

**WBU E-BULLETIN**

**VOLUME 14, ISSUE 3**

**April 2018**

Contact us at:

World Blind Union

1929 Bayview Avenue

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

M4G 3E8

**Telephone:** 1-416-486-9698

**Fax:** 1-416-486-8107

**Email:** [info@wbu.ngo](mailto:info@wbu.ngo)

**Website:** [www.wbu.ngo](http://www.wbu.ngo)

**Twitter:** [@BlindUnion](https://twitter.com/BlindUnion?lang=en)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/BlindUnion](http://www.facebook.com/BlindUnion)

**Changing What It Means to be Blind!**

[CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE E-BULLETIN 4](#_Toc520988749)

[**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE** 4](#_Toc520988750)

[**WBU NEWS** 6](#_Toc520988751)

[WBU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN CANADA 6](#_Toc520988752)

[WBU MEMBERS REFLECT ON UNCRPD 10 YEARS SINCE IT CAME INTO FORCE 7](#_Toc520988753)

[AN INTERVIEW WITH GERTRUDE OFORIWA FEFOAME, NEW MEMBER OF THE UNCRPD COMMITTEE 8](#_Toc520988754)

[WBU AND ICEVI SUBMISSION TO THE UNCRPD COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD 11](#_Toc520988755)

[WBU 1ST VICE PRESIDENT RANKED AMONG TOP LEADERS 12](#_Toc520988756)

[WBU TREASURER IS AWARDED THE QUEEN’S SERVICE MEDAL 13](#_Toc520988757)

[**UPDATES ON WBU PRIORITIES** 14](#_Toc520988758)

[AN UPDATE FROM THE WBU DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 14](#_Toc520988759)

[**UPDATES FROM THE REGIONS** 16](#_Toc520988760)

[MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE ON THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT OF CUBA’S NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND 16](#_Toc520988761)

[ULAC BOARD MEETS IN MADRID 17](#_Toc520988762)

[NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENTS ELECTED IN GERMANY AND ETHIOPIA 18](#_Toc520988763)

[AFUB APPOINTS INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 18](#_Toc520988764)

[AFUB @30: MARKING 30 YEARS OF CHANGING WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BLIND IN AFRICA 18](#_Toc520988765)

[ACB AND NFB CONVENTIONS 20](#_Toc520988766)

[UK - GIVE US BACK OUR PAVEMENTS CAMPAIGN 20](#_Toc520988767)

[**UPDATES FROM GLOBAL PARTNERS 21**](#_Toc520988768)

[FIRST-EVER GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT IS HELD 21](#_Toc520988769)

[ANNOUNCING THE 2018 HOLMAN PRIZE WINNERS 21](#_Toc520988770)

[IBSA BLIND FOOTBALL RELEASES FIGURES ON DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT FOR EUROPE 22](#_Toc520988771)

[**FEATURES** 22](#_Toc520988772)

[THE MIRACLE OF MARRAKESH 22](#_Toc520988773)

[**RESOURCES** 23](#_Toc520988774)

[BLIND AUTHOR SHARES 10 TIPS FOR SELF-PUBLISHING YOUR BOOK THE SAFEST AND MOST PROFITABLE WAYS 23](#_Toc520988775)

[**UPCOMING EVENTS** 26](#_Toc520988776)

[BELGIUM - BRAILLETECH 2018: THE NUMBER ONE EVENT IN VISUAL AIDS 26](#_Toc520988777)

[14TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON AGEING 26](#_Toc520988778)

[WORLD SUMMIT ON ACCESSIBLE TOURISM 26](#_Toc520988779)

[**BECOME A WBU FRIEND 26**](#_Toc520988780)

[REMINDER: CONTACT INFORMATION 27](#_Toc520988781)

[**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** 27](#_Toc520988782)

[**PICTORIAL NEWS** 27](#_Toc520988783)

[**THE WBU REGIONS** 28](#_Toc520988784)

[AFRICA 28](#_Toc520988785)

[ASIA 28](#_Toc520988786)

[ASIA-PACIFIC 28](#_Toc520988787)

[EUROPE 28](#_Toc520988788)

[LATIN AMERICA 28](#_Toc520988789)

[NORTH AMERICA/THE CARIBBEAN 28](#_Toc520988790)

[**WBU TABLE OFFICERS** 28](#_Toc520988791)

[**REGIONAL PRESIDENTS** 28](#_Toc520988792)

[**WBU STAFF** 29](#_Toc520988793)

[**OUR SPONSORS** 29](#_Toc520988794)

[Our Platinum Sponsors 29](#_Toc520988795)

[Our Diamond Sponsors 30](#_Toc520988796)

[Our Gold Sponsors 30](#_Toc520988797)

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE E-BULLETIN

We welcome articles from the regions and from members who wish to share their good news with the rest of the world. Our next deadline for content is **October 5th,** **2018.** We accept submissions in English, French, and Spanish in electronic format. Please note that we retain the right to edit submissions due to space limitations. Send your news to: [Terry.Mutuku@wbu.ngo](mailto:Terry.Mutuku@wbu.ngo)

# PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dr. Fredric K. Schroeder, President, WBU



Dear friends,

The World Blind Union has been very active over the past three months. This edition of the E-Bulletin will give you detailed information on our many activities; however, I wish to highlight three particular items.

