



AFRICA DEAF RESOLUTIONS 2011

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE 3RD AFRICA WORKSHOP OF THE AFRICA CONTACT GROUP FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND DEAFNESS, HELD IN MANZINI, SWAZILAND, FROM 7 – 11 FEBRUARY 2011, WITH THE THEME

“Working together for a better future for Deaf people and their families on the African continent”

Communication:

1. National Associations of the Deaf to lobby their government for recognition of their national sign language as an official language in their country.
2. The National Associations of the Deaf should work with their government and university institutions in order to establish and finance training programs for sign language interpreters and teachers.
3. The National Associations of the Deaf to lobby their government departments to ensure employment of professional sign language interpreters in all sectors of society.
4. National Associations of the Deaf to promote good collaboration between the families of the Deaf and all parties involved in activities of the Deaf.
5. National Associations of the Deaf to establish sign language training programs for service providers, such as civil servants, public service officials and other interested groups.
6. National Associations of the Deaf, in collaboration with other disability organisations, should raise awareness and lobby for the ratification and implementation of the UN CRPD in order to achieve an inclusive society.
7. National Associations of the Deaf to be trained about the contents of the UN CRPD, and be encouraged to use it as a tool to better the lives of Deaf people in society.
8. National Associations of the Deaf should be the primary owners and coordinators of sign language training, and sign language trainers must be qualified to conduct aforementioned training.
9. Research and documentation of sign languages must be ongoing in order to provide a solid scientific foundation for the development of sign languages.
10. Governments to provide appropriate assistive devices (such as hearing aids, fire alarms), and audiological services to Deaf people.
11. Government and the private sector should ensure that information made available to the public is provided in a visual format, to ensure accessibility for Deaf people.
12. National Associations of the Deaf should cooperate with the national sign language interpreters' association, to regulate sign language interpreters.

Community Development:

13. Policies that ensure employment of people with disabilities should be enforced through the use of the UN CRPD.
14. National Associations of the Deaf to lobby government to support existing Disability People's Organisations (DPO's) through funding, grants and policy development.
15. Deafblind people to be included in the programs of National Associations of the Deaf.
16. National Associations of the Deaf to be encouraged to share and exchange knowledge, skills and experience with other National Associations of the Deaf.

Education and Training:

17. National Associations of the Deaf, together with their governments, to prioritize sign language training in the education of the Deaf.
18. National Associations of the Deaf to provide guidance and sign language training to parents of Deaf children.
19. Government to support the establishment of vocational colleges for empowering Deaf people with self-reliant skills.
20. National Associations of the Deaf to lobby for the establishment of schools for the Deaf to facilitate accessible and quality education.
21. Government to provide training for Deaf people to become teachers of the Deaf.
22. National Associations of the Deaf to collaborate with their governments to establish and support early childhood development centres, to ensure that Deaf children do not lag behind in development.
23. National Associations of the Deaf to work with their respective education departments, to develop curricula tailored to suit the needs of Deaf people in education.

Public Education and Awareness:

24. National Associations of the Deaf, in collaboration with government departments, to provide training to Deaf people in areas such as mental health issues, counselling, HIV/AIDS. The training will be customized for their needs.
25. Countries without a National Association of the Deaf should be supported to build their capacity, which will assist them in the establishment of their own association.
26. National Associations of the Deaf to create and develop information packages that are accessible to Deaf people. These will include topics such as education, sign language, and fundraising, etc.

Accepted by the delegates at the 3rd Africa Workshop of the Africa Contact Group for Mental Health and Deafness, on February 11th, 2011.

Mr Abdelaziz Arssi
Chairperson

Ms Deborah Oyuu Iyute
Vice-Chairperson

Rev A L Smit
Executive Secretary

Countries present:

Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Botswana, Cameroon, Congo/Brazzaville, Chad, Democratic Republic Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Mauritius, Malawi, Morocco, Mali, Madagascar, Nigeria, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe