



# WFD NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

JUNE 2010



## DEAF HAITIANS NEED HELP



AN INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION WITH A SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS IN THE UNITED NATIONS

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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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Layout Laura Pajunen

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.

Cover pictures by Jimmy Marcillion & Widler Fils-Aime from the Deaf Haiti Tent Community



# TEMPORARY NEW HOME FOR DEAF EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS IN HAITI

by Richard Cohen, Friends of Deaf Haiti

**O**n January 12, 2010 a violent 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated much of the capital of Haiti and its surrounding areas, leaving an estimated 230,000 people dead, 300,000 injured and a million homeless. Needless to say, this also had a severe impact on hundreds, perhaps, thousands, of Deaf people, who are usually the last to know where to find emergency food, water and medical aid. Haiti culture places Deaf people near the bottom of the ladder and they are treated with scorn. One native Deaf Haitian commented that Deaf people get less respect than animals due to their poor speaking skills and/or preference to use sign language, which is mostly American Sign Language interspersed with their own Haitian sign vocabulary.

A group of Deaf people from the Washington, DC area gathered to find a way to help the Deaf community in Haiti and named themselves Friends of Deaf Haiti (FDH). At their own expense, a few FDH people made trips to Haiti to find out what is needed and to organize a team of Deaf leaders in Haiti. The mission has not been an easy one due to the chaotic situation in Haiti, the red tape one must go through to obtain service, the competition for goods and service among the estimated 1 million homeless people, and the fact that FDH people have been paying for trips and supplies out of their own pockets. Nevertheless, FDH was successful in setting up a Deaf Haiti Tent Community for homeless deaf and hard of hearing adults and their children.

FDH is planning to become incorporated and eventually a tax-deductible charitable organization,



Photo by Jimmy Marcillon & Widler Fils-Aime

*Male and Female Showers*

which is a time consuming project and relatively expensive considering its limited financial resources. FDH had raised over \$20,000 either directly or indirectly, asking checks be made out to an organization dedicated to supporting Montfort Institute, a school for deaf children in Haiti that was completely destroyed. The school has quite a bit of support and funding from different organizations, has relocated to the suburbs, and is currently seeking land in the capital to rebuild.

Unfortunately, Montfort Institute has refused to help the Deaf Haiti Tent Community, so FDH had changed directions and asked for direct donations. Recently, the Howard County Association of the Deaf, a regional Deaf association in Maryland, agreed to accept donations on behalf of FDH, allowing donors to claim tax deductions. Once tax-deductible charitable organization status is obtained, FDH can receive donations directly.

Efforts are continuing to help the people in the Deaf Haiti Tent Community to get back on their feet and become productive members of society. To date, the following have been accomplished successfully:

- Desirable land in a good location was found to create a Deaf Tent Community.
- Tents & cots were set up and approximately 250 adults and their children moved in.
- More tents will be delivered and we expect a total of about 400 residents.
- Lighting and guards were set up to protect the community.



Photo by Jimmy Marcillon & Widler Fils-Aime

*Inside a tent at Deaf Haiti Tent Community*

- A reservoir to hold water and machinery to purify water was set up.
- Toilets and showers were installed.
- Tarps are in the process of being installed for rain and heat protection.
- Fundraising and clothing collection was started and continuing.

FDH will need to do more fundraising to accomplish the following ongoing projects:

- Organize the Deaf Haiti community to work together for their needs.
- Find food for regular deliveries as many go days before eating solid food.
- Arrange medical checkups and find necessary medical supplies.
- Purchase emergency supplies as needed.
- Locate buildings to use as a communication center and job training site.
- Do outreach to encourage businesses to hire Deaf people.

Although there are many FDH people who have contributed to this effort, nine key players were:

*Juan Carlos Reinbold*, who located and gathered Deaf people in Haiti.

*Emmanuel Jaq*, French diplomat, contacted French Red Cross for tents, toilets & showers.

*Mike Friess*, liaison with Water Mission, for water reservoir & water purification machinery.

*Georgia Nicholas*, liaison with bureaucrats, transported tents, paid workers, etc.

*Yolette Cohen* who coordinated networking among FDH people.

*Sylvie Marc-Charles-Weir* who brought the first people together to create FDH.

Deaf Tent Camp Leaders: *Jimmy Marcillion*, *Widler Fils-Aime* and *Mackenson St. Louis*.

Except for Emmanuel and Mike, all are either native Haitians or children of native Haitians. Georgia, the only hearing person in the group, has been a hero and solved many difficult problems related to obtaining land and logistics. Everyone communicates with each other primarily through ASL and/or written English, especially via the internet and texting.

Photo by Jimmy Marcillion & Widler Fils-Aime



Toilets at Deaf Haiti Tent Community



Water reservoir and purification.

Photo by Jimmy Marcillion & Widler Fils-Aime

Those willing to donate, please make checks payable to:

Howard County Association of the Deaf, Inc.

