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WFD's email: info@wfdeaf.org

Dear WFD,

We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to express our deep concerns regarding the current West-oriented policies from WFD. We are pleased to see WFD taking some action on the current Israeli-Palestinian issue, as shown in a few latest posts on social media. We equally believe that the WFD, as a world deaf-led organisation with two expert groups - human rights and disaster reduction - should commit to addressing the ongoing humanitarian crises, particularly in regions such as Palestine, Sudan, Congo, among other countries, where genocides and human rights violations are occurring.

First and foremost, we urge the WFD to acknowledge the dire situation faced by the Palestinian people, who are enduring what can only be described as genocide. In the WFD's latest posts on social media, the WFD made use of these terms: 'armed conflict' and 'war' to refer to the genocide that Palestinians are going through. WFD should also acknowledge the systematic violence, displacement, and oppression inflicted upon Palestinians while demanding immediate attention and action from the International community. It is crucial for WFD to publicly recognise the gravity of the situation and stand in solidarity with the Deaf Palestinian people in their struggle for basic human rights, as they survive through the genocide.

The WFD post on 21st February 2024 acknowledged its support to OM Palestine and the Association of Deaf Persons in Israel (ADI). But we urge the WFD to acknowledge and focus on the critical situation that Deaf Palestinian civilians are currently living and to take proactive steps to support Deaf Palestinians by providing them with the necessary tools and assistance. as well as support the OM Palestine to improve accessibility in the refugee camps and provide any support required between OM Palestine and the United Nations. Access to basic necessities such as clean water, healthcare, education, and adequate shelter is severely limited in many Palestinian refugee camps, exacerbating the suffering of already vulnerable Deaf populations.

In addition to addressing the crisis for Deaf people in Gaza and the West Bank, we urge the WFD to extend its efforts and support to Deaf Arabs living in Israel. We are deeply concerned by the statement of the ADI on their social media stating that any Deaf people making any offensive statements against the IDF will be immediately removed from all the branches of the National Association of Deaf, concurring an immediate cease of the services provided by the ADI.

We believe that the WFD has the resources, contacts and expertise to provide meaningful support to deaf Palestinians and deaf Palestinians in Israel, and we urge the WFD to prioritise this issue and take concrete actions to alleviate their suffering.

We also urge the WFD to extend their work to other regions where genocides and human rights violations are occurring, such as Congo, Sudan, Yemen and other active war-zone countries. We encourage the WFD to engage with local associations and communities in these regions. The WFD can direct its continued effort and work to support Deaf people in current and future crises aimed at ending violence, promoting reconciliation, and supporting deaf victims of these atrocities. We encourage the WFD to reframe the Western vision of its policies and adopt a comprehensive approach to addressing humanitarian crises, one that transcends geographical boundaries and acknowledges the interconnectedness of global struggles for justice and human rights.

We understand that addressing these issues may require the WFD to reassess its current policies and priorities. However, we firmly believe that taking action to support marginalised and oppressed communities is not only a moral imperative but also a fundamental aspect of WFD's mission and mandate.

We appreciate your attention to these urgent matters and look forward to seeing concrete actions from WFD in response to our concerns.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Put your name here]