At our recent meeting in Ottawa, the Executive Committee selected Madrid as the site for the 2020 WBU General Assembly. As with the past two General Assemblies, the 2020 Assembly will be jointly held with The International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI). Please begin planning to attend the 2020 General Assembly in Madrid and join your colleagues from throughout the world in expanding opportunities for blind and partially sighted people everywhere.

Turning to Marrakesh, as you know, since 2013 we have been working to encourage as many countries as possible to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty. As of today, 40 countries have ratified the Treaty, which is a wonderful and important accomplishment; however, the news gets even better.

On Thursday 28 June the United States Senate approved the resolution of ratification for the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled. At the same time, the United States Senate unanimously adopted the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act, S. 2559. The Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act brings U.S. copyright law into conformity with the Treaty. Once the U.S. Secretary of State deposits the ratification with the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United States will be a party to the Treaty.

We also understand that during the next Marrakesh Treaty General Assembly in late September, the European Union will deposit its ratification instrument. Our hope is that the U.S. would also officially deposit its ratification at the same time. Once the EU and the U.S. join the Treaty, the number of accessible books will increase dramatically, bringing us one large and important step closer to ending the book famine.

Finally, we continue to make progress in having the leadership of women recognized in important ways. Far too often, blind and partially sighted people are assumed to have nothing to offer beyond the disability world. To move closer to true integration, we must push to have the ability of blind and partially sighted people recognized beyond the disability policy arena.

I am very pleased to announce that last month our own Ana Pelaez was the first woman with a disability to be elected to the UN Convention for the elimination of discrimination against women (CEDAW) Committee. She was not elected to represent disability but for her proven advocacy and leadership in addressing discrimination against women. This is a powerful example of the progress we continue to make.

In addition, our blind colleague, Gertrude Fefoame, has been elected to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Committee. Gertrude’s appointment means that the concerns of blind and partially sighted people, especially blind and partially sighted women, will be strongly represented on the CRPD Committee.

In closing I wish to thank each of you for the work you do every day to advance the full integration of blind and partially sighted people. Whether our work is humble or dramatic, it is all part of the collective push of blind and partially sighted people toward equal opportunity.

**Dr. Fredric K. Schroeder, President, WBU**

# WBU NEWS

# WBU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN CANADA



Delegates at the WBU Executive meeting in Ottawa, Canada

The World Blind Union Executive Committee meeting was held in Ottawa, Canada, May 29-June 1. Delegates representing WBU regions came from as far as Mongolia, Tajikistan, Japan, Haiti, Rwanda among other countries.

WBU's international partners were also represented at the meeting including CBM International (Christian Blind Mission), Norwegian Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted (NABP), Danish Association of the Blind (DAB) and International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI). UN Ambassador for Antigua and Barbuda, Dr. Aubrey Webson, also attended the meeting.

The Executive Committee selected Madrid, Spain as the host for the 2020 WBU General Assembly. The Assembly will be jointly held with ICEVI. Other key issues discussed at the meeting included: accelerating advocacy campaigns for ratification of Marrakesh Treaty, promotion of human rights issues, promotion of braille literacy and strengthening of international and cross regional collaborations.

The meeting was hosted by Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) which celebrated it's 100 years anniversary. Delegates attended a special gala event to celebrate the anniversary and viewed a special historical exhibit - "[That All May Read](http://thatallmayread.ca/)”.

We interviewed some of the delegates at the meeting who shared their impressions and WBU initiatives happening in their countries. The video interviews are available on [WBU YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3yNe9BFeSSRUbts1YJALuA), WBU [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BlindUnion) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/BlindUnion).

# WBU MEMBERS REFLECT ON UNCRPD 10 YEARS SINCE IT CAME INTO FORCE

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol (A/RES/61/106) entered into force on 3 May 2008. It was adopted on 13 December 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and was opened for signature on 30 March 2007.

To commemorate the 10th anniversary since the CRPD entered into force, we interviewed some of our members about its significance in their countries. Watch the video interviews on [WBU YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3yNe9BFeSSRUbts1YJALuA).

Meanwhile the World Blind Union congratulates the six women out of the nine candidates elected to the UNCRPD Committee in June. This marks a significant achievement for women’s empowerment in the disability community as they breakthrough the existing gender disparity within the composition of the Committee which previously included 17 men and only 1 woman. Read more on the [WBU website](http://www.worldblindunion.org/English/news/Pages/Majority-women-elected-to-the-CRPD-Committee.aspx).

