



World Blind Union  
Union Mondiale des Aveugles  
Unión Mundial de Ciegos



March 4, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the World Blind Union (WBU), I am pleased to extend our full support for the establishment of the International Day of Deafblindness, as proposed by the World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB). This initiative represents a crucial step in raising awareness, promoting inclusion, and advocating for the rights of individuals who are deafblind worldwide.

The World Blind Union is the leading global organization representing the estimated 253 million people worldwide who are blind or partially sighted. Our mission is to promote full participation, equal opportunities, and human rights of blind and partially sighted individuals worldwide.

Deafblindness presents unique challenges that require tailored supports, inclusive policies, and strong advocacy to ensure full participation in society. The WBU recognizes the invaluable contributions of the deafblind community and stands in solidarity with WFDB in calling for international recognition of this important day. By dedicating a day to the lived experiences and rights of people who are deafblind, we can help drive meaningful change in accessibility, education, employment, and social inclusion.

We urge governments, international organizations, and civil society to support this initiative and commit to policies and practices that uphold the rights enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). It is imperative that the voices of the deafblind community are heard and that systemic barriers to independence and inclusion are dismantled.

The World Blind Union is proud to support this initiative and looks forward to collaborating with WFDB and other stakeholders to advance the rights of individuals who are deafblind globally.

Sincerely,

Martine Abel-Williamson  
President, World Blind Union