



# IFHOH JOURNAL

*June 2022*  
V3

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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](http://www.ifhoh.org). The Editor can be reached at [journal@ifhoh.org](mailto:journal@ifhoh.org).*

# From the Editor's Desk

## From the Editor's Desk



**Carole Willans**  
IFHOH Interim General Secretary  
and IFHOH Journal Editor

Dear IFHOH friends,

Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, we have all learned a lot about resilience. In fact, when you really think about it, persistence and resilience can only be experienced and understood if we deeply and fully live them. And to fully internalize and manifest resilience is to be like bamboo, pliable in the winds of change.

Mizuta Masahide, a 17<sup>th</sup> century Japanese poet and samurai says it best: "***My barn having burned down, I can now see the moon.***" From this I understand that it is about being flexible, adaptable, and above all, remaining optimistic and ready to see the beauty hidden behind the change.



It is time to refocus, and to rebuild our social, economic and health systems in a way that empower and protect us all. It is a time for renewal - to carefully consider how to choose our leaders and allocate our resources. Our choices today will have long term implications for persons with disabilities, including hard of hearing people, as well as women, children, refugees, and other vulnerable populations. The UN Secretary-General recently said that armed conflicts, like the current one in the Ukraine, has highlighted that "persons with disabilities are often unable to flee the violence and do not receive adequate humanitarian support." (Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1120382>).

The IFHOH website, the IFHOH Publications (especially the one summarizing key aspects of the *World Hearing Report* - see later in this issue), the IFHOH Facebook page and this *IFHOH Journal* can be sources of inspiration for your efforts. Most of all, they are reminders that you are not alone and that we are strong together.

- Carole

# IFHOH President's Message



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

I am pleased to report that the IFHOH Congress is now going ahead from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 in the lovely Ensana Thermal Hotel Margaret Island in Budapest, Hungary. The Congress was postponed from earlier dates in May 2020 and March 2022 due to the pandemic, but now the world has opened up again and our Congress can proceed.

The IFHOH Biennial General meeting will be held on the first day of the Congress and members in good standing with IFHOH have been sent the notice of the meeting; if you are a member but did not receive it, please contact us at [info@ifhoh.org](mailto:info@ifhoh.org).



We are delighted that Dr. Shelly Chadha, Technical Lead, Programme for Ear and Hearing Care, World Health Organization (WHO) will be a keynote speaker at the Congress. She will update us on developments following the release of the *WHO World Report on Hearing* just last year.

We will have a special session focusing on the humanitarian relief crisis being experienced by hard of hearing persons in Ukraine. Dr. Ádám Kósa, President of the Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, known as SINOSZ, will be one of the panel members.

We will also have many other esteemed and knowledgeable presenters. Please go to the Congress website of <https://ifhoh2022budapest.com/> for more information about the Congress or see more in this issue. SINOSZ and the Congress Secretariat have been working very hard with us to bring this premiere conference to you, I am looking forward to connecting in person with you after two years of basically virtual interactions.



**Dr. Ruth Warick and Dr. Ádám Kósa at the United Nations**

Last week I had the privilege of attending in person the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the United Nations in New York. My most important intervention was a speech to the Assembly addressing the need for affordable and quality hearing aids, cochlear implants, assistive technology, captioning, noise reduction, and for hearing health to be part of the public health agenda. I also called for building a society that fosters inclusion, recognizes the diversity of disability, including hearing loss, and upholds our human rights. The link to this presentation is on the IFHOH Facebook page: <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1f/k1fib1yg7n> at the 34-minute mark.



**Dr. Ruth Warick, IFHOH President, speaking at the United Nations in New York**



I am pleased that Moses Serwadda, a member from Uganda, moderated a COSP side-event session, and that Dr Kósa did a presentation. I also spoke at two other events, one on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and another on Realizing Meaningful Participation of Persons with Disabilities through Inclusive Programming, both on behalf of the International Disability Alliance, for which I am first Vice-chair.



Panel for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day event during COSP15  
(Dr. Ruth Warick is at top right.)

I would also like to thank other hard of hearing colleagues for their representation and participation at various events, making our presence known and our voices heard.

Finally, I wish to extend a warm welcome to Akram Muhammad, who recently became President of the Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD) and has joined the IFHOH Board. I also wish to draw your attention to a new paper produced by IFHOH summarizing key messages from the WHO *World Report on Hearing*, available on our website (see link on page 10 of this issue).

With warmest regards,

Dr. Ruth Warick  
President, IFHOH  
[info@ifhoh.org](mailto:info@ifhoh.org)



## **IFHOH BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING**

The IFHOH Biennial General Meeting (BGM) is scheduled to take place on 22 September 2022 – in conjunction with the IFHOH International Congress. The BGM will be held in person at the Ensana Hotel Margaret Island, in Budapest, Hungary.

