## ABSTRACT CATEGORIES (WFD Commissions)

**CRPD**  *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*  

**SDG**  *Sustainable Development Goals*  

### Commission 1: Sign Language and Deaf Studies

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.

**Sign Language** 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.

**Deaf Studies** 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keywords</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRPD 2 / 9 / 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaf people’s contribution to society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future of the Deaf Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaf Gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socio-political pre-conditions necessary for recognition of Sign Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislation</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Day of Sign Languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shift from medical to linguistic and cultural models of deafness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaf Community’s place in society – linguistic minority status relative to disability group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social construct of disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaf Studies as a legitimate sphere of academic study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge transfer between the Deaf Community and researchers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New trends in Deaf Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keywords</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRPD 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sign Language in education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early intervention using sign language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

### 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 pre-requisites to effective and accessible health care and lessons learnt from interactions between health practitioners and deaf people.

**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
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.

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.

Keywords

- CRPD 27
- SDG 8
- Best practice models of employment practice
- Individualised funding support for Deaf people in the workplace
- Deaf entrepreneurs
- Deaf professionals
- Promoting equal employment and career opportunities

- Capacity building
- Disability and employment
- Employment policies and strategies
- Employment for people with disabilities
- Gender equality and employment
- International employment law
- Labour market participation
- Labour market policies
- Making workplaces more inclusive
- Universal design