



Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities Catalina Devandas

The governments of the Nordic countries

All persons have the right to a good quality of life and equal opportunities. For Hard of Hearing People, access to individualized hearing aids for work and leisure and access to individually suited technology are basic conditions for a good quality of life. For a long time, the Nordic countries have been seen as an example for other countries. Unfortunately, we are now seeing troubling trends in various public sectors that are of vital importance to us as hard of hearing people. The organisations of Hard of Hearing People in the Nordic countries are calling upon the governments of the Nordic countries to guarantee access to qualitative, publicly funded and professionally fitted hearing aids and qualitative hearing rehabilitation. 15 % of the population is estimated to have some kind of hearing loss, which in the Nordic countries amounts to nearly 4 million persons. The World Health Organisation WHO lists hearing loss as one of the most common public health problems. Therefore, the Nordic Alliance of the Hard of Hearing (NHH) wishes to draw attention to the following issues:

Access to Education and Employment

Hard of hearing People have the right to education on all levels. According to Article 24 of the UNCRPD, State Parties have an obligation to ensure access to education and lifelong learning for persons with disabilities. Hearing aids are a cost effective way of making education accessible for Hard of Hearing Persons. Access to hearing aids creates opportunities for higher education and employment.

Access to audiological rehabilitation:

Rehabilitation is of vital importance to Hard of Hearing People. Qualitative audiological rehabilitation includes the person as a whole: not only the ear or technology, but different individualized measures that vary from person to person and over time. This entails a public, state-funded audiological rehabilitation that is qualitative, offers needs-based rehabilitation and equal services regardless of geographical location or individual income level.

Access to an independent life

Article 5 of the UNCRPD stipulates that the State Parties are obligated to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities to live a full and independent life, and to fulfill their social, economic, cultural and political potential. Access to individually fitted hearing aids for work and leisure, and access to the for the individual best suited technology are basic conditions for an independent life for hard of hearing persons.

Nordiska Hörselskadades Samarbetskommitté är ett samarbetsorgan för gemensamt påverkansarbete och ömsesidigt lärande mellan hörselskadades organisationer i Norden. NHS fungerar som ett forum för koordinering av nordiska synpunkter i förhållande till arbetet med hörselskadades intressen i Europa. I samarbetskommittén ingår hörselskadades centralorganisationer från nordiska länderna.

Høreforeningen
Danmark

HLF (Hørselshemmedes Landsforbund)
Norge

Svenska hörsel förbundet rf
Finland

Kuuloliitto ry
Finland

Hørseltjänst rf
Finland

Hørselskadades Riksförbund (HRF)
Sverige

Heyrnarhjálp
Island

Felagid fyri hoyribrekad i Fearoyum
Färöarna



Nordiska Hörselskadades Samarbetskommitté

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Morten Buan
Hørselhemmedes Landsforbund

Eija Isaksson
Kuuloliitto ry

Hjörtur H. Jónsson
Heyrnarhjálp

Jan-Peter Strömgren
Hörselskadades Riksförbund

Jákup Danielsen
Felagid fyri hoyribrekad i Fearoyum

Birgitta Kronberg
Svenska hörsselförbundet rf

Majbritt Garbul Tobberup
Høreforeningen

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