All the documents relating to the BGM have been sent to all IFHOH members in good standing. These documents include the following:

- Agenda for the BGM
- Constitutional Changes proposed by the IFHOH Board
- Call for Nominations – deadline to return by 31 July 2022 to the Nominations Committee

Any member who has not received the said BGM documents should contact [info@ifhoh.org](mailto:info@ifhoh.org).

Carole Willans  
Interim General Secretary, IFHOH  
[Info@ifhoh.org](mailto:Info@ifhoh.org)

Note: Registration for the Congress is separate from the BGM. To register for the Congress, please go to <https://ifhoh2022budapest.com/>.



# WORLD WITHOUT BARRIERS

## IFHOH World Congress - Budapest 2022 IFHOH BGM/EFHOH AGM

**22 – 24 September 2022**

**IFHOH** and the **Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SINOSZ)** are proud to be hosting the **11th IFHOH World Congress** in Budapest, Hungary.

The theme of the Congress will be ***World Without Barriers***.

Originally scheduled for 27-29 of May 2020, the IFHOH World Congress was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**The new dates for the Congress are 22-24 September 2022.**

The Congress will take place in the historical city of **Budapest** which offers much charm and many interesting tourist sites.



The new venue is the Ensana Thermal Hotel Margaret Island, a contemporary facility in a lush natural setting.

**Early bird registration ends 30 June 2022.**

**Regular registration closes 8 September 2022.**

We invite you to join us for Congress 2022. It will be a wonderful opportunity to interact with friends and colleagues, focusing on issues of importance for improving the lives of hard of hearing persons.

Issues include technological, medical, personal, and social challenges, as well as ways of addressing them, and of influencing public policy to advance the rights of hard of hearing people.

As part of the Congress, IFHOH's Biennial General Meeting will occur on 10 March 2020. The European Federation of Hard of Hearing People will also hold a meeting. The International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People will hold a six-day Study Session around the Congress.

The program will include social events and opportunities for connecting with other hard of hearing persons, family members, professionals, and corporate participants. This long-awaited Congress is an opportunity not to be missed. We look forward to seeing you in Budapest, Hungary on 22-24 September 2022!



Dr. Ruth Warick, IFHOH President



Dr. Ádám Kósa SINOSZ President

For more information, check the website at <https://ifhoh2022budapest.com/>



## Recent IFHOH Publications

### IFHOH Publication #1 - Hearing Accessibility Guidelines



This IFHOH paper is a guide for event organizers. It explains what is a hearing loss, what are the accessibility needs of hard of hearing people, what assistive listening devices and systems are available, and how to properly select and implement one of these systems. Among the amplification systems that are highlighted are: Induction Loops, Infra-Red, FM, Bluetooth and WIFI Systems. The need for captions, in parallel to amplification, is also outlined.

By **Avi Blau and others**

Link to the Publication: [Hearing Accessibility Guidelines](#)

### IFHOH Publication #2 - IFHOH CI Position Paper



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.

By **Bowen Tang, Ruth Warick and Carole Willans**

Link to the Publication: [IFHOH CI Position Paper](#)

### IFHOH Publication #3 - Summary of WHR Key Messages



The first WHO *World Report on Hearing* (WHR) 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 WHR. The document uses the framework of H.E.A.R.I.N.G. from the World Report to identify key messages; it provides a summary intended as a tool for the advocacy work of IFHOH member organizations.

By **Lidia Best, Bowen Tang, Ruth Warick and Carole Willans**

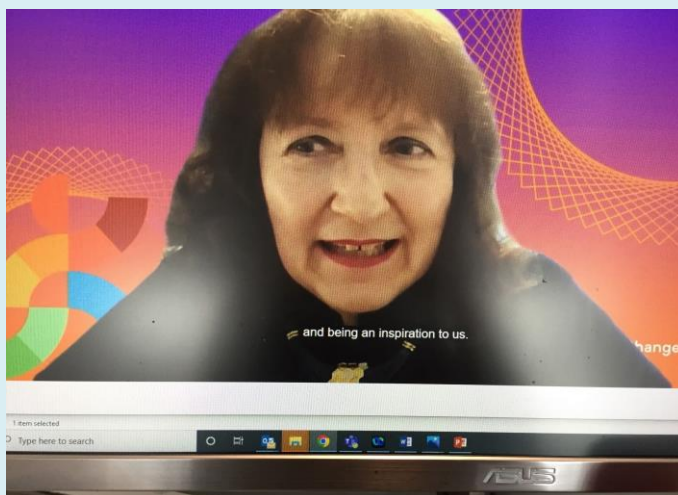
Link to the publication: [The world report on hearing: An advocacy tool for HOH people](#)



World Health Organization

## Global Report on Assistive Technology

The World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) did a virtual launch of the first [Global Report on Assistive Technology \(GReAT\)](#) on 16 May 2022. The GReAT report was developed in response to the World Health Assembly resolution WHA71.8 on improving access to assistive technology adopted in May 2018. The WHO initiative involved data collected from 330,000 individuals from 32 countries.



