



# IFHOH JOURNAL

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V4

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*The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) is an international non-governmental organisation representing the interests of more than 300 million hard of people worldwide.*

*IFHOH is registered as a charitable organisation at Vereinsregister Amtsgericht, Hamburg, Germany  
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*IFHOH Journal includes information about IFHOH activities, world news related to hearing loss, articles written by IFHOH members, and much more. It is published four times a year and posted on IFHOH's website, [www.ifhoh.org](http://www.ifhoh.org). The Editor can be reached at [journal@ifhoh.org](mailto:journal@ifhoh.org).*

*All the views expressed in IFHOH Journal are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of IFHOH.*

# From the Editor's Desk

## From the Editor's Desk



**Carole Willans, Editor**

Dear IFHOH friends,

This issue of *IFHOH Journal* provides much information on a wide variety of issues and events. You will find many references to last May's IFHOH Conference and General Meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia. This wonderful event was attended by hard of hearing persons from all over the world: Europe, North and South America, Asia, Africa and Australia/Oceania. I spoke there with as many persons there as possible and participated in all the events, and I am very glad I went. I met some old friends, and made many new ones!



**Touring historic city of Ljubljana with my IFHOH friends**

During the tour through the historic city of Ljubljana, the Mayor offered a reception for participants and delegates in the City Hall. The tour also included dinner at the Ljubljana Castle overlooking the capital city.

Another highlight was attending the *Workshop on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with reference to the Hard of Hearing Community*. I invite you to read Claire Sabler Landesmann's article which summarizes the key information. Advocacy has always been a cornerstone for IFHOH, and this workshop points to some key advocacy tools. Please tell me ([journal@ifhoh.org](mailto:journal@ifhoh.org)) about your experiences in advocacy, so that I can share with IFHOH members in upcoming issues. The diversity of our experiences make us strong!

# IFHOH President's Message



**Dr. Ruth P. Warick, IFHOH President**

Another school year began this Fall and, for many of us, the academic year is really the start of another year.

IFHOH is coming into the last quarter of the year following a successful Biennial General Meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Our thanks to ZDGNS (Deaf and Hard of Hearing Clubs Association of Slovenia) for their work in organizing events related to the BGM including a one-day conference, the EFHOH AGM, and a workshop on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

One of the highlights of the event was the passage of the Slovenian Declaration. The Declaration profiles the importance of the World Health Organization's Resolution on ear and hearing care passed in 2017, 22 years after an earlier resolution in 1995. The resolution calls upon all member states to:

- Raise awareness and build political commitment about the prevalence of hearing loss and its social and economic impact;
- Integrate strategies for ear and hearing care in healthcare systems;
- Improve data on ear diseases and hearing loss to inform policy decision-making;
- Develop human resources for ear and hearing care;
- Implement screening programmes;
- Provide access to hearing devices;
- Draft, adopt, and implement regulations for the control of ototoxic medicines;
- Raise awareness of noise-induced hearing loss and draft, adopt, and implement legislation for its prevention;
- Improve access to communication; and
- Deal with hearing loss in relation to UN 2030 Sustainable Development goals on health and education (Goals 3 and 4).

Whereas a report on progress on actions taken is expected before a future World Health Assembly, the motion calls upon IFHOH and its members to fully support the WHO Health Assembly resolution and urges Nation States to implement hearing health care as identified in the WHO motion. Follow-up on this motion will be one of the important goals for IFHOH for the next two years, as part of the Action Plan adopted at the BGM.

IFHOH is also a part of a Consortium being developed with links to WHO to realize improvements in light of the motion, recognizing that the time is right for advocacy and change for our community. We are continuing our work on Safe Listening and to create greater awareness about hearing loss, particularly of the World Hearing Day of March 3. The awareness campaign is gaining traction worldwide and we are keen to have the UN recognize this as an official day. We thank all of our members for their activities in raising awareness for World Hearing Day.



