



**TASK FORCE on DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORT  
Status Report  
3 March 2015**

**WSI DHH Task Force**

WSI DHH TF will wrap up 13 June 2015 when final report is submitted at annual WSI Executive/Advisory Board meeting in Paris, France. Dr. Clark, Co-Chair and new appointed member of WSI Advisory Board will submit the report on behalf of WSI DHH TF. Gmail account will be deactivated on 13 June 2015 at the conclusion of WSI DHH TF.

**Survey and Final Report**

Drs. Ammons and Clark, Co-Chairs, drafted a final report with survey results (see attached report and statistics).

Twenty-eight countries who responded: Australia, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Macau, Mali, Moldova, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Taiwan, UK, USA, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Of these 28, 14 submitted action photos of deaf women athletes per WSI DHH TF request. UK removed their photos from dropbox and I've asked them to re-send.

**6<sup>th</sup> IWG World Conference on Women and Sport**

The 6<sup>th</sup> IWG World Conference on Women and Sport opened with a press conference by IWG with representatives from IWG, IOC, IPC, ICSD, WSI and former Finnish President Tarja Halonen on stage. ICSD President Valery Rukheldev endorsed/signed the Brighton Declaration (as did three other organizations) during this press conference. WSI Vice President Dr. Carole Oglesby and DHH TF Co-Chair signed as witnesses for ICSD.

Dr. Clark, Dawn Jani Birley, and Dr. Johanna Mesch represented WSI TF DHH and ICSD (who generously paid registration fee of all three TF members) in Helsinki. Dr. Clark and Ms. Birley

co-presented “Breaking barriers and opening doors for deaf and hard of hearing girls and women in sport” at the “Million Dollar Stories and Practices” parallel session on 13 June and all three TF members presented the same topic at the “WSI on Change and Inclusion for Girls and Women in Sport” parallel session --- a panel consisting of all WSI Executive Board and 3 DHH TF members. (Please see attached PPT presentation).

The Finnish government provided Finnish sign language interpreters. There were several deaf women from Finland and Sweden (Dawn and Johanna – any others missing?).

Dr. Liisa Kauppinen, UN Human Rights Prize Award Honoree, attended both presentations and the ICSD Brighton Declaration Endorsement Ceremony.



## **International Committee on Sports for the Deaf (ICSD)**

ICSD Executive Board voted in September 2014 at their annual meeting to establish a Women's Sport Commission. The primary mandate of the Women's Sport Commission (WSC) is to provide advice and consultation to the ICSD on gender equality and inclusion in Deaf Sport.

On 11 February, Drs. Clark and Mesch were appointed Co-Chairs of the WSC and charged with creating, developing and establishing goals and objectives of the Commission. ICSD extended an invitation to the co-chairs to give a presentation on 27 March 2015 highlighting the results of the WSI DHH Deaf Women in Sport survey and briefly discuss the significance ICSD's historical endorsement of the Brighton Declaration during the 45<sup>th</sup> Congress in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia prior to the Winter Deaflympics. Dr. Ammons and Dawn Jani Birley will also be in Russia with various responsibilities.

## **European Deaf Sports Organization (EDSO) 2<sup>nd</sup> Leadership Seminar for Deaf Women**

Dr. Mesch was the keynote speaker for the EDSO 2<sup>nd</sup> Leadership Seminar for Deaf Women that took place in Madrid, Spain, 7-8 November 2014. Her presentation focused on "Women's Equality and Right to Play". (Please see attached official conference notes, mini-survey, and powerpoint pdf). Congratulations, Dr. Mesch!



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## **Association for Applied Sport Psychology (AASP) International Conference**

WSI DHH TF member Mimi Ho's presented her research work on deaf athletes in two poster sessions at the AASP International Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. Mimi is a doctoral candidate in sport and exercise psychology at the University of Birmingham, UK and 2009 Deaflympian (Hong Kong) in table tennis. Congratulations, Mimi! Mimi also designed the WSI DHH Survey in Survey Monkey and did the original statistical analysis and graphs.

## Research (see attached posters)

1. **Ho. M. S. H.**, Appleton, P. R., Cumming, J., & Duda, J. L. (2014). The mediating role of self-regulation strategies in the relationships between perfectionism dimensions and psychological well-being and ill-being in hearing and deaf Athletes: A longitudinal approach. *Association for Applied Sport Psychology Annual Conference*, Las Vegas, USA, October 2014
2. **Ho. M. S. H.**, Appleton, P. R., Cumming, J., & Duda, J. L. (2014). Understanding the effects of perfectionism in athletes with and without hearing impairments: A qualitative approach grounded in self-regulation strategies. *Association for Applied Sport Psychology Annual Conference*, Las Vegas, USA, October 2014.



## USA Deaf Basketball (USADB)

USADB endorsed the Brighton Declaration in April 2013. They will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Women's basketball program at the annual national tournament 11 April in Oakland, CA, USA. USADB will induct 8 women and 1 women's coach (male) in the USADB Hall of Fame during the tournament festivities. Check out their announcement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S0yhNF6vrXE>

## Global Sports Mentoring Program (GSMP) and Sports Visitors Program (US Department of State) Inclusion and Equality

Dr. Clark continues to work with US Department of State on various sport projects on inclusion and gender equality. For the first time in its three year history, the 2014 GSMP class included two women with disabilities (Paralympian from Denmark and another athlete/leader from Kenya). Dr. Clark is working on identifying qualified DHH women for GSMP.

Dr. Ammons was invited by Dr. Clark as speaker on Deaf Women in Sports for the U17 Girls National Football Team Sports Visitors from Jordan last December 2014 in Florida. Take a look at these pics – what a great time!



Last month, a group of 4 Deaf women (plus 2 interpreters) and 5 women with disabilities from Pakistan participated in a Sports Visitors program in Birmingham, Alabama, USAS in partnership with the University of Tennessee Center of Sport, Peace and Society and the US Department of State. The Sports Visitors toured the Alabama School for the Deaf and several Deaflympians in addition to several activities at the Lakeshore Foundation with Paralympians.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/global sportswomen/>

## SUMMARY

WSI TF DHH is on target to achieve all of its goals by 13 June 2015. Meanwhile, we continue to provide ongoing advocacy, support, and networking in raising awareness and promoting inclusion and equality in both mainstream and deaf/disability organizations. A final report and recommendations will be submitted to the WSI Executive Board by 13 June, 2015.

Respectfully submitted:

Handwritten signature of Becky Clark in cursive script.

Dr. Becky Clark, Co- Chair

Handwritten signature of Donalda Ammons in cursive script.

Dr. Donalda Ammons, Co-Chair

Encl attachments:      Draft WSI DHH TF Final Report  
                                  IWG Powerpoint PDF WSI DHH  
                                  Mesch/Women's Equality & Right to Play Powerpoint PDF EDSO  
                                  EDSO Invitation letter  
                                  EDSO 2<sup>nd</sup> Leadership Deaf Women Official Notes  
                                  EDSO 2<sup>nd</sup> Leadership Deaf Women Mini-Survey  
                                  Mimi Ho Poster Session I  
                                  Mimi Ho Poster Session II  
                                  WSI DHH Survey Statistics copy