IFHOH President, Ruth Warick, participated in the GReAT meeting

The global impact of the WHO-UNICEF Global Report on Assistive Technology is expected to be unprecedented. It recognizes assistive technology and enabling environments as a precondition for people in need to realize their human rights, and shares evidence-based best practice examples and 10 key actionable recommendations on improving access to assistive technology, for everyone, everywhere.

The launch was emceed by [Nujeen Mustafa](#), author, refugee, and disability rights advocate. She is a young kurdish refugee from Syria who recounted her 5,600 kilometers journey from Syria to Germany with her wheelchair. She explained how assistive technologies are supporting her. Ms. Mustafa introduced several guests who spoke on the relevance of assistive technology for everyone, everywhere. IFHOH President Ruth Warick was one of the panelists for the session.

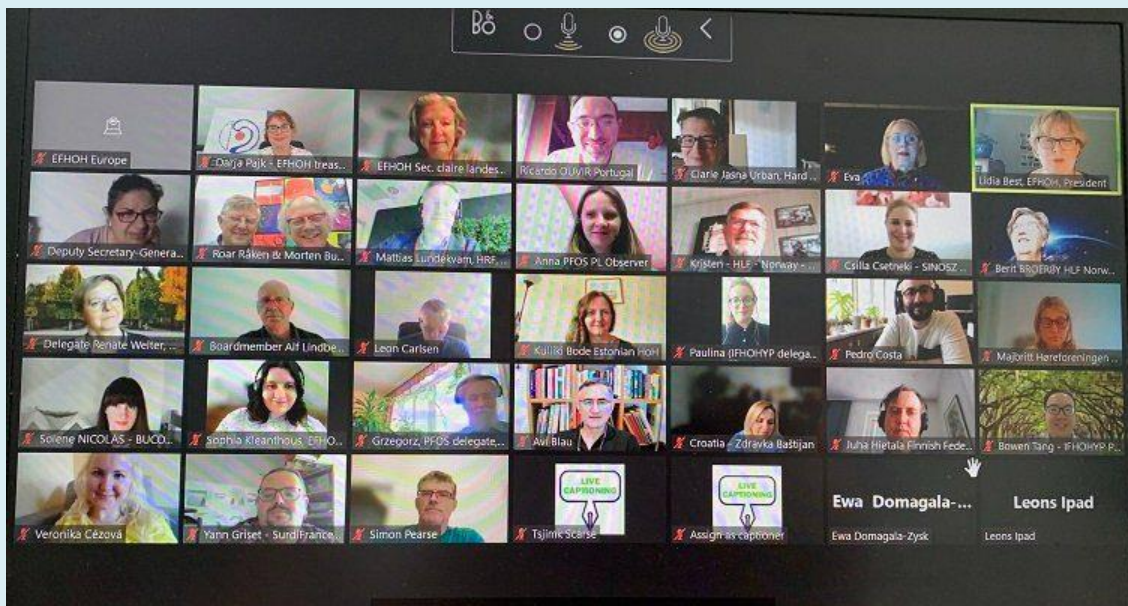


## EFHOH News



**Lidia Best, EFHOH President**

The most important recent event at EFHOH was its Annual General Meeting (AGM) held this May. It was a very successful virtual event, with many participants.



**Screenshot of some of the participants at the EFHOH May 2022 AGM, including Lidia in yellow frame at top right**

EFHOH is pleased to report on the European Disability Platform, which is a group of civil society representatives (including EFHOH) as well as Member States representatives and European Commission staff, based at the European Commission. It has recently approved its workplan, which has three flagship initiatives: Employment, Disability Card, and Accessible EU. The latter initiative will focus on providing information and good practices on accessibility.



EFHOH is providing direct input for Accessible EU. It should lead to better access to transport, buildings, information, audio-visual information and communications. To support the European Commission with respect to Accessible EU, EFHOH has organized advisory groups to assist in gathering research and good practices, including minimum standards. Clearly defined requirements in the EU Member States will concretely improve accessibility in measurable terms.

There are many ongoing projects within EFHOH and its national member organisations, which are too many to list here! However, I would like to highlight one in particular. EFHOH and the Nordic Association of Hard of Hearing People (NAHH) are collaborating on the *Empowering Hard of Hearing Citizens Project*.



The purpose of this project is to strengthen the capacity of national member organisations to influence public policies and programmes. The project is funded by the NAHH and involves training and mentoring national organisations in Iceland and the Faroe Islands in how to cooperate with public authorities in the design and implementation of relevant policies. This has involved working with the hard of hearing organizations of Iceland and of the Faroe Islands, and it has led to meetings with key Ministers who will present the demands of the organizations to the Nordic Council of Ministers. The demands include accessibility in schools, and making sure that people working in the national health sector are qualified and have skills to provide care, to communicate, and to generally support hard of hearing people.

