



# WASLI Newsletter

WASLI is committed to the advancement of sign language interpreting world wide

## WASLI 2007 – AN UPDATE

FILSE is the 'Federación Española de Intérpretes de Lengua de Signos y Guias- Intérpretes' and host for the WASLI 2007 Conference.

The latest report from FILSE confirms that the Organising Committee has been formed as follows:

Coordinators: Saul Villameriel and Brendan Costello

Inscription: Susana Martín

Finances and accounting: Mayre Sanchez

Publicity and Public relations: Felipe Viejo and Ana Peidro

Resources (technical and human) and AGM: Gabriel Sicilia and Susana Gracia

Entertainment: José María Alcantara and Raquel Egea

We have narrowed the venues down to several options; Toledo, Segovia, Ávila, Guadalajara. Toledo is still the first option, and we are looking at other places that are similarly near to Madrid and might be able to provide an all-inclusive hotel.

[www.filse.org](http://www.filse.org)

(WASLI will advise you as soon as the venue and dates are confirmed)

## WASLI SOUTH AMERICA

The process of working towards electing a representative from the WASLI South America region has begun. Correspondence has been sent to all WASLI contacts in the region, including national Deaf associations, inviting them to begin to communicate with each other with the aim of electing a representative from the region.

For further information contact Philemon Akach [vicepresident@wasli.org](mailto:vicepresident@wasli.org)

## WASLI WORKS WITH WFD

WASLI wishes to thank all those who have expressed an interest in working as International Sign Interpreters at the upcoming World Federation of the Deaf Congress in Madrid, July 2007. A list of individuals is being compiled and will be sent to the WFD for their approval.

## WASLI 2005 – CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS – UPDATE

Dr Rachel Locker-McKee (New Zealand) agreed to be guest editor for the Conference Proceedings and she has completed this task. WASLI will now arrange for the proceedings to be published and this should be ready by October 2006.

WASLI would like to thank Dr Rachel Locker-McKee for agreeing to be the Editor and for her work in preparing the Proceedings.

## WASLI WORKING WITH GOVERNMENTS

During the conference in South Africa, delegates raised the need to have some guidance in working with their Government for recognition of the sign language interpreting profession. After some discussion it has been agreed that this would be a very ambitious exercise for WASLI to undertake given that we are committed to working with the National Association of the Deaf and WFD/B (World Federation of the Deaf and Deaf Blind) structures.

WASLI feels that it would best to work collaboratively and that work is going on already at the international level towards recognition of the sign language interpreting profession. If you have any queries about this, please contact the WASLI President at [president@wasli.org](mailto:president@wasli.org)

## IS INTERPRETERS IN EUROPE

The European Union of the Deaf (EUD) wants to update its list of INTERNATIONAL SIGN Interpreters

Please contact Karin VAN PUYENBROECK at [kvp@eudnet.org](mailto:kvp@eudnet.org)

The European Union of the Deaf (EUD) is a European non-profit making organisation whose membership comprises National Associations of Deaf people in Europe. Established in 1985, EUD is the only organisation representing the interests of Deaf Europeans at European Union level.

EUD aims to establish and maintain EU level dialogue with the "hearing world" in consultation and co-operation with its member National Deaf Associations.

EUD's mission statement is to promote, advance and protect the rights of and opportunities for Deaf people in the European Union. Emancipation and equal opportunities are key philosophies in our work towards achieving an equal position in society with recognition of Deaf people as full citizens in our own right.

This vision translates into three specific EUD aims:

- Recognition of the right to use an indigenous sign language
- Empowerment through communication and information
- Equality in education and employment

[www.eudnet.org](http://www.eudnet.org)

## ENGLAND WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND - ASLI RAISES MONEY FOR WASLI

ASLI is the Association of Sign Language Interpreters for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The ASLI Annual General Meeting and Conference took place in Durham, England 1-2 April 2006. An auction was held on the Friday evening auctioning off a range of items including t-shirts and bags from the WASLI 2005 Conference and a total of £641.00 was raised for WASLI.

WASLI would like to thank ASLI for their donation. [www.asli.org.uk](http://www.asli.org.uk)

## RAD RAISED MONEY FOR WASLI

RAD is the Royal Association for Deaf People based in Colchester, England. At their annual Christmas event last year, a total of £350.00 was raised for WASLI.

