

WFD PRESIDENT ELECTED SECOND VICE-CHAIR OF THE INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY ALLIANCE BOARD

The British Deaf Association, a member of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), wishes to offer its sincere congratulations to the WFD President, Colin Allen, who has been elected as Second Vice-Chair of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) Board. To have a deaf person elected to such a senior position in this prestigious worldwide international disabled organisation is a momentous moment in Deaf history.

The International Disability Alliance was established in 1999 and is a network of Global and regional disabled people's organisations (DPOs). The IDA aims to promote the human rights of persons with disabilities utilising the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other human rights instruments. The IDA represents persons with disabilities at national, regional and international levels.

The IDA, with member organisations around the world, is a voice for an estimated one billion people who live with a disability. The IDA is composed of a network of the foremost international disability rights organisations and is acknowledged as the authoritative representative voice of persons with disabilities by the United Nations both in New York and Geneva.

Dr Terry Riley, BDA Chair and WFD Board Member, says *"With Colin now a member of this unique Alliance, we are sure that once again Deaf voices and views will not only be listened to but also recognised as equal in the long campaign for equality, justice, and the recognition not only of our heritage, language and culture but for our fundamental human rights."*

ENDS.