# Special EFHOH Report on HeAL 2022

**EFHOH Board members succeed in making the PATIENT PERSPECTIVE session at HEAL 2022 inclusive for hard of hearing persons!**

Lidia Smolarek Best, EFHOH's President, reports that EFHOH's return to the HeAL Conference (*Hearing Across the Lifespan*) was a success!



The HeAL Conference had previously received criticism around the lack of access for hard of hearing delegates. This year, Lidia managed to convince HeAL 2022 President Ferdinand Grandori, and the organising agency, Meet & Work (Mario Sbalchiero), to add an extra screen, and create a web connection for the professional speech to text interpreter, resulting in an inclusive session for hard of hearing people. Achieving success required an open-minded approach, especially when it came to educating on the difference between auto captioning and human generated captioning (often known as STTR or CART).

The moderator, Cherilee Rutherford (Chief Audiologist at the Aida Institute), started with two presentations: *It's a family thing: Authentic ways to effectively involve communication partners in appointments* and *My Hearing Explained - Describing hearing test results in person-centered ways*. Both had interactive easy-to-follow content, visuals, and videos. Darja Pajk, EFHOH's Treasurer, followed with a very personal story on *Journey in and from the silence*, with video statements from her mother, daughters, partners, and colleagues, on how they experienced Darja's journey. Very emotional and enlightening! Lidia presented on *Hearing Aids Reimbursement systems in Europe - can we do better supporting people with hearing loss? - we are not walking audiograms!*, a dynamic talk about accessibility of quality person-centred hearing care and how to join forces for advocating. Sue Archbold and Brian Lamb spoke on *Advocacy action by family and user groups to influence global public health policies on hearing care*.

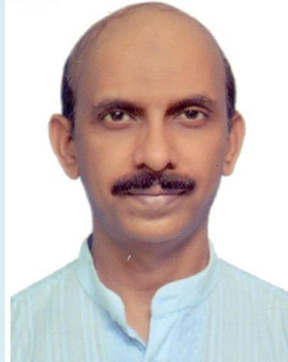
During the conference, there was a session on *Make Listening Safe and Leveraging World Hearing Report*. The conference was a great opportunity for collaboration, networking, and advocacy with many members of World Hearing Forum in attendance. More information about the conference can be found at this link <https://www.heal2022.org/>. We look forward to returning in 2024 and making conference even more inclusive!



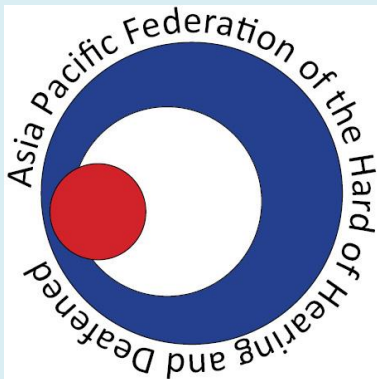
Photo credit: Mark Laureyns



# APFHD News



**Akram Muhammad, APFHD President**



The Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD) is a regional network of formal and non-formal organizations of hard of hearing and deafened people in Asia and Pacific (AP) region. APFHD provides a platform to unite voices of millions of people who are hard of hearing and deafened, raise awareness, and protect their rights in Asia and Pacific region. I am pleased that APFHD is now getting back to being more active after the corona virus pandemic.

APFHD has some recent changes in Executive Committee. The new Executive Committee for 2022-2024 is as follows:

1. Mr. Akram Muhammad - President - Pakistan
2. Mr. Chhim Kim Hean - Vice President I - Cambodia
3. Mr. Raphael Torralba - Vice President II - Philippines
3. Ms. Neeta Bhattarai - Secretary General - Nepal
4. Ms. Tuya Mijiddorj - Treasurer - Mongolia

APFHD is also developing its new website at [www.apfhd.net](http://www.apfhd.net). The website cannot yet be accessed because it is currently still under construction.

We at APFHD are hoping to play a more active role for the betterment of hard of hearing and deafened communities in the Asia and Pacific region.



## IDA News #1 - Global Disability Summit



The International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the Government Norway hosted the [second Global Disability Summit \(GDS22\)](#) on 15 - 17 February 2022. It was mainly virtual due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and to allow for wider participation.

The purpose of the Summit was to mobilize efforts for the implementation of the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)*, the principle of *leaving no one behind*, and on building back better and more inclusively following the pandemic.

The [first Global Disability Summit \(GDS18\)](#), held in 2018 in London was game changing, and so the second Summit (GDS22) built on the results achieved at the first, with the aim to further accelerate much needed progress towards the fulfillment of the rights of persons with disabilities all over the world.

