

Programme

Please note that the programme is subject to change.

Thursday 24 September 2026	
8.30 - 9.30	Registration / Posters / Exhibition
OPENING	
9.30 - 9.50	Opening speeches
9.50 - 10.00	Announcement of the WFD Sign Name
10.00 - 10.30	Keynote presentation Dr Liisa Kauppinen (WFD Honorary President)
10.30 - 11.00	Break / Posters / Exhibition
SIGN LANGUAGE RECOGNITION	
11.00 - 11.05	Report: The global state of sign language recognition
11.05 - 11.20	Presentation: Sign Language Recognition WFD
11.20 - 11.35	Presentation: From Recognition to Officialisation – A European Evolution of Sign Language Rights Alexandre Bloxs (Belgium, European Union of the Deaf)
11.35 - 11.50	Presentation: Signing as Hearing Accompliceship Praxis Dr. Timothy Y. Loh, (USA/Singapore, Princeton University)
11.50 - 12.30	Panel: National Sign Language Recognition
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch / Posters / Exhibition
MENTAL HEALTH	
14.00 - 14.05	Report: Deaf mental health, the global access gap
14.05 - 14.20	Presentation: Co-Designing Mental Health Systems with Deaf Communities Dr Stefania Fadda (Italy, CABSS Foundation) and Herbert Klein (UK, Independent Deaf Advisor in Mental Health)
14.20 - 14.35	Presentation: When Language Becomes Injustice: Forensic Assessment of Deaf Individuals Mauro Mottinelli (Italy)
14.35 - 14.50	Presentation: Nothing About Us Without Us in Therapy: A Deaf-Led Framework for Mental Health Practice Module Lawson (Australia, Cloud Counselling)
14.50 - 15.15	Panel: Deaf people and Mental Health
15.15 - 15.45	Break / Posters / Exhibition
HERITAGE – 75 YEARS OF WFD	
15.45 - 16.00	Presentation: History of WFD from the Italian Perspective Concetta Bottari & Angela Petrucci (Italy, Ente Nazionale Sordi)
16.00 - 16.15	Presentation: Leading the WFD: The influence of Dragoljub Vukotić (1955–1983) Dijana Vincek (Croatia, Croatian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing)
16.15 - 16.40	Film: Human Rights Through Sign Languages : 75 Years of Deaf Advocacy WFD
16.40 - 17.00	Panel: 75 Years of WFD Leadership
17.00 - 17.30	Posters / Exhibition
17.30 - 18.30	Youth Workshop WFDYS & CGSI

Friday 25 September 2026	
8.30 - 9.00	Registration / Posters / Exhibition
EDUCATION	
9.00 - 9.05	Report: Sign language in education: progress and persistent gaps
9.05 - 9.20	Presentation: Sign Language Ideologies in Deaf Education in Trinidad and Tobago Ian Dhanooolal (Trinidad and Tobago, Deaf Empowerment and Advancement Foundation) and Dr Kristin Snoddon (Canada, Toronto Metropolitan University)
9.20 - 9.35	Presentation: BSL in Our Hands – Advocating for Early Sign Language Acquisition and Deaf Children's Rights in the UK Rebecca Mansell and Dr Robert Adam (UK, British Deaf Association)
9.35 - 9.50	<i>Presentation details coming soon</i>
9.50 - 10.30	Panel: Education of deaf learners
10.30 - 11.00	Break / Posters / Exhibition
DEAF LEADERSHIP AND RESEARCH	
11.00 - 11.05	Report: Deaf-led research and leadership: the state of play
11.05 - 11.20	Presentation: Deaf People in Research: Participation, Leadership and Power Dr Robert Adam (UK/Australia, WFD Expert Group on Deaf Studies)
11.20 - 11.50	Presentation: Shaping the Future – Empowering the Next Generation of Deaf Leaders WFDYS
11.50 - 12.30	Panel: Deaf Leadership
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch / Posters / Exhibition
AI AND SIGN LANGUAGE	
14.00 - 14.05	Report: AI and Deaf communities: risks, opportunities, and what WFD is watching
14.05 - 14.20	Presentation: Sign Language and AI WFD
14.20 - 14.35	<i>Presentation details coming soon</i>
14.35 - 15.15	Panel: AI and the Future of Sign Language
15.15 - 16.00	Break / Posters / Exhibition
CLOSING	
16.00 - 16.30	Closing Remarks: The WFD at 100 Dr Joseph J. Murray (WFD President)
16.30 - 17.00	Closing Ceremony