# AN INTERVIEW WITH GERTRUDE OFORIWA FEFOAME, NEW MEMBER OF THE UNCRPD COMMITTEE

By Terry Mutuku, WBU Communications Officer

Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame, the Global Advocacy Advisor, and Lead Person on Disability and Social Inclusion of Sightsavers is among the six women elected to the United Nations Committee that monitors the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)*.* She is also the Chair, Africa; International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI).

**1. What inspired you to take on this role of being a member of the CRPD Committee? Why is the role important to you?**

First of all because women need to have their voice raised. That is key to me. In addition, I have the expertise that is required to deliver the demands of the role; from my volunteer roles, different leadership positions from grassroots, national, continental and international level and through my professional academic work. Thirdly, I have come to this position through the mentorship of women and since I align myself with disability and particularly blindness, I have always felt obliged to provide myself to mentor anybody and everybody who is experiencing the same. So, it is time to give back what humanity has given me.

**2. What do you foresee as your biggest challenges as you take up this role?**

The vision I have for women and girls with disability is a result of the stigma and discrimination we face. Change of attitude is very slow. So, I have the desire, the will and the wish to achieve change but this phenomenon can interfere with the extent at which I wish to influence change. As women with disabilities, we struggle at different levels. The mainstream women movement has not changed our issues. Neither has the disability movement fully embraced our issues. So, to push further into the wider spectrum is not a simple issue and that is part of the challenge. The other challenge is that there is still "fewer voices" of women and girls joining the advocacy activity. So, we are making an impact, across all levels of representation, right from grassroots, to the global level but it is slower. We haven’t gotten to where we want to get yet.

**3. How do you think these challenges should be addressed?**

At the UN level, we need to continue to work not only within the CRPD but across all the UN initiatives. We need to intensify the momentum at all levels; from the grassroots to the global level. We need to continue to build self esteem of women and girls with disabilities; by motivating, encouraging and mentoring them, so that they uptake the task of making their voices be heard. It is the affirmative action which is needed, and we need both the mainstream women movement and the disability movement across the board. We need to intensify the movement, mentor more girls and open more doors for young women. We need to build up role models so that they can come through. This is very critical.

**4. Do you see the UNCRPD as being instrumental in addressing these challenges?**

With the Convention, we have worked on a couple of general comments, with a view of breaking down the provisions for people to understand. How well have they been understood by the people who matter most? How well does the grassroot woman with visual impairment understand the Convention? There is a general lack of understanding of human rights mechanisms so far and that is why we need to help our women and girls to better understand how useful this tool is and how they can use it in their every day work so that they will desire to be part of the discussions right at the levels wherever they are. Most of the conversations are happening at the national level, so a lot of people are not involved. Their voices are missing. So, we need to give them voice. I hope as a committee we can strengthen their voice and ensure that they are involved and engaged. Also, most of the leaders within the movement are men. There should be a balance, equal numbers with women. We must increase the numbers of women leaders at all levels.

**5. What are some of the specific issues affecting women with visual impairment in developing countries, that need to be addressed using the Convention?**

The underlying element that this tool offers is working towards non-discrimination. This is something that we don’t have to miss out. And the development of self esteem among women is what motivates them to tackle the discrimination issue. This also improves the other issues such as education, health, violence and accessibility.

**6. Do you think there is enough awareness about the UNCRPD and its mandate especially to the grassroots women?**

No. We need to raise more awareness. We need to intensify the understanding of human rights mechanisms in general. We need to pay sufficient attention to human rights and ensure that the language used is understood at all levels, using the right examples. Also, we need to engage civil society organizations to ensure that they are addressing the CRPD message to the women on the grassroots.

**7. What is the expectation from member states that have ratified the CRPD?**

They must develop the political will in addressing issues of disability within the broader human rights issues, paying close attention to specific issues related to disability. Most states do very little about disability initiatives. Many of them still look at it as a single activity. For example, they need to recognise that in addressing women rights, they should also focus on human rights of girls with disabilities, or when addressing education, they need to address education for people with disabilities. Many states don’t have enough budgets for segmenting disability as a separate issue and worst of all, many don’t have accurate data to work with. However, governments must effectively implement the CRPD. It is their mandate. We must demand that they address the different issues related to disability.

**8. Now that we have more women in the CRPD Committee, what should we anticipate?**

We campaigned very hard, to be able to come together and join the committee. It is a good sign that we will be able to communicate better, share ideas, and relate well with the rest of the team. Also, we should work towards increasing the number of women in the next election.

**9. Any concluding message?**

I have come this far through the contribution of many people that sharpened my motivation, hunger and desire. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported me. We have a lot of work to do, both men and women within the disability arena. We have to embrace disability. We must embrace women and girls with disability.