The GDS 2022 was live streamed on the Government of Norway's website. You can download the Chair's Summary [here](#). You can click on this link to [watch the recordings of the GDS2022](#) (available in English).

With more than 7,000 participants, and [1420 new commitments](#) made by over 190 stakeholders, the virtual two-day summit witnessed the announcement of new policies and funding, as well as initiatives to support people with disabilities in education, inclusive health care, in the job market, and in gender rights. There were also pledges to ensure that the voices of

Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) were heard, and that there was meaningful consultation with them when vital decisions were taken. Meaningful OPD participation was a theme that resonated strongly through the two days at the Summit and among many of the side-events. This was reinforced by the launch of the [GDS discussion paper on OPD engagement](#).



The two-day event saw the participation of the UN Secretary General, high-level government representatives and directors of UN agencies, along with representatives of multilateral development banks, the private sector, OPDs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia, and businesses.

GDS2022 was preceded by the world's first [Global Disability Youth Summit](#), co-hosted by IDA, UNICEF, and the Atlas Alliance, held on 14 February 2022. A [Civil Society Forum](#), held on 15 February 2022 also further entrenched the mechanism regionally and mobilized efforts for commitments with 5 Regional Summits, 4 Thematic Workshops, 2 Thematic Roundtables, and 91 side [events held in parallel](#) to the GDS22.

## IDA News #2 - Equalising Access to the Labour Market

The IDA released a Technical Paper on implementing Article 27 of the CRPD, to answer the question: *If placing individuals with disabilities into jobs does not create sustainable inclusive employment, what else should be done?* For more information, click on this link: [Equalising access to the labor market for persons with disabilities](#).



## IDA News #3 - Rights of the Child



On 13 June 2022, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) published its *Concluding Observations* adopted at its [90th session](#) (held 3 May 2022 to 3 June 2022), during which it reviewed States reports from, and held constructive dialogues with, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Greece, Iceland, Kiribati, Somalia and Zambia. Find all the States reports [here](#). The *Concluding Observations* include many recommendations to States to enhance implementation and protection of the rights of children with disabilities. For more information, click on this link: [CRC Committee publishes Concluding Observations adopted at its 90th session](#).

## IDA News #4 - COSP15 Side Event - Four Months of War - What Is Happening to Ukrainians with Disabilities?



At a live webcast launched 14 June 2022, the IDA initiated discussions on how the new Disability Inclusive Emergency Response Mechanism will help to fill a gap in coordination to enhance disability inclusion in emergency response and coordination. Many relevant UN agencies, civil society, organizations of persons with disabilities, governments, donors, academics, and other stakeholders participate in consultation and exchange meetings. Organizations of persons with disabilities, disability rights experts and States engaged in the emergency response in Ukraine provide the most recent updates on the situations of persons with disabilities affected by the armed conflict and share their recommendations and requests with other UN Member States, donors, humanitarian actors and other stakeholders. For more information, click on the following link: [Four months into war - What is happening to Ukrainians with disabilities?](#) First published on [PR Web](#).

## IDA News #5 - Meaningful OPD Participation

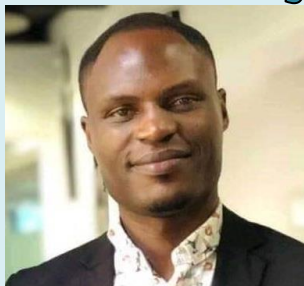
IDA recently published the *Report of the 2nd IDA Global Survey on Participation of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)*. This report presents the findings of the [2nd IDA Global Survey](#) led by OPDs, including IFHOH, on their participation in decision making processes of governments, the UN system and funding agencies. This report provides a comparison against the baseline of the 1st Global Survey report entitled "[Increasingly consulted, but not yet participating: IDA Global Survey Report on Participation of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities](#)" (survey conducted in 2018, report published in 2020). It assesses and compares the quality, depth, scope, and relevance of OPDs participation in programmes and policies, and offers recommendations to governments, the UN system and funding agencies.

For more information, click on the following link: ["Not Just Ticking the Disability Box? Meaningful OPD Participation and the Risk of Tokenism"](#).





# Inclusion Works Project - Kenya



By Moses Serwadda

On 19 - 20 May 2022, I represented IFHOH, in a learning and exchange workshop on ***Inclusion Works*** organized in Nairobi, Kenya by the International Disability Alliance (IDA), in partnership with the African Disability Forum (ADF), and the Union of Disabled People of Kenya (UDPK).

The Learning & Exchange Workshop gathered IDA members, stakeholders, and partners to review and exchange outcomes and learning from projects and initiatives aimed at promoting access to employment, and meaningful engagement of organisations of persons with disabilities (OPD) in projects.