(In the memo space, write: "Deaf Haiti Relief")

And mail to:

HCAD Deaf Haiti Relief

c/o Yolette Cohen

PO Box 6611; Ellicott City, MD 21042; USA

Photo by Jimmy Marcillion & Widler Fils-Aime



Start of building a security fence around the tent site

# INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY ALLIANCE

## STATEMENT ON HAITI

*International Disability Alliance gave an oral statement about the situation in Haiti at the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council. The statement had a strong focus on Deaf Haitians. The Human Rights Council, the principal UN intergovernmental body responsible for human rights, had its 14th session in Geneva in June.*

“The January 12th earthquake in Haiti resulted in the deaths of about 230,000 people. About 300,000-450,000 people were injured, and about 2000-4000 people have had amputations as a result of the earthquake. Many people have had spinal cord injuries and are experiencing post-traumatic stress. About 800,000 people, or 6-7% of the population, had disabilities before the earthquake. This number is expected to continue to rise as a result of the earthquake.

In humanitarian crisis situations such as natural disasters, persons with disabilities are often forgotten, and they lack access to basic necessities such as food, water, medical care and rehabilitation services but also access to information in all accessible formats, including sign language. People who already experience severe discrimination face the same challenges but in new contexts resulting from displacement.

For example, Deaf people who are in crisis situations are usually the last to know where to find emergency food, water or medical aid, and have been discriminated against already before the earthquake. Indeed, discrimination against deaf people is a serious problem in Haiti, where the culture reportedly places deaf people at the bottom of the ladder and where they are treated with contempt. Today, many deaf persons now staying in camps in Haiti are concerned about their access to food, health care and work. Many of them live in hunger and more food needs urgently to be petitioned for. While some deaf people are working and therefore have money and can buy food, others do not have money to purchase food. Moreover, many deaf persons living in the camps are desperate to find work so that they can be self-sufficient. Access to health care is also a major concern for deaf persons due to, not only the limited health care services available, but also due to the lack of qualified and professional sign language interpreters available. As access to health care is difficult if not impossible without a qualified interpreter, the lack of interpreter services needed exposes deaf people in Haiti further. Another concern with the health care services is the scarcity of

medical staff who possess the skills and experience needed for communicating with deaf people.

Haiti has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the CRPD) and its Optional Protocol. Article 11 of the Convention requires that States take all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters. This means that persons with disabilities must have access to all mainstream humanitarian services. In addition, some specialized services are required such as rehabilitation services.

UN agencies, cooperating States and other partners should ensure that mainstream services, shelter sites and temporary housing are accessible to all. People with disabilities must be able to access food, water, and sanitation facilities. Merely restoring facilities to the way they were before the disaster should not be the goal. Rather, efforts should help to reduce vulnerability. Work programs for displaced persons should be inclusive of all persons with disabilities.

Reconstruction efforts must avoid recreating the exclusion of people with disabilities with new or existing barriers. They should not create new situations of exclusion or further widen the gap between the economic opportunities of persons with disabilities and those of other people. Reconstruction actions should be equally inclusive and beneficial for all persons, including persons with disabilities, and should provide access to education, health, sustainable livelihoods, community living, political participation such as voting, and public participation. In addition, the establishment of own organizations of persons with disabilities should be strengthened and encouraged as this has proven to promote positive development.

Persons with disabilities affected by the disaster need to be included in the development process and in the design of new public spaces, and they should be consulted on reconstruction and accommodation needs.”

Source: International Disability Alliance



# INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF THE DEAF: FOCUS ON DEAF EDUCATION

*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.*

**M**ost deaf associations report that access to education for Deaf people is low and the illiteracy rate high, which indicates that there is a massive ignorance in education systems about the importance of sign language in Deaf education. Only few countries provide bilingual education in sign language and the national language to Deaf children in some schools. In all other schools and countries, Deaf children's access to education is highly limited. Like all children, Deaf children have the fundamental right to full access to quality education. However, statistics indicate that only 20 % of deaf children in the world have access to education. Deaf people worldwide use sign language in their daily lives, but only 1 % is taught in sign language.

**INTERNATIONAL** Week of the Deaf is widely celebrated by the Deaf communities throughout the world. This year the week is held from 20 to 26 September culminating with International Day of the Deaf on the last Sunday of the week. The general theme is Human Rights through Sign Languages, but this year's focus is placed on **Deaf Education**. This year will also have many interesting events that will discuss Deaf education, such as the 21st International Congress on the Education of the Deaf (ICED) and WFD's side event to state representative on Deaf education at the United Nations.

**INTERNATIONAL** Day of the Deaf has a long history. The World Federation of the Deaf 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. This week 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.

**ABOUT** 80 percent of these people live in developing countries, where local authorities are rarely familiar with their needs and where few Deaf children have access to education. The WFD mission is to promote the human rights of Deaf people, including the right

to sign language; and equal opportunity in all spheres of life, including access to education and information. Membership comprises national organisations of Deaf people in 130 countries, and associate and individual members.