For more information about Gertrude and how she enjoys her role in changing people’s lives through mentoring, visit [WBU's Project Spiro](http://projectaspiro.com/en/success-stories/Pages/GertrudeFefoame.aspx) website.

# WBU AND ICEVI SUBMISSION TO THE UNCRPD COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The World Blind Union (WBU) and the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) have called on the UN to establish simplified reporting mechanisms for Human Rights Defenders of children with visual impairments to report issues of human rights violations. WBU and ICEVI want facilities such as free hotlines, equipment for recording testimonies, and availability of transport to reach out to communities at risk.

In a submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for the 2018 Day of General Discussion, the WBU and ICEVI observe that appropriate monitoring mechanisms are critical for Human Rights Defenders to track the progress of implementation of children’s rights.

"The Committee on the Rights of the Child should consider these monitoring mechanisms as a way of ensuring that states provide accountability to the implementation of children’s rights", says WBU and ICEVI.

Both organizations assert that information must be accessible in audio, braille, digital, and large print formats to enable children's Human Rights Defenders to participate effectively on an equal basis with others. In addition, assistive technology in the form of screen readers, electronic note takers, screen enhancement software and other accommodations are helpful to the Human Rights Defenders.

Furthermore, WBU and ICEVI want Human Rights Defenders to be involved in establishing policies to guide the implementation of children’s rights and to participate in the decision-making processes.

"Governments and development partners must provide adequate resources to promote the work of Human Rights Defenders of children with visual impairments", says WBU and ICEVI.

Read full submission on [the WBU website](http://www.worldblindunion.org/English/resources/publications/Pages/Other-Publications.aspx).

WBU 1ST VICE PRESIDENT RANKED AMONG TOP LEADERS

Mr. Fernando Riaño, 1st Vice President of the World Blind Union has been ranked among top “Economic Leaders of Tomorrow” by Choiseul Institute, in Spain. He appears in the fourth place in the ranking of an annual study carried out by the Institut Choiseul. This is the first time that a person with disability appears among the top ranking.

Mr. Fernando Riaño, 1st Vice President of WBU

 Mr. Fernando Riaño, 1st Vice President of WBU

The study, conducted by economic and development experts, identifies and ranks young Spanish leaders, who play a major role in economic development sector.

Mr. Riaño is the First Vice President of the WBU since August 2016. He is a lawyer and an expert on legal advisory services, consulting, training and financial sector acquired from Harvard University, Global Civil Society and John F. Kennedy School.

In November 2012 he was awarded the “Young Director Talent” prize by the Prince of Girona Foundation, and Seelinger y Conde, becoming the first person with a disability to receive this Prize.

He is currently the Corporate Director of CSR, Communications and Corporate Affairs for the ONCE Foundation, and the ONCE’s Group of Companies, ILUNION, which comprises 500 working Centres, with more than 36,000 employees, many of them with disabilities.

The World Blind Union congratulates Mr. Riaño for his leadership achievements. Read more about Mr. Riaño on [WBU website](http://www.worldblindunion.org/English/about-wbu/Pages/WBU-Officers.aspx). More information about the Institut Choiseul ranking is available at [Expansión website](http://www.expansion.com/directivos/2018/04/30/5ae6e3fee2704e68508b4595.htm): (In Spanish).

# WBU TREASURER IS AWARDED THE QUEEN’S SERVICE MEDAL

 Ms. Martine Abel-Williamson, WBU Treasurer

The Treasurer for the World Blind Union, Ms. Martine Abel-Williamson of New Zealand, has been awarded the Queen’s Service Medal in the Queen’s Birthday Honours, 2018. She has been recognised for her work as an advocate, lecturer, policy advisor, and service coordinator for New Zealand’s disability sector for 22 years.

"This recognition came as a total surprise for me and I am humbled by people’s generosity. I simply love working in the disability field where I’m surrounded by so many others who are inspiring me and from who I’m learning every day", says Ms. Abel-Williamson.

The World Blind Union is proud of Ms. Abel-Williamson's commitment to the rights of persons with visual disabilities and congratulates her upon this significant achievement.

Ms. Abel-Williamson is the Treasurer for the World Blind Union since 2016. She has served on the WBU Asia-Pacific Board and Policy Council since 2007 where she maintained several roles; with the women’s committee, UNCRPD Network, UN Advocacy Co-ordination committee and as WBU Executive Member.

Ms. Abel-Williamson also led the WBU Strategic Objective working group on Access to the Environment and Transport for four years, focusing on developing the WBU position statement on Shared Spaces, highlighting on issues on quiet vehicles, updating WBU’s policy on universal and barrier free design and collating information and recommendations on access to international travel.

In addition, she is on the Board of Blind Citizens, a major blindness advocacy organisation in New Zealand.

