

**International Day of Persons with Disabilities**  
**2017 Theme for December 3**  
***“Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all”***

IFHOH Press Release

On the United Nations’ International Day of Persons with Disabilities, IFHOH calls upon governments and all parts of society to examine their policies and procedures to ensure that hard of hearing and deafened persons have full equality and are not left behind.

According to IFHOH President Dr. Ruth Warick, a society is only sustainable when all of its members are treated equally. “Equality is a fundamental necessity for creating a transformed, sustainable and resilient society.”

IFHOH knows of many examples where hard of hearing and deafened persons go without needed devices such as hearing aids, cochlear implants, captioning on broadcast media and in meetings, assistive devices, hearing loops and other types of supports. Governments and all parts of society need to step up to meet the needs of people who are hard of hearing and to live up to Article 5 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which deals with equality and non-discrimination, she stated.

Dr. Warick says that IFHOH will continue to advocate for the rights of persons who have a hearing loss and is submitting a brief to the UN CRPD Committee in response to its call for comments on Article 5. The brief is stressing the importance of technological, human and other supports for the hard of hearing community and the necessity for non-discrimination in all aspects, including education, employment and the provision of services.

IFHOH is an international, non-governmental organization which represents the interests of more than 360 million hard of hearing people worldwide. This includes late deafened adults, cochlear implant users, and people who experience Tinnitus, Meniere’s disease, Hyperacusis and auditory processing disorders.

IFHOH has over 40 national member organizations from most regions of the world, who along with IFHOH and the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH), work to promote greater understanding of hearing loss issues and to improve access for hard of hearing people.

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