**WORLD** Federation of the Deaf 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.



Photograph by Laura Pajunen

*Uganda had a cheerful International Day celebrations in 2009. Picture is from the Ugandan Deaf march.*

## 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:*

YERKER AND ANN MARIE ANDERSSON  
HANNA PAULANTO  
BENJAMIN SOUKUP

## WFD GENERAL SECRETARIAT

*The WFD General Secretariat will be closed through the whole month of July, due to summer holidays. The office re-opens on 2 August 2010.*

*We hope that we are able to answer to sent enquiries, but please note that due to the high volume of enquiries received, the secretariat is not always able to respond to all e-mails.*

*WFD president and staff wishes a relaxing holiday season!*



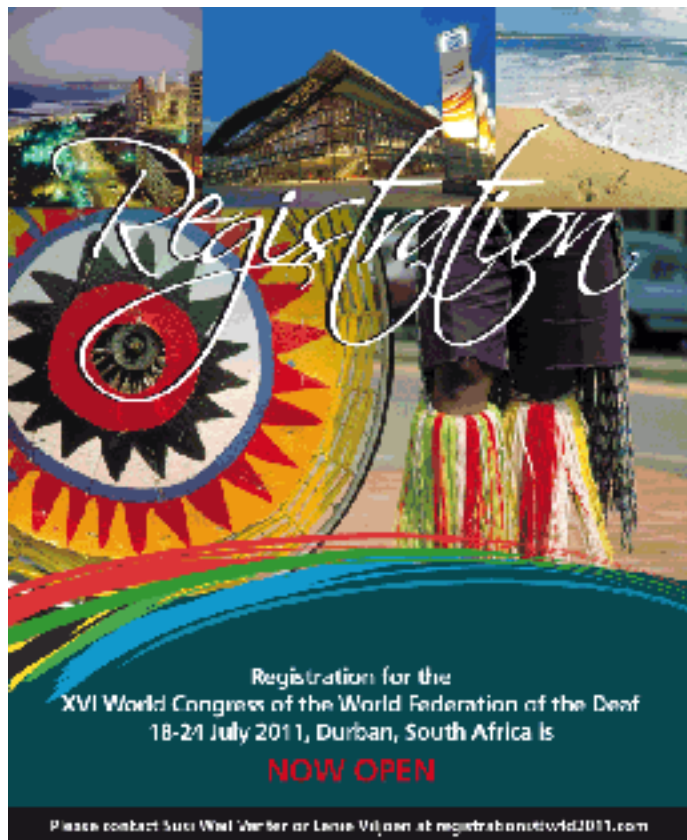
Photograph by Dawn Jani Birley



## WFD WORLD CONGRESS

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

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



## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

### EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT APPROVES BILL RECOGNIZING DEAF-BLINDNESS AS A DISTINCT DISABILITY

A bill that defines deaf-blindness as a unique disability instead of a “simple” combination of deafness and blindness was approved by the Social Affairs Committee of the European Parliament on May 27th. The action is the result of a 45 year battle mainly fought by the Lega del Filo d’Oro, an Italian association that lobbies for the rights of deaf-blind people. The organization says that this definition will provide greater protection for the rights of deaf-blind people and help them to access “equal opportunities and a better quality of life.”

Source: World Without Hearing, May 2010 Vol. 4



## FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (FIFA)

### WORLD CUP IN INTERNATIONAL SIGN

FIFA has made the World Cup accessible to Deaf people by broadcasting video reports of every football game in International Sign in their website every day until the end of the World Cup.

WFD had sent a letter to say thank you to FIFA for their support of having International Sign in their website. FIFA President Mr. Joseph S. Blatter replied to WFD quickly and said that football is a universal sport and it must be accessible to everyone.

For more information, please visit FIFA’s official website at: <http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/organisation/media/newsid=1223699/>

## 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

- 145 signatories to the Convention
- 89 signatories to the Optional Protocol
- 89 ratifications of the Convention
- 54 ratifications of the Optional Protocol

### LATEST

- Fiji signed the Convention on 2-6-2010
- Fiji signed the Optional Protocol on 2-6-2010
- Slovakia ratified the Convention on 26-5-2010
- Slovakia ratified the Optional Protocol 26-5-2010

See more on <http://www.un.org/disabilities>



## ARMENIA

### ARMENIAN DEAF ALLOWED TO DRIVE

Armenian government has accepted the proposal to amend the government decision that prohibits the Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons to participate in the driving licence exam. The Armenian Government decided to abolish the unfair decision which was depriving the Deaf from the possibility to drive a vehicle.

Source: P' Association Arménienne d' Aide Sociale (AAAS)

## BURUNDI

### AURORA DEAF AID AFRICA ADAA

Following an article published in WFD in 2008 entitled "Deaf people in Burundi face exclusion, poverty and abuse" written by one of our members. The article highlighted the deaf situation in Burundi, a country in central Africa, which is recovering from civil war, and with the dire situation witnessed in the country. We are now pleased to announce the launch of ADAA, a new charitable organisation that aims to work with deaf people in Burundi and other neighbouring countries and is based in the United Kingdom –London.