For more information visit the [DPMC website](https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/honours/lists/qb2018-qsm#abel-williamsonma).

# UPDATES ON WBU PRIORITIES

# AN UPDATE FROM THE WBU DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

By Mr. A.K, Mittal, Chair of WBU Development Committee

The WBU Development Committee held its second meeting in Ottawa on 28 May 2018. The Meeting commenced with an address from WBU President, Fred Schroeder, who emphasized the important role of the Committee in addressing developmental needs of visually impaired persons. He called for full co-operation of Regional Presidents and other members in carrying the Committee's work forward.

Arnt Holte, Immediate Past President of WBU and Leader, Priority 2 of the WBU Strategic Plan for the current term, in his address, spoke of different challenges before the Committee and how to deal with them effectively.

In line with its listed initiatives, the Committee has taken up a number of activities. These include the following:

As reported earlier in this Bulletin, a survey has been undertaken to ascertain from national members their own and their national governments' preference, along with reasons for either disability-specific or cross-disability approach to rehabilitation services. The survey Questionnaire was forwarded to Regional Presidents for onward circulation among their members, with June 30th being the deadline for receiving complete responses from members. It was noted that, unfortunately, responses had been few and therefore, an appeal was made to the Regional Presidents and members to impress upon national members to take the Questionnaire with utmost seriousness and provide their responses in maximum numbers within the set time-limit. Following the Ottawa meeting, the Committee Chair and Terje Iversen sent a joint communication to all Regional Presidents requesting them to advise their members once again about the vital significance of the Survey and remind them to provide their responses by the set deadline. Since we have still received limited completed surveys, it has now been decided that the deadline of receiving surveys be extended till **15 August 2018**. We once again make an earnest appeal through this Bulletin to Regional Presidents and national members to have the survey completed by the extended deadline.

In accordance with the decision taken at the Tokyo Executive committee meeting, Diana Stent ft of DAB (Denmark) has prepared a document containing guidelines for national members to formulate reports on capacity-building-related examples of good practices. The document contains definitions of different terms, as also lists certain areas which such good practices report could cover, along with some questions which may be kept in mind while preparing reports. The document was approved at the Ottawa meeting of the Committee with the suggestion that the indicated areas and questions may be taken as illustrative and not as exclusive/exhaustive. The approved document is being forwarded to Regional Presidents for onward circulation to their national members. The members may provide their first reports on capacity-building-related good practices to WBU Communications Officer, by **31 December 2018**.

About the earlier decision of working for wide dissemination of the content of the Resource Manual developed during the last term, the Committee noted at the Ottawa meeting, that the Spanish and French translations of the Manual are already posted on the WBU website. The Committee was further informed by Mr. S.K.Rungta, President, ABU, that work for translating the Manual into Arabic and Russian was progressing well.

As far as the listed Initiative on convergence between leaders of Strategic Objectives 1.2 and 1.3 is concerned, a workshop on UNCRPD and SDG's was held in Ottawa as a part of the EXCO meeting. Further work on this Initiative would be based on action that may be articulated for the Committee under the action plans of the concerned two Objectives.

It has also been decided to constitute a three-member Working Group to review progress on different Initiatives and suggest remedial action, as required. The Committee could meet again through a tele-conference before end of the year to take the work forward based on the findings of the Working Group.

UPDATES FROM THE REGIONS

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE ON THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT OF CUBA’S NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND

The World Blind Union is saddened by the death of the president of Cuba’s National Association of the Blind (ANCI), Mr. José Blanch Ferrer. WBU in conjunction with the WBU Latin America Region sent heartfelt condolences to the family of Mr Blanch Ferrer, friends and members of the ANCI.

Mr. José Blanch Ferrer was a Doctor, specialized in occupational medicine and postgraduate in Health and Hygiene Services Administration and Epidemiology. For 14 years he was the Provincial Deputy Director of Hygiene and Epidemiology in Havana and received several national awards, such as the Manuel Piti Fajardo Medal, the National Excellence Health Prize, the Outstanding State Member Title, 1998 and the title of Internationalist Fighter as a physician, for his work to eradicate transmissible illnesses in Ghana.

Mr. Blanch Ferrer had a long history in the field of blindness: In 2004, he was appointed Head of the International Relations and Legal Advice Departments of the National Association of the Blind (ANCI), he was Vice President of ANCI National Council (2005 – 2011) and since 2013, he was President of ANCI. The Latin American Union of the Blind (ULAC) elected him as Secretary of Aged Persons 2016 - 2020.

Due to his training in the health area, he had an extensive experience in the field of blindness prevention, as well as advocacy of the Human Rights of aged persons with visual impairment. He is fondly remembered by the WBU community as a strong advocate for the integration and inclusion of persons with visual disabilities in Cuba and the improvement of their quality of life through the implementation of International Conventions.

