



# About the World Federation of the Deafblind

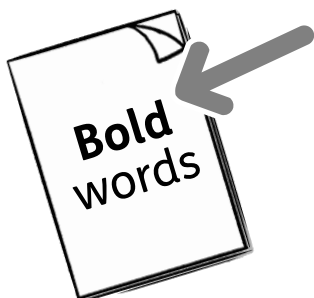


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In this easy read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are blue and underlined. These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

# Introduction



**The World Federation of the Deafblind** works around the world to speak up for the **rights** of people with **deafblindness**.



**Rights** are the things that every person should have or be able to do, by law.



**Deafblindness** is where you have a serious difficulty with both your hearing and with your eyesight.

Deafblindness is a disability that is different from other disabilities.



We want people with deafblindness to have the same rights and the same chance to make the most of their lives as everyone else.



We share information around the world about deafblindness.



We support and help organisations of people with deafblindness.



We have written this Easy Read information to explain more about us and what we do.

# About us



We started in 2001.



We are an organisation that has many members.

Our members include organisations of people with deafblindness in different countries.



We currently have 75 member organisations from 62 different countries.

## Working with other organisations

We work with other world organisations for disabled people, like:



- The World Blind Union (WBU) - This is made up of organisations of blind people from around the world.



- The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) - This is made up of organisations of deaf people from around the world.



- Deafblind International (DbI) - This is an organisation of people and groups around the world that support people with deafblindness.



- The World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) - This is an organisation for sign language interpreters around the world.



We are a member of the International Disability Alliance (IDA). This is a made up of organisations of disabled people from around the world.



## The United Nations

We work with the **United Nations**.

The **United Nations** (UN) is an organisation made up of many countries working together. It works to make the world a safer and better place.



The United Nations helps countries to give disabled people their rights.

## The World Health Organisation

The **World Health Organisation** is part of the United Nations. It looks at the health of people all around the world.



It has a list of disabilities and illnesses.



It helps countries provide the right services and treatments for people who have the disabilities and illnesses on the list.



We want deafblindness to be included on this list.

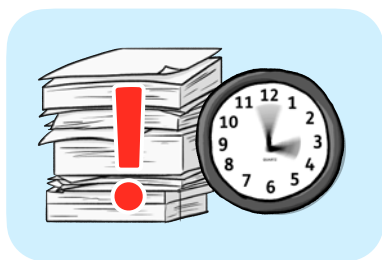


If deafblindness was included on the list, countries around the world would start to provide the right services for people with deafblindness.

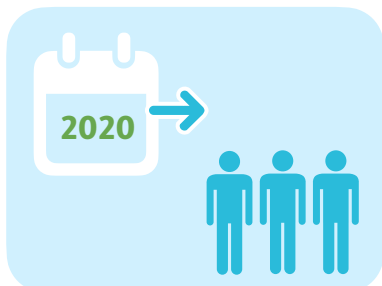
# Our staff



Up to 2019 all our work was done by our members who were not getting paid.



This was hard and our work took a lot of time.



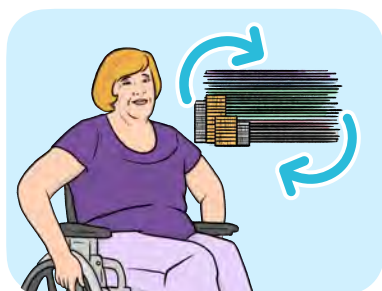
But, since 2020 we have had 3 full time workers to do the work of our organisation.



We got money to pay our workers from certain organisations that are based in the southern countries in the world.



This money will only pay our workers for a short time.



We are now working to get proper regular money to pay our workers.

# Membership



**Membership** is when you are a member of an organisation or group.

We have different kinds of membership:



- National membership - this is where you are speaking for people with deafblindness in your country.

Each country can only have one national member.



- Individual membership - individual people with deafblindness can join our organisation.

Individual members have the right to speak in our large meetings, but they cannot vote.



- Associate membership - this is for individual people or organisations who agree with our work.

Associate members aren't people with deafblindness.



- Sponsoring membership - this is for individual people and organisations who want to help us by giving us money.

# Our Executive Council



We are run by an Executive Council.

This is a committee made up of:

- The President - this is the most senior member.
- The Vice President. The Vice president does the work of the President when the President is not there.
- The Secretary General. The Secretary General is in charge of our paperwork.
- The Treasurer. The Treasurer looks after our money.
- 10 members with deafblindness.
- 6 people who are each speaking for 1 of the 6 regions of the world:
  - Africa
  - Asia
  - Europe
  - South America
  - North America
  - The Pacific region.

# Our presidents

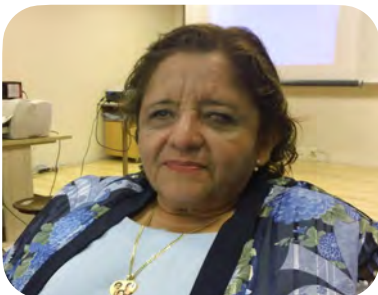


We have had 4 presidents:

- Stig Ohlson from Sweden. Stig was president from 2001 to 2005.



- Lex Grandia from Denmark. Lex was president from 2005 to 2012.



- Sonnia Margarita Villacrès Mejia from Ecuador. Sonnia was president from 2012 to 2013.



- Geir Jensen from Norway. Geir is the current president. He has been president since 2013.

# For more information



You can look at our website here:

[www.wfdb.eu](http://www.wfdb.eu)

If you need more information please contact us by:



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