CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Deadline for abstract submission:
June 15th 2018, 23:59 CET (Central European Time)

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Abstracts can only be submitted electronically via the online submission process, following the easy, step-by-step instructions. Abstracts submitted by email or fax will not be considered.
- You can submit your abstract until June 15th, 2018, 23:59 CET.
- Abstracts received after the deadline will not be accepted and will therefore not be considered for the programme or for publication.
- Abstracts must be submitted in written English OR in International Sign (internet link to be provided)
- Submission of an abstract does not guarantee acceptance for presentation at the congress.
- Submission of an abstract does not constitute registration for the conference.
- Submission of an abstract implies the commitment that if the abstract is accepted, the presenting author will attend the congress and the expectation that financial resources to attend are available (registration, travel and accommodation expenses will not be covered).
- Registration and payment of the fees must be completed by January 15th, 2019 at the latest. If the presenter fails to register and pay before January 15th, 2019, his / her abstract will be excluded from the scientific program and publication.
- If the original presenting author is unable to present, one of the co-authors should take over this responsibility.
- Travel Scholarship programme: The congress organisers offer a travel scholarship program for delegates from developing countries to ensure their representation at the congress and to promote international relations between researchers. In order to qualify, applicants must have successfully submitted an abstract to the Congress. Full Information and conditions are available on the following link: https://www.wfdcongress2019.org/travel-scholarship-program/78

Before starting your abstract submission, be sure you are ready to provide the following information:

- If you have chosen the video option for your submission, please make sure the video of your abstract is in IS (3 minutes maximum) – internet link to be provided
- Picture of the presenting author(s) (2 maximum) – file to be upload (type JPG, GIF or PNG file; width 400 pixels x height 400 pixels, 20’000 KB)

REVIEW PROCESS & NOTIFICATION

- Abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Programme Committee and external reviewers.
- Acceptance or rejection of an abstract will be based on the average grade awarded by the reviewers.
- Although the Scientific Programme Committee will make the final decision as to how the abstract will be presented, a preference for platform presentation or poster can be indicated.
- Selected abstracts will be presented as platform presentations or as posters.
- Authors will be notified of the selection results by email by the end of September 2018 and will receive all technical information and presentation instructions prior to the Congress.
## ABSTRACT CATEGORIES (WFD Commissions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commission 1: Sign Language and Deaf Studies</th>
<th>Keywords</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deaf communities around the world are experiencing a particularly dynamic period and this Commission calls for papers that look forward to the future and the endless possibilities for these communities. This Commission looks at the importance of and contribution made by deaf people in society, the vitality of sign languages and the critical nature of Deaf Studies.</td>
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<td><strong>Sign Language</strong> is vital for access and inclusion in the community for deaf people. This Commission will highlight initiatives to promote the use of sign languages and facilitate the legal recognition of sign languages. These presentations should look at the impact these laws have had on deaf people’s achievement of human rights.</td>
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<td><strong>Deaf Studies</strong> research has the potential to empower Deaf communities to influence and shape socio-political trends. This Commission will examine the importance of academic research including knowledge sharing between Deaf Studies researchers and Deaf communities. Presentations that explore local and national best practices and future opportunities will be highlighted.</td>
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<td>- CRPD 2 / 9 / 21</td>
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<td>- SDG 16</td>
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<td>- Deaf people’s contribution to society</td>
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<td>- Future of the Deaf Community</td>
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<td>- Deaf Gain</td>
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<td>- Socio-political pre-conditions necessary for recognition of Sign Language</td>
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<td>- Legislation</td>
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<td>- International Day of Sign Languages</td>
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<td>- Shift from medical to linguistic and cultural models of deafness</td>
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<td>- Deaf Community’s place in society – linguistic minority status relative to disability group</td>
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<td>- Social construct of disability</td>
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<td>- Deaf Studies as a legitimate sphere of academic study</td>
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<td>- Knowledge transfer between the Deaf Community and researchers</td>
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<td>- New trends in Deaf Studies</td>
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### Commission 2: Deaf Education

The rights of deaf children to a quality education are enshrined in national and international legislation and associated standards. Nevertheless in many countries, these rights are not guaranteed with sign language given inadequate recognition and the right to an education in the native sign language often denied in practice.

There are substantial challenges in the form of neo-plateform ideologies attached to new technologies and the emphasis on narrow models of inclusive education.

Examination of legislation and its translation into practice in deaf education will be considered in this Commission. Papers should examine best practice including the benefits of bilingualism, the place of deaf and hearing professionals in language-rich learning environments and the importance of identity and peer support.

**Keywords**
- CRPD 24
- SDG 4
- Sign Language in education
- Early intervention using sign language
- Inclusive education
- Educational options in deaf education
- Deaf adult role models in education
- Development of identity for deaf children

### Commission 3: International Co-operation and Development

Partnerships between deaf people, deaf-led organisations, international development entities and local in-country agencies are critical to the realisation of deaf people’s rights.

This Commission will consider successful co-operative ventures which have had positive consequences for Deaf communities and examine challenges as well as lessons learnt with the intention that similar partnerships be replicated in other countries and regions.

Presentations from deaf-led projects and organisations situated in the Global South are particularly welcomed as are papers which look at co-operation projects of significance to deaf refugees around the world.

**Keywords**
- CRPD 32
- SDG 17
- Partnerships between the Deaf Community/people and international non-government organisations
- Partnerships between national/local deaf associations
- Measures to reduce global poverty and promote economic and social prosperity
### Commission 4: Technology and Accessibility

Access to and within wider society through sign language and/or visual communication is critical for deaf people to succeed in all aspects of life. Sign Language interpreters are but one means of access. Existing and new technologies also have the potential to promote increased inclusion in society.