Lucía Nieves Volmir Raimondi

Secretary General President

Latin American Union of the Blind – ULAC

# ULAC BOARD MEETS IN MADRID

The first 2018 ULAC Board meeting, took place at the Centre of the Spanish National Organization of the Blind (ONCE) in Madrid, Spain, 18-19 May. It was attended by Mr. Volmir Raimondi, President; Ms. Lucía Nieves, Secretary General, Mr. Fernando Galarraga, First Vice President; Zilpa Arriola, Second Vice President; and Ms. Selene Caraballo, Treasurer. Ms. María Jesús Varela, Director General of FOAL, in her position as International Member, and Ms. Tatiana Vasconcelos, Technical Secretary, were also present.

They focussed on the assessment of the work done during the first half of 2018 and the new projects to be undertaken during the second half of the year; as well as a study of the viability of the quadrennial events that will take place in 2020,

The meeting coincided with an extraordinary meeting of the Board of Trustees of ONCE Foundation for Latin America (FOAL), that was celebrating its 20 years of work. On May 21 they presented an assessment of what had been achieved during that period devoted to Latin America and submitted new programs to be implemented including: educational mobility and support to women with visual impairment. Source: ULAC E-Newsletter (ULAC Digital, Nr. 24).

# NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENTS ELECTED IN GERMANY AND ETHIOPIA

The General Assembly of the German Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted elected a new board for the coming four years.

Mr Klaus Hahn was elected as president while Mr Hans-Werner Lange was confirmed as vice-president. Seven board members were elected as well. Their full list is available on the [DBSV website](https://www.dbsv.org/pressemitteilung/vbt2018-praesidium.html).

Meanwhile the Ethiopian National Association of the Blind (ENAB) has elected Executive Board and its new president. The former President of ENAB Mr Facade Tsega who has been the president for the last eight years was replaced by his successor Mr Wesen Alemu, effective November 2017.

# AFUB APPOINTS INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The African Union of the Blind (AFUB) has appointed Mr. Lucas Manuel Amoda to be the Interim Executive Director effective 2 July 2018. He is currently the Program Officer in charge of Capacity Development of Spanish and Portuguese-speaking Member Organisations of AFUB.

AFUB @30: MARKING 30 YEARS OF CHANGING WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BLIND IN AFRICA

Over 100 guests including the African Union of the Blind (AFUB) Board, government and disabled People’s organisations, partners and other stakeholders marked AFUB's 30 years anniversary in Nairobi, Kenya on 22 June 2018. The theme was ‘Changing what it means to be Blind in Africa’.

October 1987 in Tunis, Tunisia saw the birth of AFUB, under the auspices of the then Organisation of African Unity (OAU), now African Union (AU). The motivation for AFUB’s inception was the need to provide an authoritative and collective voice for blind and partially sighted persons through advocacy, creation and strengthening of national organisations and associations of blind and partially sighted persons in Africa. At its constituent Assembly, AFUB registered 23 members. 30 years later, AFUB has a membership of 53-member states of the African Union.

Over the years, AFUB’s interventions in various African countries have seen beneficiaries empowered to lead independent and successful lives and hold positions in society. The following are few examples of the beneficiaries of the Knowledge and Democracy and Development KDDP as well as the Africa Visually Impaired Youth Empowerment Project AVIYEP: Ms. Florence Ndagire a KDDP beneficiary from Uganda, currently the Human Rights Policy Advisor at the World Blind Union (WBU), Loice Bunei, a Customer Retention Agent in the Client Care Centre of Standard Chartered Bank, Peter Anomah Kordieh a KDDP beneficiary from Ghana, currently the Human Rights and Advocacy Program Officer at AFUB, and Munyaratsi Musinze an AVIYEP beneficiary from Malawi, the first visually impaired female radio presenter, among others.

At the anniversary event, AFUB@30 endowment fund was launched, to ensure that AFUB’s work goes on to reach more people across the continent. AFUB welcomes contributions towards the Fund.

The story of AFUB: AFUB @30 – "Celebrating Three Decades of changing what it means to be Blind in Africa " - which recounts AFUB’s history and growth over the past 30 years was also launched.

AFUB President, Mr. Yaw Ofori Debra, called on all nations to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, CRPD. He also called on visually impaired youth around the continent to get more involved in the affairs of their national organisations as they will be the leaders of tomorrow.

The Guest of honour, Ms. Maria Cherono, Kenya's Director in Charge of Special Needs Education, at the Ministry of Education, said that efforts will be made to ensure that visually impaired learners are given appropriate assistance so that they can access quality education equal to their peers.