Ruth Warick presenting to the UN Assembly on the CRPD (June 2018)

Further IFHOH activities are:

#### Inclusive Education

We are developing a project on inclusive education in Uganda, focused on mapping the existing situation, and identifying factors for inclusive education and accessibility needs. We are participating in IDA's Education Flagship on Inclusive Education, which will also incorporate developments in Nepal.

#### Future Loops

We have set a date for the first meeting of the Steering Committee established at the fourth hearing loops and technology conference, also called Future Loops, in Berlin last October. The committee consists of representatives of the newly formed International Hearing Loop Manufacturers Association, DSB, EFHOH and IFHOH. We are also committed to a fifth conference on hearing loops and technology.

In closing, I take this opportunity to thank our members for giving IFHOH board members and me another two-year term in Ljubljana to work on your behalf. I am pleased to serve with Avi Blau, Vice-President; Heikki Niemi, Treasurer; Hanh Duong Phuong, General Secretary and representative of APFHD on the Board; Patrick Gift Egessa, Board Member, and Marcel Bobeldijk, representative of EFHOH on the board. Please contact us if you have any issues of concern at [president@ifhoh.org](mailto:president@ifhoh.org) or [info@ifhoh.org](mailto:info@ifhoh.org).

With warmest wishes,  
Ruth Warick, IFHOH  
President



Celebrating IFHOH's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in Ljubljana with cake!



# IFHOH Workshop on CRPD and SDGs

## *Workshop on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with reference to the Hard of Hearing Community*



By Claire Sabler Landesmann, member of the Austrian Hearing Loss Association ÖSB) *Editor's Note: This article was also published in the recent EFHOH newsletter.*

The day before the IFHOH Conference this year in Ljubljana, Ruth Warick, IFHOH President, led a workshop that would give those attending an overview of the latest developments in accessibility goals and a directive for a Call to Action on the World Report on Hearing Care.

The workshop was very well attended with persons and organizations from all around the world. Ruth Warick (IFHOH President), Marcel Bobeldijk (EFHOH President) and Patrick Gift Egessa (chairperson UNAHOH, IFHOH Board member at large) were the presenters. The following is a short summary of each of the presentations. The workshop was hosted and held in the building shared by the Slovenian Deaf and Hard of Hearing Organization.



Patrick Gift Egessa, Ruth Warick, and Marcel Bobeldijk

Ruth commenced with a short introduction and welcoming speech and presented a short video where Shelley Chadha (WHO programme for prevention of deafness and hearing loss) welcomed the participants and described the importance of the CRPD and the SDGs.

Ruth then started her first presentation:

"Why does the CRPD and the SDGs matter to the people who are hard of hearing?" The CRPD was first proclaimed by the UN General Assembly a decade ago. It is the first worldwide treaty for persons with disabilities and was a milestone in the advancement of human rights.

To explain what the CRPD does for the Hard of Hearing community a situation in Nepal was presented. The WHO defines people who are hard of hearing with a 26-80 decibels (dB)

loss. However the government of Nepal defines hearing loss as being a loss above 65 dB, and therefore excludes a number of people for the benefits necessary to perform actively in everyday life.

The Nepal IFHOH Member Organization, SHRUTI, advocated directly with the government, conducted sessions to explain the CRPD and implemented a draft to a resolution that was presented at the UN Convention to help the government change its policy to also include persons with a mild to moderate hearing loss. SHRUTI and IFHOH conducted sessions and presented information. SHRUTI then also attended a CRPD Committee in February 2018 where Neeta Keshary Bhattarai, a member of SHRUTI, was able to confirm that the Nepalese Governments were hearing the concerns. The ability for the worldwide body to help support activist in individual countries is an enormous benefit of the CRPD.

IFHOH is a member of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and has commented on sections of the proclamation.