#### LAUNCH OF AURORA DEAF AID AFRICA

Aurora Deaf Aid Africa (ADAA) is a new deaf led charitable organisation based in the United Kingdom. We proudly held our official launch on 4th June 09, 19.00pm in Southwark, London. ADAA's aim is to work with deaf people in Burundi and other deaf communities within the neighbouring countries and beyond; enhancing their standard of living by empowering them through information, education, training, and building up their capacity.

During the ceremony Mr Chris Kubwimana, Director, gave his presentation in British Sign Language. The voice over and signed interpretation support for the hearing members of the audience was provided by Ian Holder, Board Member. Jeremy Yankey, Treasurer, welcomed guests at the front door, registered them before directing them to the meeting room. Penny Beschizza, Board Member, booked the premises, equipment and camera support, while Kevin Buckle, Secretary, offered IT support and general welcoming. Refreshments were provided.

The turn out was good, the question and answer session at the end was a huge success. The evening was a great success; it started on time and ran smoothly. There was a mixture of Deaf and hearing guests all eager to hear about ADAA, what it stood for and its



*Chris Kubwimana and a deafblind Burundian boy*

plans for the future. All the members pulled together to make the evening a success, enjoying photos of Chris' visit to Burundi including the school of deaf called Ephphatha school for deaf, and its teachers and some of deaf students. Guests mingled and networked. All the members deserved a pat on the back for all their hard work in the previous year's preparation leading up to this grand occasion.

ADAA is now exploring ways to work with the deaf community in Africa and some of our members have already visited the deaf community in Burundi where we have built a strong relationship. With Burundi Deaf Association, we are now developing a number of projects that we hope to set up in the very near future.

#### WHY BURUNDI?

Since gaining independence from Belgium in 1962, small, land-locked Burundi has suffered long periods of ethnic conflict. The civil war and/or conflict in Burundi have exacerbated the poverty situation. More than half a million people were killed and many more fled to neighbouring countries. Poverty worsened, incomes shrunk, inequality widened and the government's ability to deliver basic services, particularly in health and education, was destroyed.

Burundi has been classified by the World Bank as the fourth least-developed country in the world. Its government faces huge problems in meeting its population's needs and the deaf situation remains desperate.

From our recent visit to the country, we found there is no available data or research carried out on the needs of deaf people in Burundi. However, from our observations and anecdotal information, it would appear that people born with deafness in Burundi are destined for a life of dependency, without help or education. Deaf children in the country are seen as a social and financial burden to their families. The lack of understanding, knowledge, awareness and skills meant that the children and young adults alike do not get appropriate support and help for their needs. Many parents favour their hearing children over their deaf children, to whom they give less attention, emotional support and education.

Burundi has made progress toward implementing universal education the idea of which was introduced in 2005; however, it is estimated that up to 2,000 deaf and deaf blind children do not have access to schooling and there has been no sign that the government has intervened to improve the situation. Missionaries are left to pick up the pieces with little knowledge and money available. It is also fair to say that Missionary schools` capacity is limited and they are ill equipped to cater for deaf children`s needs or meet the demand. Oral education for deaf children in the country is still preferred over sign language.

## PARTNERS

Despite ADAA`s short life-cycle, a number of organisations are showing interested in our vision and there has been a lot of encouragement. We are pleased to announce that the international NGO Disability and Development Partners (DDP) has decided to support our cause. We have together signed a working agreement to pursue our goals.



*Deaf young Burundians*



*Tutor in class teaching deaf students*

## WHAT ADAA HOPES TO ACHIEVE IN BURUNDI?

- Support the development of communication and widen the interpreter support network for in Burundi.
- Empower and support the efforts of local Deaf organisations in Burundi.
- Raise deaf awareness and the profile of Deaf people in Burundi.
- Advocate for the rights of Deaf people in Burundi.
- Encourage self-help groups in Burundi.
- Support deaf education and vocational training in Burundi.

We are looking for new members to enhance our ranks both for the board and general members and patron, for further information please contact us on email at [aurora08@onetel.com](mailto:aurora08@onetel.com) or [charisku@onetel.com](mailto:charisku@onetel.com)

Source: Mr. Kubwimana Christopher

## DENMARK

### DEAF AND HEARING CAN COMMUNICATE

#### – IF THEY TRY

Even though half of all hearing people (65%) have never met or tried to communicate with a deaf Dane, a new survey that Megafon has made for Danish Deaf Association, shows that hearing in 57% cases think that their communication with deaf went well.

Furthermore the survey shows a clear tendency that hearing who have tried to communicate with deaf – and the result was good – does not say that communication would be a barrier, if he/she had a deaf colleague.

In connection with the lance of the labour market campaign “Let go of prejudice” which aims at giving work to more deaf, Danish Deaf Association has a wish

of investigating how hearing look at communication with deaf.

Generally both deaf and hearing have prejudice regarding corporating on the same workplace and say that communication is the largest challenge. Especially the informal talk during the day is a challenge, both groups say.

Deaf are afraid of isolation at work with hearing colleagues because of communication barriers. However the survey shows that 3 out of 4 (37%) would like to work with hearing.

