



Legal Seat – Helsinki, Finland

WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

An International Non-Governmental Organisation in official liaison with ECOSOC, UNESCO, ILO, WHO and the Council of Europe. WFD was established in Rome in 1951.

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Submission on the Outline of the Draft General Comment No. 6

The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) welcomes the initiative of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) to prepare general comment on article 5 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The WFD would like to bring the following issues to the attention of the CRPD Committee when drafting the general comment further:

- **Heading: 7c. Grounds of discrimination.** The WFD would like to see linguistic being added to the list because deaf people are often discriminated by disability or language. Denial of providing information or service in sign language constitutes to linguistic discrimination.
- **Heading: 12. Article 9.** With regard to professional sign language interpretation, the WFD hopes to see clear mention on that national associations of the deaf led by deaf people need to be involved in the whole process: planning training and service programs, training and accrediting sign language interpreters. Moreover, the unwillingness or denial to fund sign language interpreter service is still common concern in different parts of the world. National governments need to be informed clearly that they discriminate deaf people if no funding is provided for training of sign language interpreters and use of sign language interpreter service.
- **Heading: 17. Article 24.** Deaf children are not equal until they are provided quality education in sign language. The WFD requests the CRPD Committee to explicitly mention in forthcoming general comment that unless education is provided in sign language deaf children are being discriminated.

If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact WFD Human Rights Officer Ms Eeva Tupi at eeva.tupi@wfd.fi

About the World Federation of the Deaf

The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) is an international non-governmental organisation representing and promoting approximately 70 million deaf people's human rights worldwide. The WFD is a federation of deaf organisations from 134 nations; its mission is to promote the human rights of deaf people and full, quality and equal access to all spheres of life, including self-determination, sign language, education, employment and community life. WFD has a consultative status in the United Nations and is a founding member of International Disability Alliance (IDA). (www.wfdeaf.org) Email: info@wfd.fi