



IFHOH JOURNAL

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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
- Nr. 69 VR 10 527.*

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. The Editor can be reached at 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.



Ljubljana, Slovenia – Site of the IFHOH BGM in April 2023 (Photo by Marcel Haring from Tirol, Austria)

From the Editor's Desk

From the Editor's Desk



Carole Willans, Editor

Hard of hearing people around the world continue to deal with the medicalized view of hearing loss. In this context, hearing loss is treated as a biomedical issue to be "cured", or a technical one to be accommodated. We all know it is so much more than that! Hearing loss is a group identity, one that can even be celebrated! (World Hearing Day is indeed celebrated every year on March 3.) Around this axis of identity, there are communities at the local, national, and international levels. IFHOH is the living manifestation of the international community of hard of hearing people.

IFHOH invites you to meet members of the international community in Ljubljana, Slovenia next April! You will find more information in this issue.

IFHOH President's Message

IFHOH President's Message



Avi Blau, President

On 19-20 April 2024 IFHOH will have its Biannual General Meeting (**BGM**), together with EFHOH AGM and a conference to talk about all the news and developments related to hearing loss. Detailed program will be sent.

IFHOH board members are working all the time to represent the HOH community on the world level. We have a project about how to have more captions in developing countries. We try to understand the implications of ASR (Automatic Speech Recognition) in various situations and various environments. We send the right persons to represent the HOH interests in events in Geneva, Los Angeles, Dubai, and more.

As we add more files for the BGM, you can always find the updated BGM files by going to www.ifhoh.org, click on the "Members" menu item, and Select "BGM files 2024". It is password protected as it is only for IFHOH members. Write to us to get the password.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the BGM, AGM, and Conference in Ljubljana in April. As usual, thank you to Carole, our Journal editor.



NOTICE OF IFHOH BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING (BGM)

Dear IFHOH members,

The IFHOH Biennial General Meeting (BGM) is scheduled for **20 April 2024**, to be held in person at the **Lev Hotel**, located at Vošnjakova ulica 1, 1000 **Ljubljana, Slovenia**.

The Agenda for the BGM appears on the following page. If you have any additional business for discussion at the BGM or a motion to propose, please provide by 20 January 2024 by email to info@ifhoh.org. You may also send an email to the same address if you have any questions or comments.

This information is being communicated to all members of IFHOH. Upcoming emails from IFHOH will provide additional information, including a link to register for the IFHOH BGM. This is to allow us to prepare the IFHOH BGM and to ensure that the quorum is reached.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the IFHOH Biennial General Meeting in 2024 in Ljubljana!

Note: You must register separately for the main Conference organized by ZDGNS (Deaf and Hard of Hearing People of Slovenia) and the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH). The registration for the main Conference will soon be open.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the well-being of the community of hard of hearing people.

Kindest regards,

Carole Willans
General Secretary, IFHOH
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Committed to Worldwide Hearing Accessibility

IFHOH Biennial General Meeting (BGM)

Saturday, 20 April 2024

AGENDA

Meeting commences at 9:00 a.m.; concludes at 12 noon.

On-site registration commences at 8:30 am.

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome and Announcements
3. Greetings
4. Roll Call and Distribution of Voting Cards
5. Approval of the Minutes from the previous BGM
6. IFHOH BGM Report
7. Treasurer's and Auditor's Reports
8. Appointment of the Auditor
9. Motions
 - Membership fees for developing countries
10. Report of the Nominations Committee
11. Elections
12. Election of the Nominating Committee for 2024-2026
13. IFHOH Action Plan
14. IFHOH Budget Plan
15. IFHOH BGM 2026
16. EFHOH Report
17. IFHOHYP Report
18. APFHD Report
19. Africa Report
20. Member Reports
21. Other Business
22. Adjournment



As co-chairs of the IFHOH Nominations Committee, we are asking for your help to identify colleagues who would be well-suited to serve on the IFHOH Board of Directors, which is responsible for the governance and strategic direction of the organization. Nominations for the Board of Directors of IFHOH are now being accepted and may be submitted by **31 January 2024**. Positions open for nominations are:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- General Secretary
- Board Member-at-large

Successful candidates will serve a term of two years and will take office immediately following the IFHOH BGM being held 18 April 2024 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Candidates must be nominated by a member organization of IFHOH.

To make a nomination, please communicate to the co-chairs of the Nominating Committee by sending an email to ntkeshary@gmail.com and include:

- Biographical summary regarding the candidate (100-200 words)
- Statement by the member organization of the reasons for supporting the nomination of the candidate (100 to 200 words)
- Contact information for the candidate: (name, address, telephone, fax, email, etc.)
- Contact information for the member organization and for its representative who is making/signing the nomination (name, address, phone, fax, email, etc.)
- Confirmation that the nomination is supported by the IFHOH member organization and by the candidate.

Please send all documents (and any questions) to the email address of ntkeshary@gmail.com. Sending incomplete nominations or nominations-related information to another email address may result in it not being considered.

Thank you,
Neeta Keshary, Nepal
Moses Serwadda, Uganda
Co-Chairs of the IFHOH Nominations Committee

SOME OF THE IFHOH RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ALL!

THREE HYPERLINKS

Hearing Accessibility Guidelines

By Avi Blau and Others

This IFHOH paper is a guide for event organizers. It explains what a hearing loss is, What are the accessibility needs of Hard of Hearing persons. What are the possible assistive listening devices and systems, how to properly select and implement one of these systems. Among the amplification systems that are mentioned are Induction Loops, Infra-Red, FM, Bluetooth and WIFI Systems. The need for captions in parallel to the amplification is mentioned too.

IFHOH CI Position Paper

Editors: Bowen Tang, Ruth Warick and Carole Willans

The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) has long been in support of cochlear implants, having developed a policy paper in support of this technology in the mid-1990s. This new policy paper is a revision of the earlier document, taking a consumer-based approach and a clear position about the continuing support for CI.

The World Report on Hearing: An Advocacy Tool for HOH people

Authors: Lidia Best, Bowen Tang, Ruth Warick, Carole Willans

The first ever WHO *World Report on Hearing* is a seminal report on hearing healthcare which discusses barriers and solutions to improving the quality of life of persons with hearing loss. IFHOH, with EFHOH and IFHOHYP, have produced a summary of key issues arising out of the World Report. The document uses the framework of H.E.A.R.I.N.G. from the World Report to identify key messages; this summary document is intended as a tool for your advocacy work.

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