The workshop had a diverse group of participants, including partners, employers, OPD representatives whose research focused on *Inclusion Works* as well as other stakeholders. These persons deliberated on article 27 of the CRPD, with specific emphasis on the research outcomes of various studies (fellowships) to produce collective recommendations and strategize on how to advance the knowledge, and key lessons to accelerate the momentum for the realization of Article 27, including advocacy, programming, and so on.



Discussing the potential for a unified voice of hard of hearing persons in Africa: Idriss Maiga (President, African Disability Forum), Moses Serwadda, and Hassan Waddimba (captioner)



**Moses Serwadda presenting**

In my presentation, I spoke about job seeker readiness and highlighted critical findings of the research regarding the perceptions of both employers and employees. I also gave practical recommendations in context of OPD engagement in Uganda. I noted that some of the critical findings curtailing employment of persons with a hearing loss included: stigma and discrimination, limited awareness of hard of hearing persons and their reasonable accommodations needs among employers, misconceptions between deaf and hard of hearing persons, the fact that employers'

organizations lack policy guidelines and procedures related to the meaningful recruitment of persons with a hearing loss, difficulties communicating with persons with a hearing loss exacerbated by use face masks, lack of employability/job readiness skills for employees with hearing loss among others.

I concluded by sharing recommendations in the context of OPD Engagement to promote job-seeker readiness as follows:

- OPDs should be supported to develop campaigns to raise more awareness and greater visibility for hard of hearing persons/disabilities in the open labour market.
- OPDs should encourage their members to continuously apply for job opportunities across all sectors to increase their opportunities for recruitment.
- OPDs should be supported to continuously conduct capacity building trainings and mentorship programs for hard of hearing members/persons with disabilities to improve their skills in keeping with what is required in employment.
- OPDs should be supported to strengthen organizations of hard of hearing persons/disabilities so they can carry out important advocacy work around inclusive employment for hard of hearing persons.

Overall, the learning and exchange workshop provided an opportunity for participants to take stock of what has been done, exchange learning, produce recommendations and identify next steps and areas for further collaboration. For myself, the key lesson was that the role of OPDs is not limited to identifying persons with disabilities seeking employment but should also include support throughout the entire cycle of promoting the progressive realization of inclusive employment.







The **International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP)**, with the Council of Europe Youth Department, is hosting a Study Session (StS) this year from 22 to 27 August 2022 at the European Youth Center in Budapest, Hungary. It will include six working days of highly interactive learning opportunities designed for young hard of hearing advocates from around the world. The process for applications is now closed. It is recommended that you visit IFHOHYP's website regularly at <http://ifhohyp.org/> to keep up to date on its activities.



You can check out a wide variety of **HOH Spotlight** stories online on IFHOHYP's website. These stories are of interest to hard of hearing people of all ages.

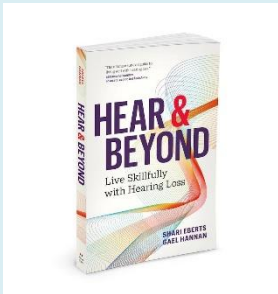
For example, you can read about Ashley Derrington, a young American woman who is actively sharing about hearing loss, traveling, pursuing her own business, and working on a personal project she calls 'Deaf, Tattooed, Employed' (for more on her project, click [here](#)). She speaks on how she copes with challenges. Here is the link to Ashley's and other stories on **HOH Spotlight**: <https://ifhohyp.org/spotlight/>.

You can also have a chuckle or two reading comics by Maria at: <https://ifhohyp.org/comics/>.



# New Book for the Hearing Loss Journey

Book Review, By Carole Willans



***Hear & Beyond, Live Skillfully with Hearing Loss, by Shari Eberts and Gael Hannan*** - This book is aptly dedicated: *To all people with hearing loss around the world. You are not alone.*

The authors take a novel approach to dealing with hearing loss - one that is based on their own successful journeys towards living skillfully and successfully with hearing loss. This self-help manual is peppered with stories, many laced with humor, all of them engaging. There is solid information about hearing aids and other devices, and how it is important to "befriend technology". At the same time, the limitations of technology are also realistically explained.

The book offers a novel skills-based approach to improving life with hearing loss - the reader is invited on a path that recognizes that it is not all about finding ways to hear better - at the end of the day, we are better served by acquiring skills to communicate better.

The authors explain that a successful hearing loss journey starts with a mindshift - moving away from unproductive mindsets. For example, it is not helpful to yourself or to others around you to think "I don't like to advertise my hearing loss." Being open about the hearing loss will improve the chances of communicating well. Trying to hide the hearing loss leads to misunderstandings. (p. 53)

My favorite part of the book focuses on "communication game changers", which includes practical tips around self-identification, being open about your communication needs, speechreading basics, advocating for yourself, and NO BLUFFING! There are many ingenious lists of "hearing hacks" (tips to cope successfully with hearing loss in the workplace, in the home, and other environments.)