AFUB will continue building the capacity of its member organisations to effectively advocate for the rights of blind and partially sighted persons in their countries, and endeavour to build a stable and sustainable Union for the realisation of their vision; a continent where blind and partially sighted persons enjoy equal rights, social inclusion and full participation in development. Read AFUB@30 poem at: <http://www.afub-uafa.org/afub-at-30/poem/>

ACB AND NFB CONVENTIONS

The 57th American Council of the Blind (ACB) Conference and Convention was held on 29 June to 6 July 2018 in St Louis, Missouri. WBU was represented at the meeting by the CEO, Mr. Jose Viera.

Mr. Viera emphasized the following issues; need to promote braille literacy and accessible, affordable braille; to promote Marrakesh Treaty; data collection, implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and international cooperation.

During the convention, ACB announced the 2018 Achievement Awards in Audio Description, an initiative of the Council’s Audio Description Project (ADP). More details are available on [the ACB website](http://www.acb.org/2018-AD-awards).

Meanwhile, the US National Federation of the Blind (NFB) 2018 [National Convention](https://nfb.org/convention) was held in Orlando, Florida, 3 July to 8 July 2018. The CEO also represented WBU at the convention. He underscored the importance of inter-regional and global cooperation between members, reinforcing WBU's priorities such as data collection, inclusion of the blind in emergency relief services and promotion of Marrakesh Treaty. In June, the US Senate approved ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty. WBU congratulates members in the United States for their advocacy efforts and calls on the US House of Representatives to swiftly finalise the ratification process. See more details on [WIPO website](http://www.ip-watch.org/2018/06/29/wipo-marrakesh-treaty-copyright-exceptions-blind-readers-clear-us-senate/).

# UK - GIVE US BACK OUR PAVEMENTS CAMPAIGN

For over 40 years, members of the UK National Federation of the Blind have campaigned to draw the attention of Police and Local Authorities to all the hazards on the pavements that prevent blind and partially sighted people from walking safely. With 100 people going blind every day in the UK, the NFB needs everyone to work to improve the state of the pavements. Read more information about the campaign on the [EBU newsletter](http://www.euroblind.org/newsletter/2018/june/en/uk-give-us-back-our-pavements-campaign).

# UPDATES FROM GLOBAL PARTNERS

# FIRST-EVER GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT IS HELD

The UK government co-hosted the first-ever Global Disability Summit with the International Disability Alliance and the Government of Kenya. The Summit held in London, UK, July 23-24, 2018, brought together more than 700 delegates from governments, donors, private sector organisations, charities and organisations of persons with disabilities.

The Global Disability Summit resulted in 170 ambitious commitments from all over the world to act on stigma and discrimination against people with disabilities. 301 organisations and governments have signed the Charter for Change – an action plan to implement the UN International Convention on Disability.

# ANNOUNCING THE 2018 HOLMAN PRIZE WINNERS

LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired’s three Holman Prize recipients will use their $25,000 awards to promote blind empowerment in Mexico, complete a dramatic oceanic triathlon, and develop the first online community for blind travel. This fall, three exceptional blind individuals will set off around the world on adventures they never imagined possible as the 2018 winners of the Holman Prize for Blind Ambition.

The three winners, Stacy Cervenka, Conchita Hernández and Red Szell were announced on July 10, after a rigorous judging process. Each winning project embodies its own sense of adventure and ambition – whether it takes the winners on a mentally and physically daunting journey or allows them to build and foster something positive in their community.

The annual $25,000 Holman Prize awards was created to change perceptions and reclaim the concept of “blind ambition". Read more at [LightHouse website](http://lighthouse-sf.org/2018/07/10/announcing-the-2018-holman-prizewinners/).

# IBSA BLIND FOOTBALL RELEASES FIGURES ON DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT FOR EUROPE

The International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) Football Committee has provided strong support to countries in Europe during the 2017-2018 season.

IBSA Blind Football donated 202 balls, 211 sets of cloth eyeshades and 39 sets of official black-out eyeshades to 19 countries between July 2017 and June 2018 thanks to IBSA’s partnership with UEFA (the Union of European Football Associations).

19 countries received balls, 16 countries received cloth eyeshades and 6 countries were recipients of official eyeshades thanks to the IBSA Blind Football Development Project Europe. The beneficiaries included Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Switzerland.

Donations focused on programmes in new and emerging countries and were targeted to grassroots programmes, youth development and women’s involvement in blind football.

This project is made possible thanks to IBSA’s status as a Football and Social Responsibility partner with UEFA, a relationship that stretches back over 10 years. Last year UEFA confirmed its continued support for the project until June 2021. Any national federation, blind sports club, school for the blind or individuals in Europe wishing to introduce or further develop blind football is invited to apply for equipment to the following e-mail address - [football.eurdev@ibsasport.org](mailto:football.eurdev@ibsasport.org)

Read more details at [IBSA website](http://www.ibsasport.org/news/1575/ibsa-blind-football-releases-figures-on-development-support-for-europe).