#### FEWER COMMUNICATION BARRIERS IN PRACTICE

It is important to point out that deaf need an interpreter at work, at meetings, in the bank – yes everywhere. Having said that, it is positive to see in the survey that so many hearing say that communication with deaf is good, when they try to communicate. Deaf is a minority, a small percentage of the Danish population with Sign



Language as their mother tongue – and the knowledge of deaf is low. That is why we know that both deaf and hearing refrain from communicating when they meet. All communication is mutual – but it is important that hearing have the will to give communication a chance Asger Bergmann says, chairman of Danish Deaf Association.

#### AWAY WITH PREJUDICE

Only 48% deaf in the working age between 18 and 65 have a job. DDL knows that 3 things are due to the low numbers who are employed: low knowledge of deaf, lack of knowledge about deaf possibilities and prejudice about communication between deaf is difficult because deaf have Sign Language as mother tongue.

March 8th 2010 Danish Deaf Association started a three year campaign “Let go of prejudice” which the entire year puts focus on the meeting and prejudice between deaf and hearing with the primary objective of getting more deaf employed.

#### CONTACT PERSON FOR THE PRESS

Spokes person: Chairman Asger Bergmann, ab@deaf.dk

Campaign employee: Constance Hegner, ch@deaf.dk

Campaign employee: Lars Knudsen, lk@deaf.dk

## GUIDANCE FOR ELDERLY DEAF PEOPLE CONTINUES

The Social Ministry informed DDL that the project “Guidance for Elderly deaf people” has been prolonged with 3 years – that is until December 31st 2013.

The extension of the project is a great victory – not only for elderly deaf above 65 years, who are now secured guidance 3 years ahead – but also for DDL, who are now able to continue the good work by securing good conditions for elderly deaf in Denmark.



## DANISH DEAF ASSOCIATION IS PARTICIPATING IN ROSKILDE FESTIVAL

Thousands of people meet at Roskilde Festival and this year DDL’s labour market campaign “Let go of prejudice” is part of the festival area under the headline “The Word”.

DDL is now preparing the activities that will put focus on all 4 days that the festival lasts.

The target is to market DDL and the campaign “Let go of prejudice” – and also challenge the prejudice among hearing that it is difficult to communicate with deaf.

At the moment DDL is working with following activities:

- deaf meet hearing and try to communicate
- deaf teaches hearing to say something in Sign Language
- possibility of hearing can be photographed with hand sign (just as on the campaign’s posters)
- possibility of making a short video where hearing learns to say “deaf and hearing can communicate if we try” (just as in the campaign’s videos)

Roskilde Festival takes place July 1st – 4th 2010.

Source: Danish Deaf Association

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## EL SALVADOR

The Deaf Association of El Salvador has a website on deaf news: [www.notisordo.blogspot.com](http://www.notisordo.blogspot.com)

## GAMBIA

On 24th of April 2010 is the Republic Day for Gambia. The Excellency, the President of Gambia presented the national award to Gambian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (GADHOH). The President praised for GADHOH of their important contribution to the national development.

Congratulations go to the GADHOH and to the Gambian deaf community for their achievement from the WFD.

## HUNGARY

### DEAF MEMBER BECOME A MP IN THE PARLIAMENT OF HUNGARY

Dr Gergely Tapolczai is the first EUD board member to be elected to a national parliament. He is also the fourth European Deaf Parliamentarian following the footsteps of Ádám Kósa, Helga Stevens and Helene Jarmer. His party FIDESZ holds the majority of seats in the newly elected Hungarian parliament.

Source: European Union of the Deaf

## KENYA

### SING LANGUAGE RECOGNITION IN PROCESS

Kenya will have its new constitution subjected to referendum on August 4, 2010. Kenya National Association of the Deaf (KNAD) has actively advocated for the recognition of Kenyan sign language. If the constitution is approved, it will recognise Kenyan Sign Language officially, both as the official language in the Parliament and also in the chapter that concerns languages. In addition, the draft constitution address issues of people with disabilities in most chapters, but more specifically disability rights are outlined in one specific chapter.

Source: Kenya National Association of the Deaf

## RUSSIA

### TO JOSIF FLORIANOVICH GEJLMAN'S MEMORY (1923 – 2010)

**O**n 9th of June 2010 Josif Florianovich Gejلمان died. He was born on 6th of March 1923, family of deaf parents in the city of Leningrad (now St.-Petersburg). He worked as sign language interpreter for 15 years in the Deaf Association of Leningrad.

In the summer of 1941 (WWII started in the USSR) Josif worked with deaf children of the USSR during boat excursion across Volga River "Moscow – Astrakhan" (170 people). In connection with the beginning of the war, the children landed in the village of Fominka, Gorki Region in which the Deaf school was organised, whereas Josif Gejلمان taught Russian, History, Geography and other subjects. In 1944, all the pupils were delivered back to Moscow.