Marcel Bobeldijk started his presentation with the question "What does the CRPD mean in advocacy?" The IFHOH UNCRPD video ([https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=IFHOH+UNCRPD+Video](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=IFHOH+UNCRPD+Video)) and the toolkit (available on the IFHOH Website) are two examples that help persons advocate for their rights in their countries.

On the European Union (EU) level, the European Disability Forum (EDF) has been representing people with disabilities in Europe to support the implementation of the UN CRPD with respect to all its members and their respective governments. To advocate for better inclusion of Hard of Hearing People, each country must develop a report that can be used to communicate the necessary issues to the persons in the national disability organizations, as well as to appropriate government officials and their departments.

The UN CRPD committee meetings and their side events are a great tool to raise awareness, and to increase media and public recognition. Marcel Bobeldijk advises to prioritize and choose what one wants to highlight. There are 33 Articles listed in the CRPD dealing with many different areas of discrimination affecting persons with disabilities.

EFHOH has concentrated on two issues concerning hard of hearing persons. The first was an agreement finally reached with Audiovisual Media Services on subtitling: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20180423IPRO2332/audiovisual-media-agreement-reached-on-new-media-services-directive>. The second was a call for all emergency information to be accessible. That means that the access must be available in subtitling, audio description, sign language interpretation, and spoken subtitles. These types of communication tools should also be used in both public and private broadcasting services. The implementation of these requirements will take place through the *European Accessibility Act* and Article 9 (the section on accessibility) of the CRPD.

Patrick Gift Egessa was the next presenter. His topic was "An overview of the Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs). The United Nations developed SDGs after 2015.

These 17 goals are important in supporting the equal rights for people with disabilities across cultures and nations.



A page from the PowerPoint presentation on SDGs by Patrick Gift Egessa

Of those listed above, there are 7 SDGs which clearly pertain to people with hearing loss. These goals are:

#1: End Poverty: Eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. Persons with less than 1.25\$ a day.

#3: Good health and wellbeing: Decrease the number of maternal deaths, neonatal and infant mortality by 2030.

#4: Education: Ensure inclusive and qualitative education for all as well as provide lifelong learning opportunities by 2030.

#8: Employment: Provide job opportunities available in all countries.

#10: Reduce inequality: Eliminate discrimination in law and workplace to ensure inclusive employment.

#11: Inclusive cities: Ensure physical access to buildings, transport, and environments for everyone.

# 17: Means of Implementation, Data: Ensure the use of all domestic and international resources to support and mobilize more accessibility.

To be able to achieve these goals it is necessary to advocate within each of our respective nations as well as within appropriate international human rights organizations and other non-government organizations representing persons with disabilities.

The last presentation was given by Ruth. Her topic was *Linking the CRPD and the SDGs to the work of WHO*. In May 2017, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution, WHA70.13. This report related to this resolution describes the increasing number of persons with hearing loss worldwide and link them to the SDG goals, notably goal number 1 (end poverty) goal number 3 (ensuring healthy lives), goal number 4 (improving changes in education), and goal number 8 (promoting employment opportunities). The objectives of the Report were to highlight the increasing population of persons with hearing loss, the causes



of hearing loss (in particular noise induced hearing loss and preventable childhood hearing loss), as well as the consequences of untreated hearing loss.

According to the WHO: "Around 466 million people worldwide have a disabling hearing loss and 34 million of these are children. It is estimated that by 2050, 900 million people will have a disabling hearing loss." ([www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheet/detail/deafness-and-hearing-loss](http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheet/detail/deafness-and-hearing-loss)). The report provides medical and scientific evidence of experiences with treatments available in different countries to study its effectiveness. It is hoped to raise awareness among policymakers so that they will pay attention to the issue of hearing loss and its consequences.

The WHO secretariat will, in collaboration with international ear and hearing care specialist, technical assistance specialist, and regional consultants develop a guide of recommendations and directives that will help implement ear health care throughout the world. That report will be released March 3, 2020.

