



## What is IFHOHYP?

IFHOHYP is an international non-governmental federation for national and regional youth organizations that are dedicated to hard of hearing (HOH) young people, age 18 to 35, throughout the world and is independent of sex, race, religion, nationality and politics. Our primary aim is to enhance the quality of life for hard of hearing youth worldwide by advocating and promoting equal rights in all levels of society such as the rights to: education, employment, health, and freedom of choice with necessary accommodations to meet their accessibility needs for full inclusion. We strive for empowerment of HOH young people, for visibility and representation of youth with disabilities at European and international levels.

Since its inception in 1968, IFHOHYP has transformed from a coalition of HOH organizations within Europe into an international federation with members spanning across Europe, North America, and Africa. The focus on peer support and social activities has shifted into international advocacy via human rights work and non-formal education training. We continue to work towards developing quality educational projects and expanding our membership into the other regions of the globe.

Our work encompasses a variety of projects set to raise disability awareness specific to the impacts of hearing loss on national and international levels through activities run by, with and for HOH young people. Each activity serves as a platform for intercultural dialogue and exchange, mutual cooperation between member organizations in devising solutions to issues facing their communities. Through these non-formal learning experiences participants acquire competence skills to carry out the IFHOHYP mission as well as their own personal and professional developments. We strive for empowerment of HOH young people for the visibility of youth with disabilities being represented in the European and International youth and disability rights work.

IFHOHYP is the only international youth disability organization with an active cooperation with the Council of Europe, providing a voice for youth with disabilities in discussions relating to accessibility and advocacy for human rights. We are also a member of the European Federation of Hard of Hearing, an associate member of the European Disability Forum, and an observer in the European Youth Forum.

IFHOHYP has also been involved in World Youth Conferences and Forums organized by the United Nations since the 1990s. We had representation at the UN high level meeting on Youth in 2011 and received a UN Special ECOSOC Consultative status in 2013, giving us access to various events held at UN Headquarters in New York, NY and Geneva, Switzerland. Our work is guided by the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Additionally, we are in cooperation with Global Partnership on Disability and Development, International Disability Alliance, and International Federation of Hard of Hearing.



## Who is Hard of Hearing?

The definition of “Hard of Hearing” includes all people who have a hearing loss and whose usual means of communication is by speech. Those who have become totally deaf after acquisition of speech are also included in the definition.

## Vision & Mission

### Vision

IFHOHYP aims to support the development of a future global society where hard of hearing young people will have equal opportunities, with appropriate support, to be integrated into the community and viewed as contributing members. This will be realized by:

- ❖ Holistic inclusion of hard of hearing young people to raise their visibility worldwide
- ❖ Establishment of a strong voice as inspiration for hard of hearing young people worldwide
- ❖ Active awareness of hearing loss and its impacts in all levels of society worldwide
- ❖ Recognition of hard of hearing young people’s rights and needs worldwide

### Mission

IFHOHYP will be a global unified voice for hard of hearing young people by:

- ❖ Encouraging a positive attitude towards their identities and roles in the society
- ❖ Influencing programme and policies at all levels through capacity building, dissemination of information, and exchange of inclusion practices through its members
- ❖ Advocating for an inclusive global society with equal opportunities for access, participation and support in community activities

## What are the main activities of IFHOHYP?

### Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM is the final decisive authority within IFHOHYP and is generally held once each calendar year, typically in the fall though it can be subjected to change if needed. The budget, policies, and projects involving the organization are discussed and put into a vote. The location of the meeting changes annually, with a different member organization being the host in its home country.



1999, Denmark  
2000, Lithuania  
2001, Finland  
2002, Netherlands  
2003, Spain  
2004, Russia  
2005, Netherlands

2006, Finland  
2007, Switzerland  
2008, Spain  
2009, Sweden  
2010, Netherlands  
2011, Serbia  
2012, Norway

2013, Sweden  
2014, France  
2015, Netherlands  
2016, USA  
2017, Finland  
2018, Turkey

## Capacity Training Programs

For the past 20 years study sessions are organized in cooperation with the Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sport, in which the goal was for participants to work on important themes concerning hard of hearing young people and to develop partnerships with other organizations. Other equivalent programs are provided through participation in activities hosted by other institutions (e.g., UN CRPD Train the Trainers Program, Youth Council of Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities).



