

Agenda

10 YEARS OF MALTESE SIGN LANGUAGE RECOGNITION, 20 YEARS OF THE CRPD: Celebrating Deaf Identity, Language, and Human Rights

Thursday, 11th June 2026 – 1.15pm-2.30pm
Conference Room 6, UN HQ New York

Side-Event at the 19th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

International Sign interpretation and Closed Captioning will be provided

Sponsor:

- Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malta to the UN in New York

Co-sponsors:

- Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the UN in New York
- World Federation of the Deaf
- International Disability Alliance
- CBM Global Disability Inclusion
- European Union of the Deaf
- Kunsill tal-Lingwa tas-Sinjali Maltija (KLSM – Sign Language Council of Malta)
- Deaf People Association Malta (DPAM)
- Assoċjazzjoni Interpreti tal-Lingwa Sinjali Maltija (AILSM – Association of Maltese Sign Language Interpreters)
- Aġenzija Sapport (Malta) (State Agency hosting ‘Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service’)

Welcome and Introduction (14 minutes)

Chair – Dr Joseph Murray – President, World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)

5 minutes

H.E. Ambassador Natasha Meli, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the UN in New York

3 minutes

H.E. Ambassador Ankhbayar Nyamdorj, Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the UN in New York

3 minutes

MEP (Member of European Parliament) Alex Agius Saliba, Co-Chair, Disability Intergroup of the European Parliament

3 minutes

The Road to Empowerment: Where do we Stand? (10 minutes)

Annabelle Xerri – Chairperson, Kunsill tal-Lingwa tas-Sinjali Maltija (KLSM)

5 minutes

Dulamsuren Jigjid – Executive Director, Culture Center for the Deaf, Mongolia

5 minutes

Strengthening Regulation, Services and Support (11 minutes)

Lianne Quigley – Chairperson of the Board, Irish Deaf Society (IDS); Member, ISL Act Cross Community group; IDS representative – Irish DPO network, Disability Participation and Consultation Network (DPCN)

5 minutes

Dorianne Callus – Member, Kunsill tal-Lingwa tas-Sinjali Maltija (KLSM)

Sharon Mifsud – President, Assoċjazzjoni Interpreti tal-Lingwa Sinjali Maltija (AILSM)

6 minutes

The CRPD at 20 – Deaf rights on the international stage (10 minutes)

Sofia Isari – President, European Union of the Deaf

5 minutes

Dr Elizabeth Lockwood – CBM Global Disability Inclusion Representative at the UN

5 minutes

Interactive Engagement with Participants (22 minutes)

An open floor for participants to ask questions, share experiences and engage with the panellists

A celebration of Maltese Sign Language (LSM) (5 minutes)

Loran Ripard Xuereb – Vice-President, Deaf People Association Malta (DPAM)

Closing Remarks and Reflections (3 minutes)

The Chair will offer concluding remarks following the discussion