

75



WORLD FEDERATION  
OF THE DEAF

# CONFERENCE

24 - 26 SEPTEMBER 2026

ROME, ITALY

# PROGRAMME



# CONFERENCE



**THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2026**

9.30 – 10.30

## OPENING

- **Opening speeches**
- **Announcement of the WFD Sign Name**
- **Keynote presentation**  
Dr Liisa Kauppinen (WFD Honorary President)

11 – 12.30

## SIGN LANGUAGE RECOGNITION

- **Presentation: Sign Language Recognition**  
WFD
- **Presentation: From Recognition to Officialisation, a European Evolution of Sign Language Rights**  
Alexandre Bloxs (Belgium, European Union of the Deaf)
- **Presentation: Signing as Hearing Accompliceship Praxis**  
Dr. Timothy Y. Loh, (USA/Singapore, Princeton University)
- **Panel on Sign Language Recognition**

14 – 15.15

## MENTAL HEALTH

- **Presentation: Co-Designing Mental Health Systems with Deaf Communities**  
Dr Stefania Fadda (Italy, CABSS Foundation)  
& Herbert Klein (UK, Independent Deaf Advisor in Mental Health)
- **Presentation: When Language Becomes Injustice: Forensic Assessment of Deaf Individuals**  
Mauro Mottinelli (Italy)
- **Presentation: Nothing About Us Without Us in Therapy: A Deaf-Led Framework for Mental Health Practice**  
Modiule Lawson (Australia, Cloud Counselling)
- **Panel on Mental Health**

15.45 – 17

## HERITAGE — 75 YEARS OF WFD

- **Presentation: History of WFD from the Italian Perspective**  
Concetta Bottari & Angela Petrucci (Italy, Ente Nazionale Sordi)
- **Presentation: Leading the WFD: The influence of Dragoljub Vukotić (1955–1983)**  
Dijana Vincek (Croatia, Croatian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing)
- **Film: Human Rights Through Sign Languages : 75 Years of Deaf Advocacy**  
WFD
- **Panel: 75 Years of WFD Leadership**

Please note that the programme is subject to change



# CONFERENCE



**FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2026**

9 - 10.30

## EDUCATION

- **Presentation: Sign Language Ideologies in Deaf Education in Trinidad and Tobago**  
Ian Dhanoolal (Trinidad and Tobago, Deaf Empowerment and Advancement Foundation) & Dr Kristin Snoddon (Canada, Toronto Metropolitan University)
- **Presentation: BSL in Our Hands — Advocating for Early Sign Language Acquisition and Deaf Children's Rights in the UK**  
Rebecca Mansell  
& Dr Robert Adam (UK, British Deaf Association)
- **Panel: Education of deaf learners**

11 - 12.30

## DEAF LEADERSHIP AND RESEARCH

- **Presentation: Deaf People in Research: Participation, Leadership and Power**  
Dr Robert Adam (UK/Australia, WFD Expert Group on Deaf Studies)
- **Presentation: Shaping the Future — Empowering the Next Generation of Deaf Leaders**  
WFDYS
- **Panel: Deaf Leadership**

14 - 15.15

## AI AND SIGN LANGUAGE

- **Presentation: AI and Deaf communities: risks, opportunities, and what WFD is watching**  
WFD
- **Panel: AI and the Future of Sign Language**

16 - 17

## CLOSING

- **Closing Remarks: The WFD at 100**  
Dr Joseph J. Murray (WFD President)
- **Closing Ceremony**

Please note that the programme is subject to change



## FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2026

20 - 2am

**GALA DINNER**

## SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2026

14 - 18

**DEAF PRIDE PARADE – PROUD DEAF!**

18 - 2am

**FESTIVAL**

<https://wfd75.ens.it/>

Please note that the programme is subject to change