



Co-operation Agreement between World Federation of the Deaf and European Union of the Deaf

Preamble

The World Federation of the Deaf (hereinafter referred to as WFD)

And

The European Union of the Deaf (hereinafter referred to as EUD)

(hereinafter referred to as the "Parties")

Wishing to co-ordinate their efforts within the framework of their respective mandates;

Bearing in mind WFD's rationale: WFD works towards the global achievement of human rights for all deaf people and develops its activities towards the goal of equalisation of opportunities and full participation in society by deaf individuals in every country in accordance with the principles and objectives of the United Nations (UN) Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and other general acts and recommendations of the UN and its specialised agencies. Its aims are:

- To advocate for an accessible society, including a bilingual educational environment as well as services and information provided in sign language, where deaf people can enjoy the same human rights as all other people;
- To promote the establishment of local, national and regional organisations of deaf people and to guide and support activities of all its members;
- To ensure that deaf people in every country have the right to promote and preserve their own sign languages and receive support for the advancement of their cultural and linguistic identities.

Also having regard to EUD's rationale: It is EUD's mission to promote, to advance and to protect the rights of and opportunities for Deaf people in the European Union and its work towards achieving an equal position in society with the recognition of Deaf people as full citizens in their own right. Its aims are:

- The recognition of the right to use an indigenous sign language;
- Empowerment through communication and information;
- Equality in education and employment.

Recalling that WFD and EUD are independent international non-governmental and non-profit-making organisations of and for d/Deaf people;

Recognising that WFD and EUD share common values on the rights of d/Deaf people across Europe, demonstrated by the joint signing of the 2010 Brussels Declaration on Sign Languages in the European Union;

Noting that the official languages for communication between WFD and EUD and amongst its members are International Sign and (written) English;

The Parties therefore agree as follows:

Article 1 - General Provisions

The purpose of this co-operation agreement is to establish a formal framework for co-operation between WFD and EUD and to reduce, wherever possible, duplication of services and resources in the achievement of common global and European objectives.

Article 2 - Areas of co-operation

Co-operation between both Parties will focus on but are not limited to the following areas of work:

- Support of and co-operation with National Associations of the Deaf (NADs);
- Promotion of human rights in any area regarding d/Deaf people's rights within the framework of the United Nations Human Rights system, paying particular attention to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Support and promotion of the recognition of national sign languages, including the implementation of legal measures.

Noting that all of the above activities are to relate to work carried out in those geographic areas covered by the European Union of the Deaf.

Article 3 - Consultation and exchange of information

The Parties shall, on a regular basis, keep each other informed of and consult on matters of common interest, which in their opinion are likely to require mutual collaboration.

Regular meetings shall be convened between representatives of both Parties to coordinate work planning and projects so as to avoid duplication of services and resources.

Consultation and exchange of information and documents under this Article shall be without prejudice to arrangements, which may be required to safeguard the confidential and restricted character of certain information and documents.

The Parties shall invite each other to send observers to both WFD and EUD Board meetings and to WFD/EUD Annual/General Meetings, as well as to meetings and conferences convened by them or under their auspices in which, in the opinion of either Party, the other may have an interest. Any fees or travel costs related to the attendance of the observer from a Party shall be covered by its own respective organisation and shall not be claimed to the inviting Party.

Article 4 - Representation

As both Parties represent the d/Deaf community at European and/or international meetings and conferences, clear delineation of the roles of both Parties is required so as to avoid duplication of services and resources and to ensure full representation of the d/Deaf community in any meeting and conference. Each Party shall respect the scope of representation of the other Party.

The Party shall inform the other Party in case of impossibility to attend a meeting or conference that relates to its scope of representation. In this case, it may delegate its mandate to the other Party for the meeting or conference concerned.

WFD shall represent the d/Deaf community, participate in the work of and/or cooperate with the following institutions/organisations at international level:

- United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), its functional and regional commissions as well as specialised agencies, such as
 - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
 - International Labour Organization (ILO);
 - World Health Organization (WHO);
 - World Bank (Global Partnership for Disability and Development, GPDD);
 - International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- United Nations Secretariat and its offices and departments, such as
 - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);
 - Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA);
 - Department of Public Information (DPI).
- United Nations programmes and funds, such as
 - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) through its special procedures and Universal Periodic Review (UPR)
- United Nations Treaty based Bodies, such as the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD Committee)
- Council of Europe (CoE)
- World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI)
- International Congress on the Education of the Deaf (ICED)
- International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSF)
- International Disability Alliance (IDA)
- Panel of Experts supporting the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on Disability.

EUD shall represent the d/Deaf community to participate in the work of and/or cooperate with the following institutions/organisations at European level:

- United Nations Treaty-based Bodies, such as the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD Committee)
- Council of Europe (CoE)
- Economic Commission for Europe when it takes place in any city in the European Region
- European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (EFSLI)
- European Disability Forum (EDF)
- European Deaf Sports Organisation (EDSO)
- European Commission (EC)
- European Parliament (EP) and its members, in particular Members of the Disability Intergroup.

Article 5 - Revisions

1. The provisions of this co-operation agreement may be amended at any time, upon written agreement between the parties.
2. Either of the Parties may request (external) consultations with the intention of amending this Co-operation Agreement.

Article 6 - Commitment, Settlement of Disputes, and Termination

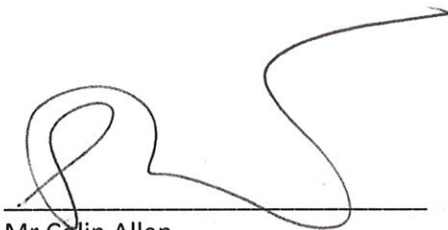
1. WFD and EUD confirm they are committed to co-operate and work together as much as possible in the fields mentioned above.
2. All disputes which may emerge in relation to the interpretation or application of the present Co-operation Agreement shall be settled by means of consultations and negotiations between representatives of WFD and EUD.
3. Either of the Parties may terminate the present Agreement by means of written notification to the other Party. The termination enters into force after the period of 30 days that starts on the first day of the month following the month in which the other Party received the written notification of termination.

Article 7 - Entry into Force and Duration

This Co-operation Agreement enters into force on the day on which it is signed by both Parties below.

This Co-operation Agreement contains the entire understanding between the Parties in relation to its subject matter. There are no express or implied conditions, warranties, promises, representations or obligations, written or oral, or signed in relation to this agreement other than those expressly stated in it or necessarily implied by international law.

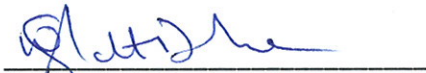
Signed at COPENHAGEN on the 19th day of MAY 2012



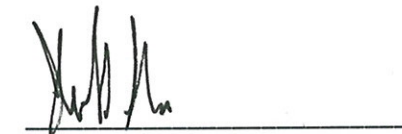
Mr Colin Allen
WFD President



Ms Berglind Stefánsdóttir
EUD President



Witness



Witness