Through these non-formal educational and training experiences, we provide opportunities for development to encompass personal, socio-educational, and professional areas. Active leaders can share experiences from their work in home organizations and learn from the work of others. Participants will also acquire competence skills which they can apply to their own development. Ultimately, through our educational activities, hard of hearing young people will:

1. *Build self-confidence and develop a positive attitude towards their unique identities in the larger society*
2. *Identify their rights and needs for access to be fully included in the larger society*
3. *Employ strategies to advocate for the rights and needs to be included in the larger society*

- 1994, Strasbourg, France
- 1995, Strasbourg, France
- 1999, "How to cope with information"
- 2001, "Knowledge transfer! – Putting hard of hearing on the map of Europe", Strasbourg, France
- 2003, "Building communication for hard of hearing youth: breaking barriers and stereotypes", Strasbourg, France
- 2006, "Safeguarding human rights of youth with hearing disability: how to cope with violence and discrimination in education and employment", Strasbourg, France





- 2007, *“Leadership skills and developing necessary competences – Getting strong in the future”*, Strasbourg, France
- 2009, *“Training for facilitators for inclusion”*, Strasbourg, France
- 2011, *“Striving towards policy impact, awareness raising and access to social rights”*, Strasbourg, France
- 2014, *“Tune up your organization, fight for your rights”*, Strasbourg, France (left pic)
- 2017, *“Building a socially inclusive world through personal empowerment”*, Budapest, Hungary (right pic)
- 2019, *“Keeping the world accessible & inclusive through a policy making perspective”*, Strasbourg, France



## Summer Camps

In joint cooperation with a host organization, IFHOHYP supports the coordination of a two-week camp in the summer. The purpose of such activity is to unite hard of hearing people worldwide and engage in rich conversations about their diverse and unique experiences. They will also explore the environment and discover the cultural values of where the camp is held. Like the AGM, the location of the camp is rotated between interested member organizations each year.







1996, Denmark  
1997, Malta  
1998, United Kingdom  
2001, Switzerland  
2002, Sweden

2003, Netherlands  
2005, Czech Republic  
2006, Spain  
2008, Slovakia  
2010, Switzerland

2016, Denmark  
2017, Norway  
2018, Netherlands



## Representation

Representations at relevant forums is an essential element of IFHOHYP's work programme, as it opens up communication with our partners and other organizations to maintain our visibility across different levels of bodies. Members are invited to participate at these forums to share the outcomes of our work and to collect information beneficial to the future development of IFHOHYP.

### IFHOHYP at UN High Level Meeting on Youth



■ We made captioning possible at the mainstream UN event!







IFHOHYP at EFHOH AGM, Germany, 2015



European Day of Persons with Disabilities, Brussels, 2015



Joint Meeting with APFHD, EFHOH & IFHOH, USA, 2016



Awareness raising workshop, Ireland, 2015



Participation in UNCRPD workshop Denmark, 2015

## Round Tables

Through various channels such as interactive blogs and in-person meetings, IFHOHYP organizes a round-table discussion on a regular basis with the intent for members to identify existing problems facing hard of hearing young people at regional, national and international levels. Solutions are then proposed and developed in the format of action plans, recommendations or policy statements, to be presented to internal and external bodies.



## Who are the main partners of IFHOHYP?

### Institutional Partners

IFHOHYP has a close working relationship with the following institutions in terms of financial, logistical, and information support to carry out activities at both the European and international levels.

- ❖ Council of Europe, Directorate of Youth and Sport ([www.coe.int/youth](http://www.coe.int/youth))
  - European Commission
  - European Youth Centres (Budapest and Strasbourg)
  - European Youth Foundation
- ❖ United Nations – CRPD Committee, DESA, Youth ([www.un.org](http://www.un.org))

### NGO Partners

- ⊗ African Youth with Disabilities Network
- ⊗ European Disability Forum ([www.edf-feeph.org](http://www.edf-feeph.org))
- ⊗ European Federation of Hard of Hearing ([www.efhoh.org](http://www.efhoh.org))
- ⊗ European Platform of Deafness, Hard of Hearing and Deafblindness
- ⊗ European Youth Forum ([www.youthforum.org](http://www.youthforum.org))
- ⊗ Global Partnership on Disability and Development
- ⊗ International Disability Alliance ([www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org))
- ⊗ International Federation of Hard of Hearing ([www.ifhoh.org](http://www.ifhoh.org))

Partnership with organizations for youth with disabilities serves the purpose of establishing an international coalition to advocate youth issues in the International Disability Alliance and the Youth Global Meeting at UN.

## IFHOHYP Projects

### Key international projects

2007 – **Multimedia project** “What is it like to be young and hard of hearing in Europe?”