"IFHOH is involved in the resolution activities and in the World Report. IFHOH is promoting in the community the use the WHO Resolution and the World Report, as well as the CRPD Article 30 and the SDG Goal on Health for its advocacy." (From the PowerPoint by Ruth Warick)

The afternoon session was spent working in small groups to practice developing an action plan to implement "Hearing Healthcare Priorities for the Hard of Hearing". There was a list of questions to think about and each group presented its plan.

All of us came out of the workshop with information, as well as an opportunity to first practice global activism. Everyone would welcome more such opportunities and we thank Ruth for providing it.



Workshop participants



## EFHOH News

By Marcel Bobeldijk, EFHOH President



Sari V. Hirvonen-Skarbö (Euro CI and European Deaf Blind Network), EFHOH Secretary Aïda Regel Poulsen, Ricard Lopez (President of the European Deafblind Network), and EFHOH President Marcel Bobeldijk at the EDF AGA in Vilnius, Lithuania (May 2018)

The EFHOH AGM 2018 took place mid-May in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Thanks to the staff and volunteers of the Slovenian organisation for deaf and hard of hearing people for preparing an informative and interesting set of events. It started with a workshop on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). You can read more about this workshop in the article by Claire Sabler Landesmann in this issue of *EFHOH Journal*. At the EFHOH AGM, we thanked outgoing Board member Juha Hietala (Finland) who had served a two-year term and had focused on the EFHOH Impact report and the redesign of the EFHOH website. We were happy to receive Morten Buan (Norway) as a new Board member, as well as Lidia Best (UK) as the re-elected Vice-President for 2018-2020. The EFHOH AGM 2019 will be taking place on the first weekend of April in the beautiful capital city of Zagreb in Croatia.

Aïda Regel Poulsen and Marcel Bobeldijk (see photo at the start of this article) represented EFHOH at the General Assembly of the European Disability Forum (EDF) which took place in Vilnius, Lithuania May 26 and 27. The conclusion that arose from this important event was clear: European and national authorities need to do more to meaningfully involve persons with disabilities and the organisations that represent them. This includes having people with disabilities stand for election, and be elected, to ensure that their issues are central to the political decision-making process in Europe. EDF members also had the opportunity to discuss with the CRPD Committee rapporteur Stig Langvad, including the need for organisations of persons with disabilities to be fully involved and closely consulted in all spaces of public decision-making on an equal basis with other

significant groups. Discussion also centred on the Web Accessibility Directive, which needs to become a reality.

In September, Aïda and Marcel made a presentation at the NHS seminar of the Nordic Countries in Selfoss, Iceland. Morten Buan, President of the Norwegian Association and EFHOH board member was also present in his capacity as chair of the NHS, the Nordic countries cooperation committee. Silja Alfrosdottir, Iceland's Minister of Education, was an important keynote speaker.



At NHS (l. to r.) Morten, Aïda. Marcel – Minister Alfrosdottir

EFHOH has released a study on the state of the provision of hearing aids in different European countries. One of the central findings is that service delivery varies a great deal across Europe; the health system in some is simple to navigate, and in others it is quite complex. The full report can be downloaded from [www.efhoh.org](http://www.efhoh.org).

EFHOH is one of the partners in a new project about LiveTextAccess (LTA). This project is about quality training in Real Time Subtitling across EU and EU languages. LiveTextAccess (LTA) is a European Union funded project that approaches the mismatch between trained skills and needed skills in the labour market. The project is carried out by educational and non-educational partners.



Speech to text professionals training by LTA will have suitable skills to provide high-quality subtitles by respeaking or velotype in different contexts as:

- Cultural events
- Parliamentary assemblies
- Broadcast
- Education

The training will prepare for three working settings:

- Face to face
- Online
- By relay

More info will soon be available on the project's website at [www.ltaproject.eu/](http://www.ltaproject.eu/), and you can also follow via Facebook. Here is the LTA group!



