

The UNCRRPD and Deaf People

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United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Sign language **and Deaf culture** mentioned 8 times in 5 different articles:

Article 2: Definition

Article 9: Accessibility

Article 21: Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information

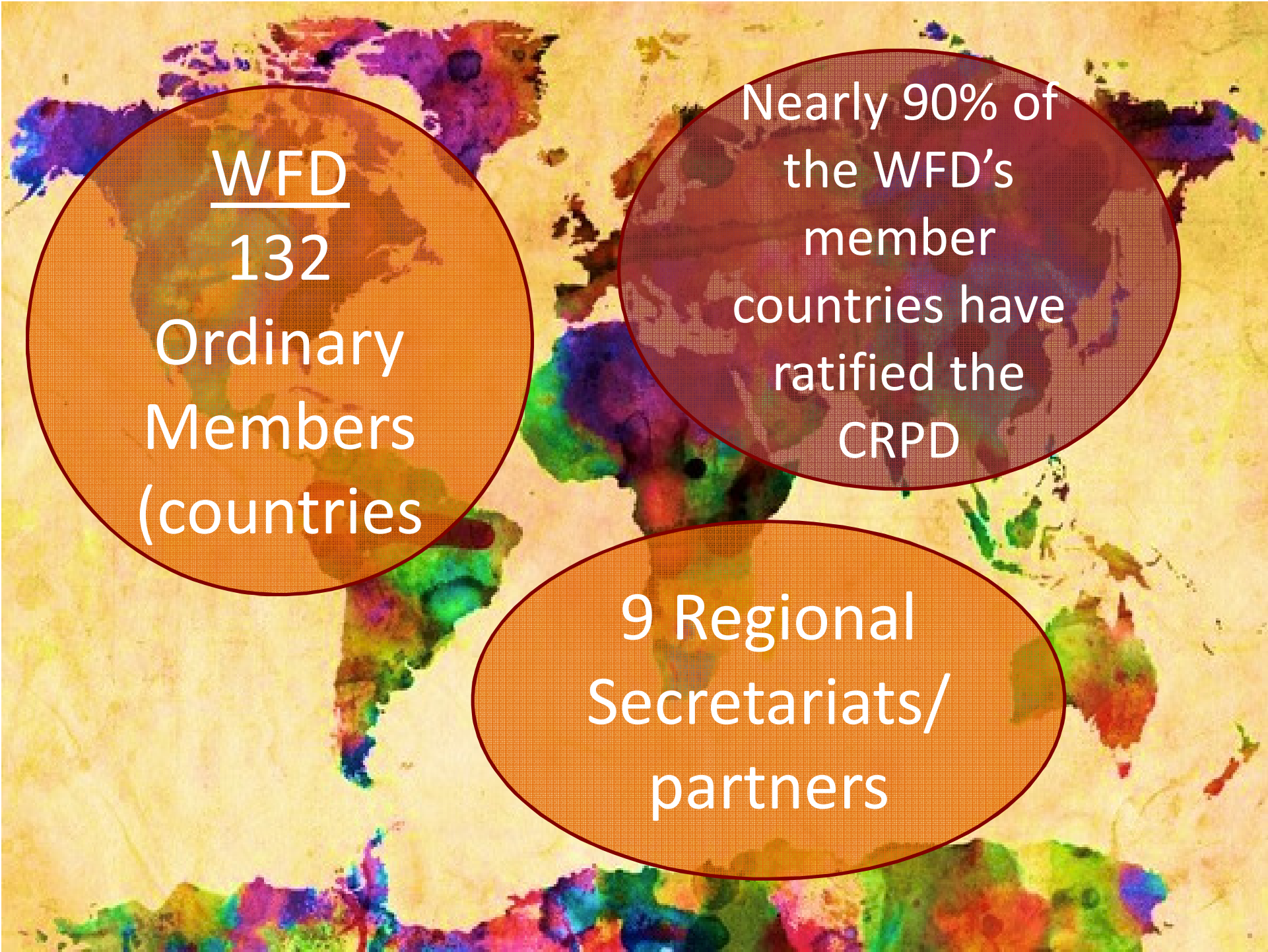
Article 24: Education

Article 30: Participation in cultural life, recreation leisure and sport

“[...] no other disability group and their needs are mentioned overtly as precisely and as often in the convention as the Deaf/Deafblind group”

