

IFHOH is pleased to congratulate its General Secretary Dr. Sinden-Carroll for being named a recipient of the prestigious Henry Viscardi International Achievement Award. Dr. Ruth Warick, President of IFHOH, stated that Louise's work on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has been enormously important for advancing hard of hearing issues and that it is heartening to see a leader in the community get recognition.

Dr. Louise Sinden-Carroll, who has a moderate hearing loss, is employed as the Chief Executive of The National Foundation of the Deaf. Besides being General Secretary, she is also IFHOH Human Rights Officer. She is the lead author of IFHOH's Toolkit and video on the CRPD. She facilitated Human Rights CRPD workshops and a discussion group for people with hearing loss from organisations in 26 countries.*

Dr. Sinden-Carroll believes the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is a global tool that provides people with disabilities the strength and capabilities to achieve a quality of life equal to that of people without disabilities.

"One hundred and sixty UN State parties have signed the CRPD," she says. "Governments cannot continue to deny the provision of reasonable accommodations needed to achieve equality for people with disabilities in all aspects of their lives including employment, in health, social and cultural too."

In 1999 when she became hard of hearing through an injury Dr Sinden-Carroll realised first-hand just how much of a challenge such a disability is. The challenge is further and significantly compounded by the lack of understanding in mainstream society.

"In fact, in some quarters at that time, it was not even recognised as a disability," she says. She believes this has changed quite dramatically during the past eight years with the UN Committee on the CRPD now querying States when reporting on whether captioning and other such options are being provided to people with hearing loss.

In September 2016 Dr Sinden-Carroll graduated with a PhD following submission of a public policy thesis considering the New Zealand Government response to prisoners with hearing loss.

The US-based Henry Viscardi International Achievement Award recognizes exemplary leaders within the disability sector globally for their extraordinary contributions to all of society. Viscardi Center founder Dr. Henry Viscardi Jr was one of the world's leading advocates for people with disabilities and served as a disability advisor to eight U.S. Presidents from Franklin D. Roosevelt to Jimmy Carter. In 2016 only eight people have been recognized worldwide.