2008 – **Research Project** on social inclusion of hard of hearing youth

2014 – **No Hate Speech Campaign**

2015 – **Joint Board and Committee Meeting**, Brussels, Belgium

2015 – **Participation in Awareness Raising Seminar**, Athens, Greece

2017 – **IFHOHYP Talks**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <a href="#">Exclusion and Hearing Loss</a>   | 4. <a href="#">Three Stories, Common Challenges, One Solution</a> |
| 2. <a href="#">How Do We Empower Ourselves?</a> | 5. <a href="#">What does it mean to be Socially Inclusive?</a>    |
| 3. <a href="#">Read My Lips</a>                 | 6. <a href="#">What is UNCRPD?</a>                                |

2017 – Present: **Hear2Stay** global awareness campaign

### Other international events and representations

1998 – Representation at the UN Youth Forum, Braga, Portugal

2001 – Representation at the UN Youth Forum, Dakar, Senegal

2003 – Representatives took part in organizing the European Disability Forum + European Youth Forum Youth conference “Towards barrier-free Europe”, Athens, Greece



**2004** – Council of Europe event *“Europe, Youth and Globalisation”*, Strasbourg, France. Representatives lobbied for Disability issues to be put on the agenda of this international event.

**2007** – European Disability Forum conference *“The rights of women and girls with disabilities”*, Madrid, Spain

**2008** – IFHOH World Congress *“Global Community of Communications”*, Canada

**2009** – Global Partnership for Disability and Development conference, Italy

**2009** – Hearing Loops conference, Switzerland

**2009** – Representation at the European Day of People with Disabilities with a speech given on access to assistive technology, Brussels, Belgium

**2010** – Representation at the World Youth Conference, Mexico

**2011** – Representation at the UN High Level Meeting on Youth, New York, USA

**2011** – Global Partnership for Disability and Development conference, Argentina

**2012** – IFHOH World Congress *“Improving the quality of life for People with Hearing Loss”*, Norway

**2012** – Representation at the Council of Europe Consultative Meeting *“Inclusion of Youth with Disabilities in the Council of Europe Programmes”*, Brussels, Belgium

**2013** – Representation at Conference of State Parties on UNCPRD, New York, USA

**2013** – Hearing Loops conference, United Kingdom

**2013** – Representation at Council of Europe Conference *“Full Inclusion of children and young people with disabilities into society”*, Brussels, Belgium

**2014** – Representation at World Youth Conference, Sri Lanka

**2014** – Representation at Conference of State Parties on UNCPRD, New York, USA

**2015** – Representation at Conference of State Parties on UNCPRD, New York, USA

**2016** – Representation at Conference of State Parties on UNCPRD, New York, USA

**2016** – IFHOH World Congress, Washington D.C., USA

## **Highlight achievements**

- Making mainstream UN High Level Meeting on Youth accessible for hard of hearing delegates through real-time captioning
- Taking part in the Council of Europe Consultative Meeting on Inclusion of Youth with Disabilities and preparing policy recommendations for the future Council of Europe recommendation *“Participation of young people with disabilities in political and public life”*
- IFHOHYP International Policy recommendations to the UN OHCHR on concrete measures for implementing Article 9 of the UN CRPD (Accessibility)
- Accessibility Committee started cooperation with the CCAC (Collaborative for Communication Access to Captioning)
- Bringing the issues of inclusion and disability in the European Youth Forum Strategic Priorities 2012-2016
- UN ECOSOC Special Consultative Status since 2013





## IFHOHYP Members in 2018:

Organization Name	Country
Academy of Sports and Education for Deaf of Tunisia	Tunisia
Bangladesh Hard of Hearing Association	Bangladesh
Bundesjugend	Germany
Canadian Hard of Hearing Association	Canada
Česká Unie Neslyšících (CUN)	Czech Republic
FADCY	Russia
Høreforeningen (HF)	Denmark
Hørselshemmedes Landsforbunds Ungdom (HLFU)	Norway
İsitme Engelliler ve Aileleri Dernegi (IED)	Turkey
Jugehörig (JH)	Switzerland
Kuuloliitto Ry	Finland
SHRUTI	Nepal
Sh-Jong	Netherlands
Surdus Loquens	Poland
Svenska Hörsselförbundet R.F.	Finland
Uganda Federation of Hard of Hearing (UFHOH)	Uganda
Unga Hörselskadade (UH)	Sweden



## IFHOHYP Board (2018-19)

President: Bowen Tang (Canada)

Vice-President:

Manuel Rohrbach (Switzerland)

Treasurer: Hanna Mullis (Sweden)

Secretary: Jenna Juntilla (Finland)

Board Member:

Karina Obro (Denmark)

Board Member:

Cathy Geurts (Netherlands)

Vice Board Member:

Glenn Storsletten (Norway)



## Contact

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Website: [www.ifhohyp.org](http://www.ifhohyp.org)

YouTube: click [here](#)

Instagram: @IFHOHYP