"Hearing loss is universal in scope, yet intensely personal," the authors declare. (p. 271) That makes sense to me. In fact, this book makes a lot of sense to me. To persons on the hearing loss journey, this book can provide support, encouragement, and - great ideas!

**Shari Eberts** is a hearing health advocate and recognized author and speaker on hearing loss issues. Connect with Shari: [Blog](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#). **Gael Hannan** is a humorist, writer, and speaker on hearing loss issues. Connect with Gael: [Blog](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

Order on-line: <https://livingwithhearingloss.com/hearandbeyond/>



Shari Eberts



Gael Hannan

# Calendar of Events

**22 – 24 September 2022**  
**11<sup>th</sup> IFHOH World Congress**



**IFHOH World Congress** will be held in Budapest, Hungary, at the Ensana Thermal Hotel Margaret Island. The theme is *World Without Barriers*. The event is finally taking place after several postponements were caused by the pandemic and international travel restrictions.

SINOSZ (Siketek és Nagyothallók Országos Szövetsége), an organization for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons in Hungary and an IFHOH member, has worked hard on planning and preparing the Congress.

IFHOH and EFHOH are holding their BGM/AGMs during the Congress.

For information, visit the main conference page at <https://www.ifhoh2020budapest.com/>.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**5 - 9 September 2022 - IVSS Churchear**  
*20<sup>th</sup> International Conference for Pastoral Care among Hard of Hearing*



Location: **Eisenach, Germany**  
Information: <http://www.churchear.org/event/family-days/>  
Contact: [post@churchear.org](mailto:post@churchear.org)

\* \* \* \* \*

**19 - 23 October 2022 - ALDAcon 2022**  
*Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA) (U.S.A.)*

Location: **San Diego, California, U.S.A.**  
Information : <https://alda.org/aldacon-2022/aldacon-2022-registration/>  
Contact: Carrie Levin and Lisa Harbour, Program Co-Chairs  
E-mail: [aldaconprogchair@alda.org](mailto:aldaconprogchair@alda.org)



The Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA, Inc.) is holding its 33rd Annual International Convention in San Diego at the [Four Points Sheraton](#). Workshops cover a wide array of topics. This year's theme is CELEBRATING DIVERSITY!

\* \* \* \* \*



# News Bytes News Bytes

## CRPD COMMITTEE ELECTIONS



On 14 June 2022, at the Conference of States Parties, elections for the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) were held to elect 9 of the 18 members for 2023-2026. The CRPD Committee's composition now includes: 11 female members and 7 male members; 15 members with disabilities and 3 without; 6 members from Africa, 3 from Asia-Pacific, 0 from Eastern Europe, 4 from GRULAC and 5 from WEOG.

Source: [2022 CRPD Committee Elections](#)

## JOURNAL DISABILITY AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: CALL FOR PAPERS

People with disabilities are hardly ever addressed in discussions about displacement and war in media, research, and literature. What challenges do they face during war or while fleeing their homeland? How are their specific concerns addressed by humanitarian agencies? How do people with disabilities fare in host countries or displacement shelters?



This is a call for papers. The journal *Disability and International Development* features contributions in both English and German. Its objective is the scholarly and practice-oriented discourse on disability in low-income countries. Please go to [Journal - bezev](#) and read the *Information for Authors*, then contact the coordinating editor about your proposal via e-mail (Judith Langensiepen, [langensiepen@bezev.de](mailto:langensiepen@bezev.de)). The deadline for submission of papers: 31 July 2022.

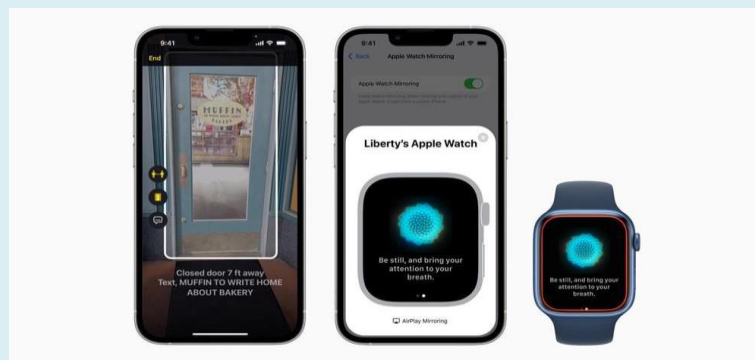
## HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE ACHIEVING BETTER LIVING WITH OTHERS DURING A PANDEMIC OR OTHER TIMES - FRENCH TEXT



The Research Centre of the University Institute of Geriatrics of Montreal (Canada) has published a booklet, *Pour mieux vivre ensemble avec la perte auditive en contexte de pandémie et en tout temps* (translation: *Hard of Hearing People Achieving Better Living with Others During a Pandemic or Other Times*). It provides clear information on how to cope with hearing loss in a positive way. The illustrations are delightful; however, the text is only available in French. If you are interested in reading this booklet, click on this link: [Pour mieux vivre ensemble avec la perte auditive en contexte de pandémie et tout temps](#).