From 1944 till 1948 Gejلمان worked as the deputy Director of the Palace of Deaf Culture. In 1948 he returned to work in the pedagogical field. From 1948 till 1952 he worked as the teacher at the young workers' school, worked on a program drawing up on Russian and the Russian textbook for special schools.

In 1965 Gejلمان has been appointed as Director of the organised Leningrad Rehabilitation Centre of VOG. For a long time he was an active member of Central Board of the All-Russian Society of the Deaf. Josif Gejلمان was the author of numerous publications, books and sign language dictionaries.

**H**e took part in work of the five World Congresses of the WFD from 1963 till 1979. On the IV WFD Congress (1967, Warsaw) Gejلمان was selected as the WFD Social Commission Chairman and he was part of Expert Panel on unification "International Sign Language". Work came to the end with the edition of the book "Gestuno" (1975).



In 1975 Josif Florianovich was awarded with the WFD First Class Award, "For international merits".

Memory of this wonderful person, who has devoted the life to the Deaf persons and the Deaf international community, will be in our hearts forever

Source: All-Russian Society of the Deaf



## RWANDA

### TITLE CHANGES ON ONE OF THE WFD ORDINARY MEMBERS

Rwanda National Association of the Deaf informed WFD that their title of the association has changed to Rwanda National Union of the Deaf (RNUD), due to the new government law regarding to People with Disabilities organisations in Rwanda.

## SPAIN

### FIRST STATE REPORT TO THE UN COMMITTEE

Spanish state has submitted its initial report to the United Nation's CRPD Committee on May 3rd, 2010 being the first country to submit a report to the Committee on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities (CRPD).

For the moment the report is only available in Spanish at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/futuresessions.aspx>

## UNITED KINGDOM

The British Deaf Association (BDA) had set up a Statement that was printed in the Daily Telegraph (UK newspaper) on 10 April 2010.

The Daily Telegraph published an article about an American priest who is alleged to have molested up to 200 boys at a school for the Deaf in the 1970s.

The British Deaf Association is shocked and upset to read about the alleged abuse that has been reported in the press.

These reports on the alleged abuse of young Deaf children by priests are distressing and difficult to understand, particularly as these priests held positions of power and were respected by people in the community.

Since the 1970s, the introduction of Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks has greatly improved the situation of ensuring those working with children/vulnerable adults are properly vetted before being able to work with them.

The BDA awaits the official outcome of this investigation.

Source: British Deaf Association

## WORLD ASSOCIATION OF SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS (WASLI)

WASLI has a new website. Do click at [www.wasli.org](http://www.wasli.org)

## USA

### THE INAUGURATION OF ALAN HURWITZ AS THE 10TH PRESIDENT OF GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

Dr. Alan Hurwitz was appointed as president by the Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University last summer after a careful consideration by representatives for the Gallaudet University faculty and staff and Gallaudet University Alumni Association. Dr. Hurwitz has previously acted as president of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, one of eight colleges within Rochester Institute of Technology.

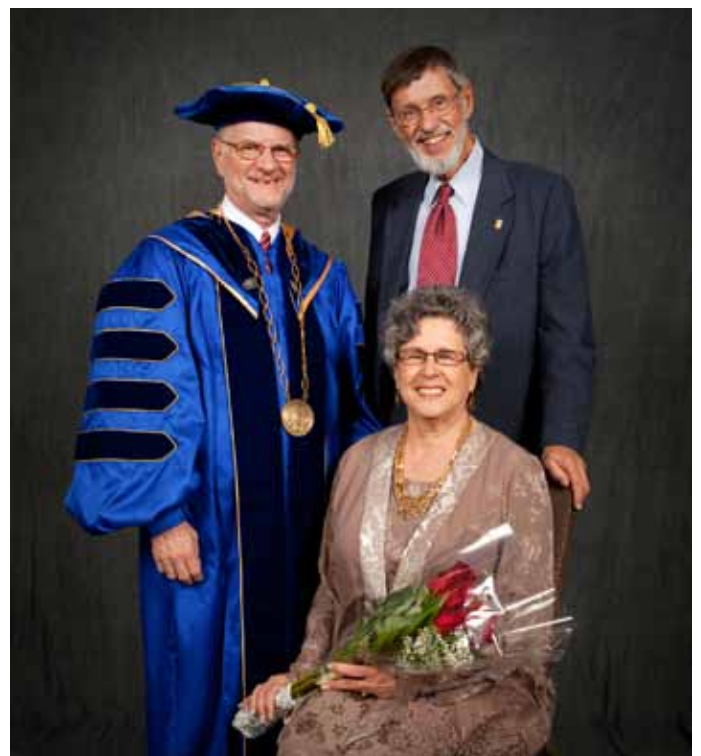
Dr. Hurwitz was formally inaugurated as the 10th President of Gallaudet University on May 12, 2010. His inaugural presentation focused on the importance of former students, current students, and future students. It was appreciated by faculty, staff, and emeriti professors.