# European Disability Forum

The [European Disability Forum](#) (EDF) is an independent NGO that defends the interests of 80 million Europeans with disabilities. It is a unique platform which brings together organisations of persons with disabilities from across Europe. EDF is a strong, united voice of persons with disabilities in Europe.



On September 26, the EDF released an open letter to EU institutions, calling for a strong *European Accessibility Act*. The following is an extract from this open letter:

"On behalf of over 80 million Europeans with disabilities and 190 million people aged 50 and older we, the undersigned, call on EU leaders to agree on an ambitious European Accessibility Act before the 3<sup>rd</sup> December, the European Day of Persons with Disabilities. The European Commission's proposal for a *European Accessibility Act*, published in 2015, was a response to the demands of millions of Europeans. Demands that stretched back more than ten years. It was a good start but now we are tired of waiting for its adoption. We urge all EU institutions to reach a political agreement before the European Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3<sup>rd</sup> December... The agreement needs to ensure a strong, effective and future-proof *Accessibility Act*. We demand that it covers a wide-range of accessibility requirements, especially in the following areas:

- Fully-accessible emergency services...
- Inclusion of micro-enterprises...
- Inclusion of accessibility in Public Procurement, EU Funds, and TEN-T regulationAccessibility of the built environment...
- Accessibility of urban transport..."

EFHOH is among the NGOs supporting the EDF in this effort.

## Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Ana Pelaez Narvaez**, the first woman with a disability ever elected to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women during its 37-year existence. We as the EFHOH Board welcome her election as a very positive step which brings "Nothing about Us without Us" closer to reality.



Congratulations to **Jan Lamby**, former EFHOH Secretary (Sweden) who was selected as the European Disability Forum (EDF) representative for this year's EU jury for the Access City Award! The Award Ceremony will take place at the EU conference on the European Day of Persons with Disabilities in December.



# Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened

## *APFHHD: Regional Training on International Instruments towards Sustainable Development Goals*



The Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHHD), in cooperation with the Asia Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), successfully organized a training event, the **"Regional Training on International Instruments Towards Sustainable Development Goals"** August 20-23, 2018 in

Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting aimed to build the capabilities of leaders who are hard of hearing and late deafened from APFHHD member countries - Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

The training focused on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Incheon Strategy (IS), specifically the connection between them and some items in CRPD, SDGs, IS that are useful for people with hearing loss.



The mission of this event was to help the leaders of APFHHD understand more about challenges that people with hearing loss face while they carry out the strategies of CRPD, SDGs, IS; and to help them improve communication accessibility (speech into text).

The representatives of member countries also shared their reports and activities, chose the items in CRPD and SDGs that they will follow and implement for people with hearing loss in their respective countries. The event was also a venue for all leaders to share their expectations on APFHHD's future projects.





Mr. Blau. APFHD members and its Executive Committee look forward to Mr. Blau's visit at the next APFHD BGM in 2020.

### ***APFHD: New Executive Committee***

The Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD) was founded March 1, 2012 by representatives from ten countries: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam. At present, APFHD has additional members from Cambodia, Japan, and New Zealand. APFHD is a regional member of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH).

On August 23, 2018, the APFHD held a successful BGM in Bangkok, Thailand. The Election Commission conducted the election and the results are as follows:

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Ms. Duong Phuong Hanh, Vietnam       | President         |
| 2. Mr. Chhim Kim Hean, Cambodia         | Vice-President    |
| 3. Mr. Raphael D. Torralba, Philippines | Vice-President    |
| 4. Mr. Isaque Mia, Bangladesh           | General-Secretary |
| 5. Ms. Tuya Mijiddorj, Mongolia         | Treasurer         |



**APFHD Board members:**  
Raphael D. Torralba, Duong Phuong Hanh, and Tuya Mijiddorj

IFHOH expresses its wishes for continued success to APFHD and to all the members of its new Executive Board.