## APPLE NEWS

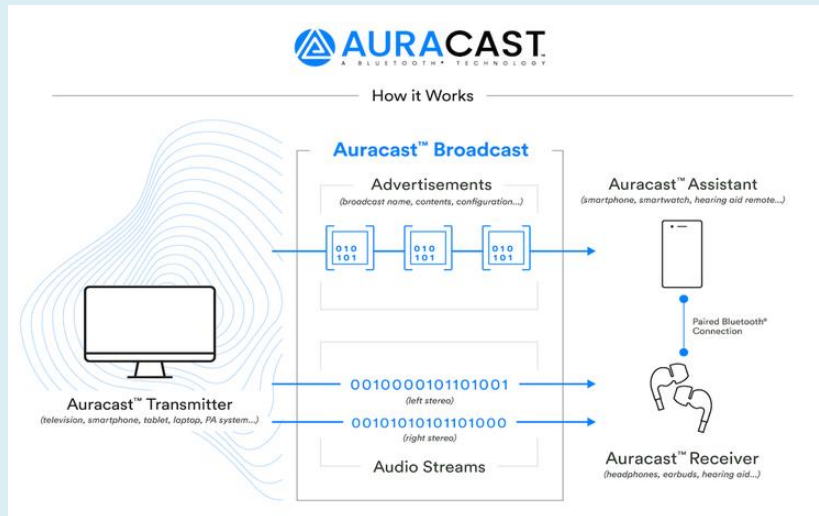
Apple recently released new software features, introducing new ways for users with disabilities to navigate, connect, and get the most out of Apple products. For persons with hearing loss, Apple introduced live captions to the iPhone, iPad and Mac. For more information, click on this link: [Apple previews innovative accessibility features - Apple](#).





## BLUETOOTH'S AURACAST

Bluetooth recently launched Auracast on 8 June 2022. According to Karl Strom writing in Hearing Tracker, it will open a new world of audio for hearing aid users. The new Bluetooth connectivity platform is designed to enable an audio transmitter, such as a smartphone, laptop, television, or public address (PA) system to broadcast audio to an unlimited number of nearby Bluetooth audio receivers—including hearing aids, cochlear implants, earbuds, and similar Auracast-enabled devices. For more information, go to this link: <https://www.hearingtracker.com/news/auracast-is-a-big-deal-for-hearing-aid-users>.



## RAYOVAC SOUND FUSION™ TECHNOLOGY



**SOUND  
FUSION**  
TECHNOLOGY

Hearing aid battery manufacturer, RAYOVAC, is rolling out its latest innovation to customers across the globe. Sound Fusion™ Technology is RAYOVAC's breakthrough upgrade to its size 312, 10 and 13 hearing aid batteries and shipping is underway to Pro Line and Extra customers. It had announced the new technology at the 65<sup>th</sup> International EUHA Congress which took place in September last year. The company advertises that the addition of Sound Fusion Technology will have 19% more battery life, 9 more hours of wireless streaming, and more consistent performance

To find out more about RAYOVAC's offer to trade customers and the Pro Line Excellence Club, visit

<https://www.rayovac.eu/en/trade-customers/audiologists>



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supporting them*

*This issue features Bernafon!*



Since 1946, **Bernafon** has been passionate about developing quality hearing systems that enable people with hearing difficulties to enjoy authentic listening experiences. With Swiss Engineering, precision technology, and our commitment to individual service, we strive to exceed our customers' expectations. Our aim is to provide extra value to our partners every day. Bernafon representatives and employees in over 70 countries fulfill our vision to help people with impaired hearing communicate again without limitations.



(Source of image: Bernafon website: [https://wdh02.azureedge.net/-/media/bernafon/main/images/global/hearing-aids/about-hearing-aids/ah\\_art\\_man\\_in\\_hotel\\_insitu\\_02\\_rgb\\_hi\\_1920x680.jpg?h=680&la=en-CA&w=1920&rev=6DCD&hash=D542B1093CEA5F40FC881FC4D84F8851](https://wdh02.azureedge.net/-/media/bernafon/main/images/global/hearing-aids/about-hearing-aids/ah_art_man_in_hotel_insitu_02_rgb_hi_1920x680.jpg?h=680&la=en-CA&w=1920&rev=6DCD&hash=D542B1093CEA5F40FC881FC4D84F8851))

## ***IFHOH JOURNAL***

The deadline for submissions for the next issue is October 30, 2022.  
**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)



**MISSED AN ISSUE OF *IFHOH JOURNAL*?  
LOOKING FOR AN ARTICLE THAT YOU  
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<https://www.ifhoh.org/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 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.



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