During the Board of Trustees' reception, the greetings were expressed by the representatives for the faculty, the students, the staff, the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center, the Alumni, the community and the consortium of universities in Washington DC. The 2009 Distinguished Faculty Member, Dr. Barbara White, gave a formal introduction of Dr. Hurwitz. The chair of the Gallaudet Board of Trustees, Benjamin J. Soukup, then declared that Dr. Hurwitz' president position now was confirmed.

Because of his heavy work, President of World Federation of the Deaf, Markku Jokinen asked Dr. Yerker Andersson to present a bouquet of roses to Dr. Alan and Vicki Hurwitz. President Jokinen has also sent a congratulations letter to them.

The World Federation of the Deaf Board and experts will again look for a new working relationship with Gallaudet President Hurwitz.

Yerker Andersson, 1981-1995 WFD President



*Alan Hurwitz, his wife Vicki Hurwitz and Yerker Andersson*

# BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

## **INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY ALLIANCE: Guidance document on Effective Use of International Human Rights Monitoring Mechanisms to Protect the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

The guidance document provides practical, hands-on strategies and advice to organisations of persons with disabilities and their coalitions on the international human rights mechanisms. As the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the CRPD Committee) embarks on the examination of initial State Party reports, national associations need to engage in the reporting process at both national and international levels. This guidance document focuses on the reporting process of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the preparation of reports by non-governmental organisations in order to provide associations with practical information on both the process and the content of reporting.

## **Linguistic Turns in Teaching of the Deaf in Finland, Eeva Salmi 2010**

Discourse on teaching of the Deaf has always been permeated by the question of how to teach, rather than what to teach. Throughout history, leaders have debated whether the deaf should be taught using spoken language or sign language. This has also been a central issue in the 160-year history of Deaf teaching in Finland.

Sign languages were forbidden in schools for the Deaf from the 1890s almost up to the 1980s, but today they enjoy a protected status in the Finnish Constitution, which is unusual on a global level. This text examines the social development of the status of Deaf people, through changes that have taken place in the education system. The outstanding themes are the society's ambition to define the linguistic identity of the Deaf on the basis of the needs of the non-deaf, and the gradual formation of the culture and linguistic awareness of the Deaf community.

## **Monitoring the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Guidance for Human Rights Monitors**

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has recently published on its website on disability a document on the "Monitoring the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Guidance for Human Rights Monitors".

On the [OHCHR-Disability website](#), the document is only available in PDF version.

## **Eva Fielding-Jackson – a Deaf author published her autobiography. 'Hava Against All Odds'**

On 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010, in Bristol, United Kingdom Eva has launched her long awaited autobiography.

More than 100 guests attending the Deaf Centre to celebrate the launch of the book.

Hers is a story of survival and triumph against all odds, set against the background of the Holocaust. Very direct, open and uncompromising in its frank depiction of her extraordinary and often sensational life, Hava tells her story as it is, in her own unique and personal style. Hava (Eva) was born to two profoundly-Deaf Holocaust survivors. Her father miraculously survived seven different concentration camps, among them Auschwitz and Buchenwald. He remained in Bergen Belsen after his liberation until 1947, simply because he was Deaf and did not know the War was over. Later he met her mother in Budapest. Considering the near decimation of the Jewish population of Hungary by the Nazis, for them to have met each other as people who were Jewish, Deaf, single and Hungarian was a virtual miracle. Growing up as Jewish people in post-War communist Hungary was not easy for her parents. After the 1956 Hungarian uprising, the family made their way to Israel, where a new culture and a new language added to Hava's difficulties. She was only diagnosed as Deaf when she was 14, and as a consequence Hava had become branded as a problem child. One of her teachers subsequently told her that he had expected her to end up as a whore.

But, against all odds, she prevailed and through sheer strength of character and will-power made a new life for herself. She came to Britain, married her profoundly Deaf husband, and gained a postgraduate degree. She became a widely-known and respected member of the Deaf community in her capacity as a youth worker specialising in helping disabled young people. She is also the Vice Chair for the British Deaf Association.

Her upbringing and the harrowing story of her parents' survival have made her deeply committed to Holocaust awareness teaching, which she undertakes all over the world. This is her remarkable and inspiring story.

The book costs £40.00

To order the book please log on [www.herbertadler.co.uk/hava.html](http://www.herbertadler.co.uk/hava.html)

Or email Eva on [hava11554@hotmail.com](mailto:hava11554@hotmail.com)

**Deaf Me Normal**, Deaf South Africans tell their stories – Hidden Stories series, Ruth Morgan, 2008  
As part of an oral history project, Deaf me Normal builds a bridge between the Deaf & the hearing worlds, so that hearing people can access the hidden lives of Deaf South Africans. The social discrimination against Deaf people during apartheid resulted in their extreme marginalisation and the silencing of their experiences.