# SHRUTI's Advocacy Activities and the CRPD



By Neeta Keshary Bhattarai



## BACKGROUND

The Nepalese Government ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD, also known as the CRPD) on May 7, 2010. This committed the government to ensure that the rights of all people with disabilities and recognised and addressed in national laws. However, to date, the Nepalese Government's implementation of the UNCRPD has not been complete. The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines people who are Hard of Hearing (HoH) as people who can hear between 26 and 80 decibels (dB). However, in the *Nepal Disability Act 2074*, only people who can hear above 65 to 80 dB (only the people with severe to profound hearing loss) are considered to be hard of hearing. As a result, people who are HoH are excluded from receiving a disability identity card and benefits such as a disability allowance, free education, free legal aid and access to accessibility and rehabilitation services.

People who are HoH rely mainly on spoken communication and require assistive services such as hearing aid, captioning, speech to text, and note taking to help them understand verbal communications. People who are deaf communicate primarily via sign language and some require spoken language communication. In the *Nepal Disability Act*, both people who are HoH and people who are deaf are considered to have the same needs, with the act stating that both groups should have access to sign language. The *Disability Act* does not mention that people who are HoH also require captioning, speech to text and note taking services. As a result, people who are HoH have been disadvantaged, discriminated against and are unable to fully participate in society on the same basis as their hearing friends, family members and colleagues.



Our organisation, SHRUTI (National Association of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened Nepal) is an IFHOH Member Organization actively involved in advocacy with the Nepalese Government over the last few years to ensure that the UNCRPD is implemented, and the rights and needs of people who are hard of hearing and deafened (HoH/d) are included, in national policies and laws.

## ***SHRUTI's ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES***

### ***Nepalese Constitution and Disability Act 2074***

Over the last few years, SHRUTI has continuously advocated with the Nepalese Government to address the rights and access of people who are HoH/d to free education, health and communication services (such as captioning and notetaking) in the Nepalese Constitution and other relevant policies. Although all the needs of people who are HoH/d are were not included in the new *Constitution 2072* (2015 English calendar) and also not included in *Disability Act 2074* (2017 English calendar) SHRUTI's advocacy in this area has increased awareness within the government and the community about the rights and needs of people who are HoH/d.



### **UNCRPD Training Sessions**

Since 2012, SHRUTI has conducted various basic training sessions on the UNCRPD to its members who are HoH/d to increase their awareness about, and encourage them to claim, their rights. One of these sessions, run by SHRUTI in collaboration with the Nepal Disabled Human Rights Centre in 2013, involved the use of captioning services for the first time ever in Nepal. This helped people who are HoH/d to better understand and follow the information presented.

### **UNCRPD Shadow Report Submission**

SHRUTI contributed to the drafting of National Federation of the Disabled Nepal's (NFDN's) Civil Society Shadow Report on UNCRPD submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in July 2017 by providing information on the situation for people who are HoH/d in Nepal and the gaps within the Nepalese Government's policies and laws concerning people with disabilities (for example, lack of early identification services of hearing loss, lack of appropriate communication services for people who are HoH/d, and lack of access to education for people who are HoH/d).

However, the issues facing people who are HoH/d were not included in the final submission of the Shadow Report by NFDN to the UN Committee. Instead, SHRUTI submitted the issues to the UN Committee via email and also gave input during a workshop conducted by the International Disability Alliance on the Nepalese Government's implementation of the UNCRPD in July 2017.



### List of Issues Submission

Upon its review of the Nepalese Government's State Report on the UNCRPD, the UN Committee provided the Government with a "List of Issues" - a document identifying aspects of the State Report which required further clarification. SHRUTI's President, Neeta Keshary Bhattarai, was given the responsibility to coordinate the civil society response to List of Issues as part of her role as Board Member of NFDN. She contributed to the report by providing input on the gaps in the Nepalese Government's current laws and policies regarding people who are HoH/d and by providing suggestions on how the rights of people who are HoH/d could be better addressed.