Wilcox et al. 2012

The CRPD is a legally-binding treaty which entered into force in 2006 and has been ratified by 159 countries and 81% of UN Member States



WFD
132
Ordinary
Members
(countries)

Nearly 90% of
the WFD's
member
countries have
ratified the
CRPD

9 Regional
Secretariats/
partners

Ordinary Members

Representative National Associations of Deaf People:

- Represent the majority of the deaf community in that country.
- Democratic organization with leaders selected by all members, a majority of the governing board should be deaf.
- Inclusive organizations.

WFD Human Rights Outreach Activities 2011-present

79
COUNTRIES

42
PRESENTATIONS

23 WORKSHOPS
DELIVERED

21 HUMAN RIGHTS
TRAINING DELIVERED

136
WFD ATTENDANCE*

7 CRPD COMMITTEE
SESSIONS ATTENDED

3
HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECTS

*INCLUDES ATTENDANCE OF WFD BOARD, REGIONAL SECRETARIAT REPRESENTATIVES AND EXPERT GROUP MEMBERS AT CONGRESSES, CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, SOCIAL EVENTS, AND MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

WFD Guidelines for Development Work with Deaf People

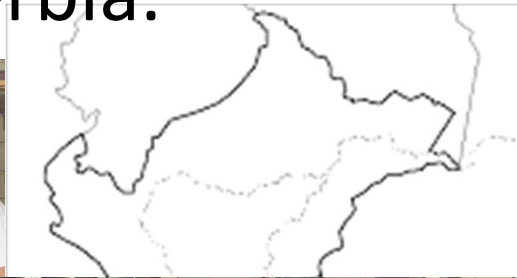
Nothing about us without us

Development projects should be planned and implemented in close cooperation with the deaf association in that country.

If no deaf association exists, establishment of such an association should be part of the project goals.

WFD CRPD Training Activities

CRPD training with Deaf Associations in El Salvador, Azerbaijan, Mongolia, Dominican Republic, and Serbia.



Support Deaf Association in the CRPD Reporting Process

Critical to bring *representative deaf NGOs* into the conversation:

- Participation in CRPD reporting process and Side Events.
- Accessibility via national sign language interpreters



Nothing about us without us: Implementing the CRPD

Article 4(3) In the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the present Convention [...] **States Parties shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations.**



Nothing about us without us: International Cooperation

Article 32 States Parties [...] and will undertake appropriate and effective measures [...], between and among States and, as appropriate, **in partnership with relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities.** [...]

- a) Ensuring that international cooperation, including international development programmes, **is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;**





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all .

CRPD Article 24 (3):

- b) Facilitating the learning of sign language and the promotion of the linguistic identity of the deaf community;
- c) Ensuring that the education of persons, and in particular children, who are blind, deaf or deafblind, is delivered in the most appropriate languages and modes and means of communication for the individual, and in environments which maximize academic and social development.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States.

CRPD Article 24 (4)

In order to help ensure the realization of this right, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who are qualified in sign language

Conclusion

The Sustainable Development Goals should be implemented in a manner **consistent with the rights and obligations of the CRPD.**

Obligations in the CRPD for the inclusion of disabled/deaf persons organizations **is also incumbent upon aid organizations and other nongovernmental actors.**

Representative Deaf Associations should be involved in all human rights development projects, including projects to do with education and health and rehabilitation.

Deaf community involvement promotes project accountability, ensures stakeholder participation, and strengthens post-project period sustainability.

References

Wilcox, S., Krausneker, V. & Armstrong, D. (2012) Language Policies and the Deaf Community. In B Spolsky (Ed.). *Cambridge Handbook of Language Policy*. Cambridge University Press.

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<http://www.wfdeaf.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Member-Countries-in-Developing-Countries.pdf>

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