Book orders: Mrs Laetitia Theart on [theartl@unisa.ac.za](mailto:theartl@unisa.ac.za)  
[www.unisa.ac.za](http://www.unisa.ac.za)



# COMING EVENTS

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

Theme: Partners in Education

Date: 18 – 22 June 2010

Vancouver, Canada

Email: [iced2010@advance-group.com](mailto:iced2010@advance-group.com)

Website: [www.iced2010.com](http://www.iced2010.com)

## **6th Biennial Deaf Lesbian Festival**

Theme: Let us be liberated; A Journey into Dykehood

Date: 23 – 27 June 2010

Place: Islandia, New York, USA

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

Website: [www.deaflesbianfestival.org](http://www.deaflesbianfestival.org)

## **4th World Forum on Human Rights**

Theme: In a world in crisis, what about Human Rights?

Date: 28 June – 1 July 2010

Place: Nantes, France

Contact: Cité Internationale des Congrès Nantes Métropole – Service inscriptions

5 rue de Valmy BP 24102

44041 NANTES Cedex – 1

FRANCE

Fax: +33 2 51 88 20 43

Email: [registration@congres-nantes.fr](mailto:registration@congres-nantes.fr)

## **Nordic Cultural Festival for the Deaf**

Date: 28 June – 3 July 2010

Place: Stockholm, Sweden

Website: [www.dovkulturfestival2010.se](http://www.dovkulturfestival2010.se)

## **DeafNation World Conference & Expo**

Date: 18 – 22 July 2010

Place: Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

Organiser: DeafNation

Website: <http://deafnation.com/deafnationworldexpo>

## **XVIII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2010)**

Theme: Rights Here, Right Now

Date: 18 – 23 July 2010

Place: Vienna, Austria

Website: <http://www.aids2010.org>

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

Theme: Gesture – Evolution, Brain, and Linguistic Structures

Date: 25 – 30 July 2010

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

Germany

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

## **Laserspot 58\*° North**

(World Deaf Laser Party + Deaf Beach Party)

Date: 6 - 8 August 2010

Place: Bendiksbukta and Odderøya Amfi

Kristiansand

NORWAY

E-mail: [events@twod.no](mailto:events@twod.no)

Website: <http://www.events.twod.no>

Registration: <http://www.billett-service.no> - Search for "Laserspot".

(Change to English language, if problem, send e-mail to [events@twod.no](mailto:events@twod.no))

## **2nd WFD Children's Camp**

Date: 8 – 15 August 2009

Place: Margarita Island, Venezuela

Contact: World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section (WFDYS)

Website: [www.wfdys.org](http://www.wfdys.org)

## **6th ACSA Disability Expo and Conference**

Date: 16 – 18 September 2010

Place: Johannesburg, South Africa

Website: [www.disabilityexpo.co.za](http://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](mailto:llarsordbad@msn.com)

Website: [www.llarsordbadalona.org](http://www.llarsordbadalona.org)

## **1st Hong Kong International Deaf Film Festival**

Date: 17 – 19 September 2010

Place: Hong Kong, Republic of China

Contact: Ms Denise CHAN ([info@hongkongdeaf.org.hk](mailto:info@hongkongdeaf.org.hk)) or Mr. Adam NG ([info@hongkongdeaf.org.hk](mailto: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/>

## **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](mailto:ippocampusciak@yahoo.it)

**Website:** [http://www.teatrosenzaparole.it/festival2010/eng\\_home.html](http://www.teatrosenzaparole.it/festival2010/eng_home.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

Website: [www.deafacademics2010.com](http://www.deafacademics2010.com)

### **New Zealand Sign Language Teachers Association – 11<sup>th</sup> National Conference**

Theme: Challenges in Sign Language Teaching

Date: 27 – 28 November 2010

Place: Wellington, New Zealand

Email: [conference@nzslta.org.nz](mailto: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](http://www.deafexpo2010.com)

E: Mail: [info@deafexpo2010.com](mailto:info@deafexpo2010.com) / [deafleaders@airtelmail.in](mailto: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>

### **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>

### **Deaf World Cruise 2013**

Date: August 2013 (after the 22nd Summer Deaflympics in Athens, Greece)

Contact: Ben Pena, CEO

VIP Travel Network LLC

DBA: Deaf Cruise

14700 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd #157 PMB #379

Scottsdale, AZ 85260

USA

Email: [mark.morales@deafcruise.com](mailto:mark.morales@deafcruise.com)

Phone number: +1 480 553 8350

Fax Number: +1 480 657 0744

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

### **8<sup>th</sup> Deaf History International Conference**

Theme: Telling Deaf Lives: Biographies & Autobiographies

Date: 24 – 29 July 2012

Place: Toronto, Canada

More information will be announced later

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.

## **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](mailto:orders@wfdeaf.org) Here is the price list of the items:

Country Name-Sign book – 10 €

DVD – Suggested International Signs for use at the WFD General Assembly – 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 €

### **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](mailto:orders@wfdeaf.org) and then we will send you an invoice for payment of the order.





Legal Seat – Helsinki, Finland

## WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

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

PO Box 65, 00401 Helsinki, FINLAND  
FAX: +358 9 580 3572  
[www.wfdeaf.org](http://www.wfdeaf.org)

*President*  
**MARKKU JOKINEN**  
Email: [wfd@kl-deaf.fi](mailto: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](mailto:memberships@wfdeaf.org)