However, lack of strong advocacy of SHRUTI to include issue of Hard of Hearing, NFDN submitted the final document to the UN in January 2018. Some of the rights and needs of people who are HoH/d were not included in this submission, such as the exclusion of people who are HoH/d from disability employment quotas and the need for rehabilitation services for people who are HoH/d) and also lack of accessibility needs for Hard of Hearing.

### Geneva: General Session on Nepalese State Report, Shadow Report, List of Issues

In light of the above challenges, I travelled to Geneva in February, 2018 to attend the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to advocate about the rights of people who are HoH/d. I attended the main session on the Nepalese State Report and List of Issues, Shadow Report and voiced my concerns about the exclusion of people with mild and moderate hearing loss from the Nepalese Government's definition of disability. I also advocated for the needs of people who are HoH/d to be included during meetings with the International Disability Alliance and side meetings with members of the UNCRPD Committee.

### Successes and Future Advocacy Work

SHRUTI's sustained and continuous advocacy efforts over the last few years paid off with the UNCRPD Committee recommending in its *Concluding Observations in relation to the initial report of Nepal* document that the Nepalese Government change the classification of disability so that people who are hard of hearing are not excluded from this definition. This was a huge success for the organisation and for all people who are HoH/d in Nepal. However, further advocacy with the Nepalese Government is needed to ensure that all rights and needs of people who are HoH/d (especially their communication and accessibility needs) are adequately recognised and addressed in policies and laws within Nepal.





The International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP) has a new logo! (The logo is the one you see above. You may remember the old logo that showed a snail holding an old-fashioned hearing trumpet.)



From July 30 to August 5, over 70 people from 16 countries spent a week together in a beautiful campsite in Veldhoven, Netherlands. IFHOHYP expresses its utmost appreciation to Sh-Jong, the Dutch hard of hearing organization and the Summer Camp planning committee for all the efforts they put into organizing this event.

IFHOHYP is preparing for its 2018 AGM taking place October 31 to November 4 in Istanbul, Turkey. Visit IFHOHYP's updated website at <http://ifhohyp.org/> for info. The event will be hosted by İşitme Engelliler ve Aileleri Derneği. The theme is *Combine our Powers for a Stronger HoH Bridge*, aiming to bring both existing and potential members to further the vision in expanding IFHOHYP's scope beyond the Western part of the globe. The AGM will also include the election of the next President and Vice-President.

Finally, IFHOHYP announces that it will be hosting its 12<sup>th</sup> Study Session on March 11 to 16, 2019. The theme will be *Keeping the World Accessible & Inclusive through a Policy-making Perspective* and it will be held in Strasbourg, France. This event has been made possible by a partnership with the Council of Europe Youth Department. Stay tuned in the fall for a call out for applicants; there are spaces for 30 persons.

## From the Ukraine: When the Silence Spoke

My name is Tetiana Maksymova, I am from Kyiv (Ukraine). I am writing regarding a special project with Ukrainian NGO «Vidchui». It has been helping people with hearing loss for over 7 years and is one of the leading organizations in this field in our country. This NGO has launched an educational social project: *When the Silence Spoke*, which covers over 15 social initiatives. One of these is *The Opera No One Heard*. You can see the video here: [https://drive.google.com/open?id=16Z5tAdrlO8jVLN\\_zMEST7EzA4OLDux6E](https://drive.google.com/open?id=16Z5tAdrlO8jVLN_zMEST7EzA4OLDux6E).



In Kyiv, Ukraine, during the famous *Nabucco* opera, the NGO «Vidchui» helped the audience realize what it is like to live in the world without sounds. To live in the world of silence. We share this video as much as possible in order to raise awareness, and encourage people to get their hearing checked.



