, Spain
Organized by Inclusion International, Inclusion Europe & INICO □ Universidad de Salamanca.
Website: <http://www.inclusioninternational.org/en/extras/4.html> OR <http://inico.usal.es/en/inclusion09/index.asp>

4th World Congress on Mental Health and Deafness

Theme: A life to be lived
28 – 30 October 2009
Brisbane, Australia
E-mail: info@mhd2009.org
Registration: <http://mhd2009.org/product>
Submit an abstract/paper: http://mhd2009.org/call_for_papers
Website: www.mhd2009.org

International WORLDEAF Cinema Festival

Hosted by Gallaudet University
Date: 4-7 November 2009
Place: Washington, DC, USA
Website: <http://wdcf.gallaudet.edu>

International Festive Pantomime of the Deaf

Date: 10 – 15 November 2009
Place: “Theatre of Bolek Polívka”, Jakubská 5, Brno, Czech Republic
Organiser: The Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the Czech Republic and European Center Pantomime of the Deaf (ECPN) under financial support of Ministry culture in Czech Republic and corporate town Brno.
E-mail: snnrc@snnrc.cz or ecpn@ecpn.cz

The Rehabilitation International – (RI) Regional Conference- Arab Region

Theme: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities “Ratification and Strategies for Implementation “
Date: 10-12 November 2009
Place: Nadwat Al-Thaqafah W a-al-‘Ulum, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Contact: INDEX Conferences and Exhibitions Organisation Est.
INDEX Holding FZ LLC.
Address: P.O. Box: 13636
Dubai
United Arab Emirates
Telephone: +971 4 3624717 – Ext:120
Fax: +971 4 3624718
Email: hana.holy@index.ae
Website: <http://www.ridubai.com/nv/eng/index.php>

International Conference on Sign Languages in Belgium

Date: 16 – 20 November 2009
Place: University of Namur, Belgium
An International Colloquium dedicated to the Sign Languages (CILS) will be held from November 16-20, 2009 at the University of Namur in Belgium.
Website at <http://www.cils-namur.be>

Deaffest 2009 – Gala Awards

Date: 28 November 2009
Place: Wolverhampton, United Kingdom
Contact: Zebra Uno Ltd & Zebra Access
Creative Industries Centre
Wolverhampton Science Park
Glaisher Drive
Wolverhampton, WV10 9TG
UNITED KINGDOM
Fax: +44 1 902 837 401
Telephone: +44 1 902 421 919 / 331 871
Email: [info\(at\)zebra-uno.com](mailto:info(at)zebra-uno.com)
Website: www.deaffest.co.uk

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Theme: Realizing the MDGs for All: Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Their Communities around the World
Date: 3 December 2009
Contact: Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Social Policy and Development
United Nations Headquarters
Two United Nations Plaza, 13th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10017
USA
Fax: +1 (212) 963-3062
Email: [enable\(at\)un.org](mailto:enable(at)un.org)

International Deaf Conference for Spiritual Life and Vision

Date: 5 – 6 December 2009
Place: Mumbai, India
Contact: Universal Sanatana Dharma for the Deaf,
#303, Shalaka, Telli Galli Cross,
Andheri (East)
Mumbai - 400 069
INDIA
Mobile (SMS): +91 932 3121 949
Fax: +91 22 220 765 27
Email: info@usdd.org

Website: <http://www.usdd.org/index.htm>

SIGN4

17-19 December 2009

(+ pre-conference workshop 16 December)

Place: Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, India

Organisers: Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, International Centre for Sign Languages and Deaf Studies, Preston, UK, Ishara Foundation, Mumbai, Deaf Empowerment Foundation, The Netherlands

Deadline for abstracts: 15 April 2009

E-mail: sign4conference@uclan.ac.uk

Further details will be announced on a SIGN4 conference website in February/March

Supporting Deaf People 2010 (Online conference)

Date: 3 - 6 February 2010

Website: <http://www.online-conference.net/sdp2010/introduction.htm>

First International Conference on Heritage/Community Language Education

Date: 19 – 21 February 2010

Place: National Heritage Language Resource Center (NHLRC)

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Contact: Gerda de Klerk, The Conference Organizing Committee

Email: gdk@asu.edu

Website: www.nhlrc.ucla.edu/conference

21st International Congress on Education of the Deaf (ICED)

Theme: Partners in Education

Date: 18 – 22 June 2010

Vancouver, Canada

www.iced2010.com

Email: iced2010@advance-group.com

4th Conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies (ISGS)

Theme: Gesture – Evolution, Brain, and Linguistic Structures

Date: July 25 – 30, 2010

Place: European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder, (near Berlin)

Germany

Website: <http://www.isgs2010.de/>

16th World Congress of the WFD

Theme: Global Deaf Renaissance

Date: 14 – 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>

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.

Donors

WFD wishes to thank warmly to those persons, institutes and organisations who have made a kind contribution to support WFD by honoring President Markku Jokinen's 50th birthday. President Markku

Jokinen states: "I feel very honoured to have so many donations to support WFD. This is a greatly valued birthday present from all of you who have donated to WFD. Doing so you have become a human right activist defending all deaf people in the world. Together we can be stronger! My warmest greetings to all supporters. I hope there are more persons who would like to donate and this is why this campaign will continue until the end of September."