This Commission will not only examine the latest trends in Sign Language interpreting but consider current and emerging technologies, tools and resources which utilise sign language that enhance accessibility in all areas of everyday life. This will include the need for standards, the cost implications and importantly, the human impacts associated with the advent of new technologies.

**Keywords**
- CRPD 9 / 21
- SDG 9
- Technological innovations relevant to the Deaf Community
- Technology breaking down barriers and supporting equality
- Deaf perspectives on technological developments
- Sign Language - a language of inclusion or accessibility ‘tool’

### Commission 5: Health

Physical and mental health is essential to deaf people’s individual and collective wellbeing, be they children or adults. This Commission will concentrate on the health care of deaf people across the whole lifespan and their families. Issues addressed will include the prerequisites to effective and accessible health care and lessons learnt from interactions between health practitioners and deaf people which could have wider positive impact, both for deaf and hearing people. Current obstacles and issues which influence the future health care of deaf people will also be examined.

Concerns about access to health care are exacerbated in some countries by circumstances of crisis, such as during natural disasters, war, internal or external displacement involving refugees and during epidemics. Language and communication barriers and economic insecurity factors need to be addressed if deaf people are to enjoy the same access to health services. Presentations which take into consideration the international context are particularly welcome. A human rights perspective on health care issues, particularly regarding genetic science and ideologies in relation to cochlear implantation and reproductive technologies is a critical component of this Commission.

**Keywords**
- CRPD 25
- SDG 3
- Role of WHO and other actors in the health sector
- Access to health-related information, particularly in sign language
- Innovative strategies in the delivery of health care for deaf people
- Disaster risk reduction for deaf people
- Well being programs for deaf people involved in crisis situations
- Deaf health professionals
- Genetics
- Medical developments and the ethical challenges for the Deaf Community
Commission 6: Employment

In recent years, increased access to college and university education and the ratification of rights-based legislation have had a transformational effect on deaf people’s employment prospects. Simply having a job is not sufficient. Equal employment opportunity is only possible through access to reasonable accommodations, professional development opportunities and to promotion.

This Commission is open to presentations which cover a range of employment opportunities for deaf people, from the necessary pre-conditions to enabling deaf people to secure work, to deaf entrepreneurs and governmental and private sector initiatives to ensure deaf people have access to and thrive within the workplace.

KEY THEMES & KEYWORDS

Key themes:
- Women’s Rights
- LGBTQI
- Deaf people with disabilities
- Deafblind people
- Indigenous
- Child of Deaf Adults (CODA)
- Senior Citizens
- Media
- Deaf Theatre / Culture / Deaf Art
- Deaf Youth

Entry of free keywords will be possible (3 keywords maximum)

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Abstract submission format and language, 2 versions can be submitted:

- EITHER a written version of the abstract in ENGLISH
- OR a video version of the abstract in INTERNATIONAL SIGN

Written abstract:
- Abstract structure: there is no mandatory structure, but the abstract should be ideally structured as follows: introduction, method, results, conclusion
- Abstract’s length: The abstract must contain at least 1,000 characters and cannot contain more than 3’000 characters (blank spaces, punctuation included. The authors’ affiliation and titles are not included).
- Abstract title text length: the title of the abstract must contain 250 characters maximum, spaces included
- Tables & pictures: You can insert a table and a picture. Pictures must not exceed 500 pixels.
- Author: The presenting author(s) (2 maximum) must provide a photography;
Video abstract:

1. **Video abstract**: you will have to insert a video in International Sign language with your abstract. This video can be uploaded on several streaming support (Dailymotion, Youtube), and you will have to provide the video’s URL.

2. **It is important to note that the video’s background must be neutral (GREEN, BLUE, or BLACK)**

Presentation format, language:

You will be asked to select your preferred presentation format (Plateform or Poster) and your preferred presentation language (IS, LSF, Spoken French, Spoken English)

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**TECHNICAL GUIDELINES**

1. **Account creation and submission of the first abstract**
   - During your first submission, you will receive two emails
     - The first to confirm the creation of your account. It is recommended to keep in reference your user name, your password and the answer to the secret question.
     - The second to confirm the submitted abstract and its reference number. All pop-up blockers should be turned off
   - Correspondence relating to the abstract will be sent by default to the abstract submitter.
   - Before submitting the abstract submission, you will be asked to carefully check the abstract preview.
   - Please kindly note that "*" indicates a mandatory field (information is required). The system will inform you if you have not fulfilled all the mandatory field to submit your abstract.
   - You can edit your abstract until the deadline with your username and password.

2. **Submission of a new abstract**
   - For submission of another abstract, you will not need to re-enter your details. At the end of the first submission, the system will offer to submit another abstract. You can also submit later by returning to your account. If the password is forgotten, you may request to send a reminder email.

3. **List of authors**
   - By clicking the button "Add author" you can add co-authors in your abstract. First author is automatically already entered but you can modify it.
   - Please enter the full name (in full) in lower case (first letter capitalized
   - You can change the order of authors by using the arrows.
   - In the final submission, the co-authors will receive by email a confirmation the submission.

4. **Your abstract**
   - Write or copy / paste your abstract inside the field
   - Do not repeat the title of your abstract, the names of authors or headers of each field that will be automatically added to your abstract.

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NEVER USE YOUR BROWSER’S RETURN BUTTON (you might lose all of your data). Instead, please use the previous/next button provided at the bottom of each page. If you accidently hit your navigator’s return button, click on the forward button to return to the page containing your data.