# Calendar of Events

**October 27-28, 2018 – Coalition for Global Hearing Health  
9<sup>th</sup> International Conference**

*Working Towards Global Access to Care for Hearing Health*



**Location:** University of Cape Town, South Africa

**Information:** <http://cghh.usu.edu/> (link not active yet)

**Contact:** <http://coalitionforglobalhearinghealth.org/contact-us/>



Podium, poster, and interactive sessions with internationally recognized guest speakers - Meeting to be held on the campus of University of Cape Town

All day Saturday October 27, 2018, and half day Sunday October 28. Note: The World Congress of Audiology (WCA) will hold its opening ceremony on Sunday afternoon, so the Coalition's conference will end in time to join the opening ceremony of the WCA.

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**IFHOHYP  
AGM2018  
ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING**

October 31 - November 4  
2018

"Combine Our Powers For a  
Stronger HoH Bridge"

Contact Us: [genclik@ied.org.tr](mailto:genclik@ied.org.tr)  
Address: Kocatepe Mah. Topçu Cad. No: 2, 34437  
Beyoğlu-İstanbul-TURKEY

**April 5-7, 2019 – EFHOH AGM 2019**

**SAVE THE DATE!**



**Zagreb**  
CROATIA



# News Bytes News Bytes

## HLAA LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE



The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is an IFHOH Member Organization. It has completely redesigned and updated its website, [hearingloss.org](http://hearingloss.org). It contains a lot of information to help people on their hearing loss journey. Along with a beautiful design, the new site features improved navigation to help you find what you're looking for quickly and easily, and it's mobile-friendly - that means you can take it with you wherever you go, no matter what type of device you're using. With all new accessibility features for those with low vision and the ability to translate text into more than 100 languages, anyone, anywhere can get the benefits of all the site has to offer.

## GOUT LINKED TO INCREASED RISK OF HEARING LOSS IN OLDER ADULTS

According to a newly published study in *BMJ Open*, older patients with gout were more likely to develop hearing loss than those without the condition.

Gout is a form of arthritis that is characterized by sudden, severe attacks of pain, swelling, redness and tenderness in the joints. The condition has risk factors similar to hearing loss, and has been suspected to have some shared pathogenesis, which is what led investigators to search for whether a correlation exists between the two conditions. Source: [READ MORE](#).

## GOOGLE SEEKS TO MAKE ANDROID MORE HEARING AID FRIENDLY

GN Hearing and Google have a new technology partnership that will make GN Hearing the first manufacturer to enable a full spectrum of direct audio streaming from Android devices to hearing aids. "Google is working with GN Hearing to create a new open specification for hearing aid streaming support on future versions of Android devices," stated Seang Chau, VP of Engineering at Google.



Users will be able to connect and monitor their hearing aids, so they can get the full advantages of their Android devices without using an intermediate device for streaming to their hearing aids. This will allow more people to call friends; enjoy music and sound experiences. (Excerpt of article that originally appeared on *Business Wire*.)





## ***IFHOH JOURNAL***

The deadline for submissions for the next issue is October 30, 2018.  
**Contributions are welcome!**

The preferred length for articles is one page (400 to 500 words). Short and long articles, from 25 to 1,500 words, may also be accepted. News bytes and announcements of coming events are appreciated, including photographs and illustrations. Please send pictures in jpeg format and files as rich text or word documents. Many thanks!

Carole Willans, Editor, *IFHOH Journal*, email: [journal@ifhoh.org](mailto:journal@ifhoh.org)



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**The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH)** is an international non-governmental organisation representing the interests of more than 300 million hard of hearing people worldwide. IFHOH is registered as a charitable organisation at Vereinsregister Amtsgericht Hamburg, Germany (Nr. 69 VR 10 527) and is also an International Non-Governmental Organisation having special consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). IFHOH is a member of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and works closely with the UN system using the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a tool for change.





## IFHOH Board

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IFHOH Board (from left to right): Heikki Niemi, Avi Blau, Ruth Warick, Patrick Gift Egessa, Marcel Bobeldijk and Hanh Duong Phuong (Hanh is photo-shopped in)