Donations for Markku Jokinen Anniversary's can be addressed until the end of September to the address below. All gifts will be used to support WFD's human rights work.

World Federation of the Deaf

Message: Anniversary donation MJ "Name of the donor"

Bank: OP-Pohjola Group

Helsinki, Finland

Account no: 578007-2237861

Swift Address: OKOY FI HH

International Bank Account Number (IBAN): FI 74 5780 0720 2378 61

Here are the names of the list of the contributors in honour of President WFD Markku Jokinen's 50th birthday:

Niini Aalto	Harlan Lane
Aaltonen family	Päivi Lappi
Colin Allen	Päivi Lehtinen
Asger & Ritva Bergmann	Terttu Martola
Castberggård, Denmark	Johanna Mesch
Deacon College, Turku, Finland	Aki Metsola
Deaf Missionary, Finland	Tuija Mustonen
Deaf Service Foundation, Finland	Päivi Mäntylä
Erkki & Lea Enqvist	National Central organisation, Finland
Espoo Diocese chapter, Finland	Pasi, Kirsti & Rahel Niemelä
Espoo Parish group	Hanna Nuijanen
Etelä-Karjalan Deaf club	OM Denmark
Finnish Deaf Sports Federation	OM Germany
Finnish Federation of Hard of Hearing	OM Norway
Finnish Sign Language Interpreters Association	OM Russian Federation
Tapio Heinola	Omaishoitajat & Läheiset liitto ry, Finland
Hilde Haualand	Oulu Deaf Club
Hearing Parents of Deaf children Association, Finland	Laura Pajunen
Helsinki Diocese chapter, Finland	Antero Penttinen
HUMAK – Interpreters' training college, Finland	Paal Richard Peterson
Kalvero Hökkä	Janne Raatikainen
Jukka & Anja Hurtamo	Jussi & Mirja Raisio
Meri Hyske-Fischer	Pekka & Helene Rissanen
Tiina Jaakkola	Herbert & Roslyn Rosen
Antero & Ritva Janhonen	Katja Rosocha
Timo & Maritta Jarva	Kari & Maija Liisa Saarikoski
Jyväskylä Deaf club	Marjatta Saarikoski
Eero Kangas & family	Leena Salomaa
Tuula & Veikko Karttunen	Juhana Salonen
Jouko & Outi-Maria Keltanen & family	Phillipa Sandholm
Jaana Keski-Levijoki & family	Marja-Liisa Saukkonen
Heidi Koivisto	Sign Line Pty Ltd, Finland
Maija Koivisto & Jari Nyberg	Ulla Maria Sivunen
Antero & Ritva Koukkula	Social Welfare Central Organisation, Finland
Teemu Kuusisto	Tampere Deaf Club, Finland
	Terttu Suutari

Corrie Tjsseling
Orvo & Merja Tuokko
Turku Deaf Club, Finland
Tyst Theatre, Sweden

Valkea Talo Pty.Ltd., Finland
Vantaa Deaf Club, Finland
Lars Wallin

Donation to support WFD:

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:

Robert Adam
Khaled Al-Hothili
Eihab Ali Akhdar
Stuart Anderson
Yerker and Ann Marie Andersson
Beeman, (Donation to support WFD in honour of
J. Sherine Hartman)
Stephanie Feyne
Andrew Murray Holmes
Mary Wanjiru Muhura

Nancy Bloch & Jerry Nelson
Mikko Palo & Maarit Widberg-Palo donated in
honour of Ulla Sivunen's birthday
Paal R. Peterson
Yutaka Osugi
Helena Saunders
Eun Sun Son
Benjamin Soukup
Adrienne Stefanik
Tsubuka University of Technology, Japan

Books & Publications

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, is 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 (5 €).

If you wish to receive the DVD, please contact WFD General Secretariat Office at orders@wfdeaf.org.

The Earliest History of Deaf Education in Europe

In 2010 the international education of the deaf will celebrate its 250th anniversary. As a kickoff to a year of remembrance, there is an historical overview on this topic: 'The earliest history of Deaf education in Europe'. It is available on the website of the Koninklijke EffathaGuyot Viataal Groep www.effathaguyot.nl. Go to 'voor professionals', then click 'contact en informatie' and then to the left the button 'geschiedenis'. You will find a pdf-file there.

Institutes for the deaf can be found all over the world and their aim is to offer special education for children who are deaf or have serious hearing impairment. It all started with an initiative of the abbé Charles Michel de l'Épée in 1760 in Paris he began educating deaf people and established a school for them. He was the first to do so and brought light to the world of deaf people. Before he started teaching, these people they were often excluded from society. Before 1760, and in some cases for many years afterwards, a deaf person was seen as a useless creature and even as an animal. Besides the lucky ones who received individual education, a deaf person could do nothing except see and perform simple acts. In his teaching, De l'Épée used manual gestures and the simple finger alphabet. His method became known as manualism. De l'Épée's influence was huge because it led to a boom in the development of international deaf education. De l'Épée gave public demonstration lessons and he also taught hearing persons, who would subsequently establish schools for the deaf in their own countries in Europe.

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, bracelets, pens and caps**, you can make an order through email, which is orders@wfdeaf.org