



European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

Statement adopted by the Annual General Meeting of EFHOH, European Federation of Hard-of-Hearing People.

To
Decision-makers of Europe

In December 2006 the UN General Assembly adopted a new convention about the “Rights of Persons with Disabilities”. This convention was opened for signature and ratification on March 30, 2007.

We, the representatives of EFHOH, an organization that speaks for over 81 million hard-of-hearing persons in Europe, are deeply concerned about the translation work that has now started. The EFHOH wants particular attention to be paid to some of the terminology used in the English text, especially concerning the word *deaf*.

The expression “deaf” in the English text comprises both “deaf” and “hard-of-hearing”. If the word deaf is translated, as in the UN Standard Rules, to a word meaning just “deaf”, it will exclude hard-of-hearing individuals from the target group of the convention. “Hard of hearing” refers to people who have a hearing loss and whose usual means of communication is verbal. For two-way communication, hard of hearing people tend to benefit from the use of speech-reading, hearing aids and other hearing assistive technology (induction loops, subtitling and speech-to-text support), and any other means of facilitating oral communication.

With this statement, EFHOH and its members want to ensure that all translation work done in Europe is carried out in such a way that the significant group of hard of hearing citizens will not be excluded from the convention.

On behalf of the Delegates at the General Meeting of EFHOH,

Oslo May 5th, 2007

Marcel Bobeldijk
President

Jan Lamby
General Secretary