WASLI would like to thank RAD for their donation. [www.royaldeaf.org.uk](http://www.royaldeaf.org.uk)

## NIGERIA HAS A NEW INTERPRETER ASSOCIATION

The Guild of Sign Language Interpreters of Nigeria (GOSLIN) is the new Association for sign language interpreters in Nigeria. Josiah Arinze Edmonds sends the following report.

### The Challenges Facing the Profession of Sign Language Interpreting in Nigeria

The need for sign language in virtually all countries of the world cannot be overemphasized. Nigeria is not excluded. With the deaf population estimated at six million, it is reasonable to agree that there is also a need for qualified and skilled sign language interpreters.

It is my desire to inform you about the challenges facing the profession of sign language interpreting in Nigeria. Granted, we have sign language interpreters that interpret in various settings, but the problems we face are the certifying of interpreters, the provision of a professional code of ethics, guidelines for interpreters, and a lack of mentorship.

At the first World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) international conference, held in Worcester, South Africa, the importance of certifying interpreters was emphasised. When we came back home, firstly, we started working on the formation of Guild of Sign Language Interpreters of Nigeria (GOSLIN). Currently we are embarking on the establishment of accreditation facility for interpreters in Nigeria. As a fledgling, we need to know where to go from here. Training of interpreters will start presently; however, we need guidelines, mentorship, and professional code of conduct in providing needed training and accreditation materials from WASLI. These needs have been specifically mentioned in the country report sent to WASLI.

Equipped with these needed materials, we would be able to produce interpreters that will be capable of performing their duties skillfully to the satisfaction of both the deaf and the hearing consumers. We need support from WASLI since we are still developing in these areas.

Josiah Arinze Edmond  
Chair: Department of International Relations  
Email: [joekisc@yahoo.com](mailto:joekisc@yahoo.com)

## CZECH REPUBLIC – HOSTS FOR EFSLI 2006

EFSLI is the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters and each year there is an AGM and Conference. This year from 16-17 September 2006 the AGM and Conference will be held in Prague, capital city of the Czech Republic.

The host association is CKTZJ – Czech Chamber of Sign Language Interpreters and the theme is ‘Innovative Practice in Team Interpreting’. To visit the CKTZJ website go to [www.cktjz.com/en\\_index.htm](http://www.cktjz.com/en_index.htm) and to visit the website of EFSLI go to [www.efsl.org.uk](http://www.efsl.org.uk)

## ITALY – A NEW VIDEO INTERPRETING SERVICE

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf (UK) has been working with Italian Sign Language interpreters in the Liguria region in Italy to deliver training for a new video interpreting service.

The one-year pilot scheme “Video Interpretariato” has been designed to serve the Italian sign language users in the district of La Spezia in Liguria, where there are currently no interpreters available to deaf people in the community. This video interpreting service will mean that Italian sign language users across the region will now have access to many public services that were previously not available to them.

Videophones will be installed at venues such as the local Job Centre, Town Hall, Social Security and local health authority, where Italian sign language users can connect to the interpret-

ers in neighbouring regions. The service will be free of charge for one year, from 9am to 12pm Monday to Friday.

For further information on the project contact James Bailey [james.bailey@rnid.org.uk](mailto:james.bailey@rnid.org.uk)

### **NEW ZEALAND – SIGN LANGUAGE BECOMES OFFICIAL**

New Zealand's parliament has voted to make signing the nation's third official language  
<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=94888>

### **NEXT EDITION: More news and information from WASLI**

If you have any news or information that you would like to include then please send your contribution to the WASLI Secretary at the email address below.

#### **The WASLI Executive Board & Co-optees (2005)**

[secretary@wasli.org](mailto:secretary@wasli.org)

**Officers:** President: Liz Scott Gibson (Scotland) - Vice President - Philemon Akach (South Africa) - Secretary - Zane Hema (England) - Treasurer - Liz Scully (Canada)

**Regional Reps:** North America - Deb Russell (Canada) - Asia - Emiko Ichikawa (Japan) - Transcaucasia & Central Asia - Anna Komarova (Russia) - Europe - Marco Nardi (Italy) - Australasia/Oceania – Jemina Napier - South America - to be advised - Africa - to be advised

**Co-optees:** Dr D Burch (USA) Bill Moody (USA) Nigel Cleaver (England) Arun Rao (India) Francois Deysel (South Africa) Ito Tadashi (Japan) Knud Sondergaard (WFD) Carol-lee Aquiline (Former Working Group member)