



5TH WFD CONFERENCE REPORT

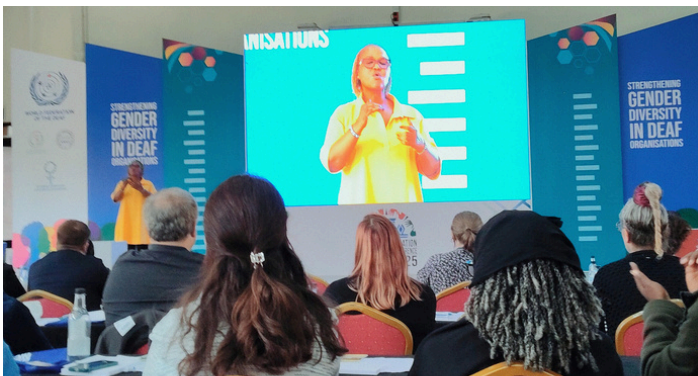
10 – 14 AUGUST 2025

NAIROBI, KENYA

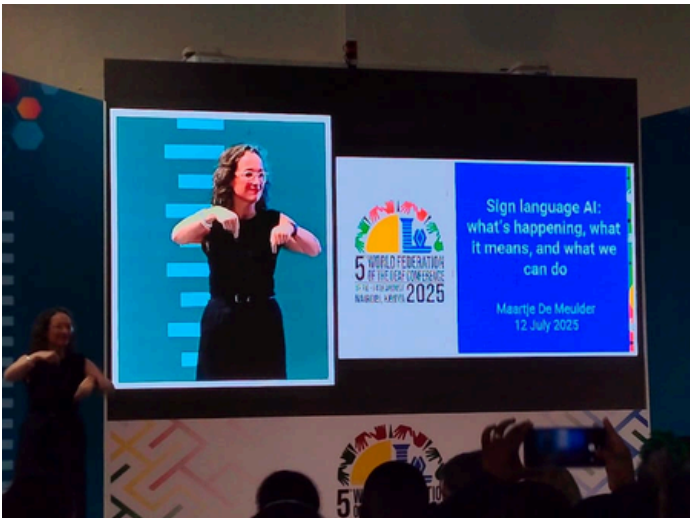


The 5th International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf was organized by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and hosted by the Kenya National Association of the Deaf (KNAD) at the Kenya Institute of Special Education, Nairobi, Kenya, from 10 to 14 August 2025. As the All India Federation of the Deaf (AIFD) is one of the Ordinary Members of the WFD from India, the WFD invited six representatives from AIFD to participate in the conference.

The World Federation of the Deaf hosted, for the first time in its history, a Pre-Conference event on Deaf Women's Rights and Leadership titled "Strengthening Gender Diversity in Deaf Organisations" as part of the WFD International Conference 2025. Over the course of two days 10 and 11 August 2025, Deaf leaders from around the world came together to share powerful testimonies, research, and practical strategies for overcoming systemic barriers to equality at the intersection of gender, cultural, and linguistic identities. The event featured presenters from Zambia, India, Sweden, Kenya, France, Germany, and Spain, who highlighted how Deaf women are creating positive change in their communities despite facing intersecting challenges related to limited access, information, and visibility.



Conclusion 12 - 14 August 2025.



On Day 1 of the main conference, Dr. Maartje De Meulder led a workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Sign Languages, highlighting both the opportunities and risks associated with AI-driven tools. She urged Deaf communities to critically examine technological bias and advocate for active participation in the development of AI systems.



On Day 2, the conference focused on climate change and disaster risk reduction, with Penninah Vulimu and Susana Stiglich calling on governments to integrate sign language rights into emergency planning. They emphasized that Deaf-led solutions and inclusive policy-making are essential and life-saving measures.



On Day 3, Shane Feldman delivered a session on building resilient Deaf organisations, covering governance, ethical use of Artificial Intelligence, and sustainable fundraising. His call for purpose-driven leadership and equity-focused strategies inspired participants from 50+ countries to strengthen their national associations.



**WORLD FEDERATION
OF THE DEAF**



**ALL INDIA FEDERATION
OF THE DEAF**



**ROSHAN
KUMAR
(AIFD)**

**ASHRAF
KUNNATH
(AIFD)**

**VUJJINI
JANAKI
(AIFDWS)**

**ANJALA
LAHON
(AIFDWS)**

**MUSKAN
BHATIA
(AIFDYS)**

**RASHID
MK
(AIFDYS)**

The Indian participants were as follows: Roshan Kumar (General Secretary of All India Federation of the Deaf), Ashraf Kunnath (Board Member of AIFD), Vujjini Janaki (President of the AIFD Women Section), Anjala Lahon (General Secretary of the AIFD Women Section), Muskan Bhatia (Vice President of the AIFD Youth Section), and Rashid MK (General Secretary of the AIFD Youth Section).



Indian Delegates at the WFD Conference 2025