# FEATURES

# THE MIRACLE OF MARRAKESH

By Barbara Martín Muñoz, EBU Second Vice President and Leader of the Marrakesh Treaty Campaign for EBU

*The following article is a reflection on advocacy efforts before Marrakesh Treaty was enacted and the current efforts towards ratification of the Treaty, particularly by EU countries*.

The road to Marrakesh was a long, winding, and tough one that took 4 years to travel and 26 more to pave. At first, asking WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) member states to work on a treaty on exceptions and limitations was unnatural by most of them. They found it hard to understand why such a Treaty was necessary, and they failed to understand that nothing in the proposed text would harm the international copyright regime. In the final stages of the negotiation, some wanted to see the treaty as an «incentive for publishers», while others humorously saw it as a «treaty to protect rights holders against persons with a print disability». Read the full article in the [EBU Newsletter](http://www.euroblind.org/newsletter/2018/june/en/introduction-miracle-marrakesh)

# RESOURCES

# BLIND AUTHOR SHARES 10 TIPS FOR SELF-PUBLISHING YOUR BOOK THE SAFEST AND MOST PROFITABLE WAYS

*James C Laird is a blind author, who self-publishes his own books. His first book was read by thousands of followers online and was stolen and re-sold by someone else. He uses this experience to show others how to self-publish their books the safest and most profitable ways. Based on his own experience, he has listed 10 tips to help aspiring authors safely self-publish, promote, make and save more money.*

"Many writers fail to realise that it is absolutely FREE to self-publish books on major websites like Amazon. They never even heard about options like Print-On-Demand that make life so much easier. If you're an author using On-Demand, you just sit back, relax and watch your book sales roll in. You don’t have to do anything! While you’re relaxing, factories in various countries are automatically assigned to print your books. These are then shipped to buyers, bookstores and libraries, everywhere, – on your behalf. The lion's share of the royalties can accrue directly to you. Only the printer's and retailer's (e.g. Amazon) share are deducted, you’re paid directly into your bank account. So now you don’t need to print thousands of copies of your book, nor sign contracts with traditional publishers that give away your book rights. Happy days." said James C Laird, author of Sci-fi Fantasy book, Path of the Necromancer. "Self-publishing and On-Demand generate a higher percentage of royalties than traditional publishing. By comparison, eBook self-publishing earns around 50% more royalties, and On-demand earns around 32% more royalties, than traditional publishing."

**10 Tips for the safest and most profitable ways to self-publish:**

1. **Copyright**

By self-publishing your book via safe websites, you the author, retain copyright (if your work is original), and no other action is required. But be extremely careful to publish only on safe websites!

1. **Safe websites**

Self-publishing is fast, but formatting, converting and uploading files is tricky and time-consuming. It is advisable to seek expert assistance as to the layout, so that all your book formats appear neat and presentable to readers. I chose [PerpetuityPublications.com](http://www.perpetuitypublications.com/) (PP) because they are Royalty-Free Self-publishers who upload your books to safe websites. PP provide most of the services offered by traditional publishers/publicists. But with PP, you are not required to sign a book deal contract or give them any royalties. However, other traditional publishers do and so you give away your book rights/royalties to them. So take care!

1. **ISBN barcode protection**

It is important to use an ISBN barcode to safe-guard your book. You’ll need a different ISBN for each ebook, paperback or even hardcover print versions.

1. **Kindle books**

If you want to publish a Kindle Book, it is better to submit your book directly to Amazon Kindle. They pay you a 70% royalty. You might be paid less if you go through third-party ebook distributors, but these distributors may give you the option to “Distribute” or “opt out” for Amazon Kindle.

1. **Pricing your book**

It is better if your book price ends with \_\_.99 (i.e. $2.99, $9.99 etc.) so that most retailers will accept it. For Amazon Kindle, it is best to choose a price from $2.99-9.99. Kindle pay 70% commission on books within that price range. They pay 35% on books priced more than $9.99 or less than $2.99.

1. **Change the price or cover**

If you experience low sales, then maybe consider changing the book’s cover or lowering the price. This might make a huge difference!

1. **Reviews – the more you get the better**

Some retailers use algorithms to push hot books with many reviews/star-ratings. Amazon even use a ‘verified purchase review’. I promoted my book free online via book communities for readers and writers. This allowed me to gather thousands of followers and fans who read and wrote reviews. Some of my fans also informed me that my book was stolen and re-published. It is also not advisable to pay people to write your book reviews or give you top star-ratings.

1. **DRM and Kindle Select**

When publishing with Kindle, Amazon usually give you the option to opt out of DRM as well as choose to select or ignore Kindle Select. Be sure to weigh up the Pros & Cons before you decide on both. DRM is to stop unauthorized redistribution of your book and restrict the ways someone can copy the content. In addition, checking the box for Kindle Select gives Amazon exclusive rights to distribute your ebook. Therefore, you can’t sell your ebook on other retailer platforms, like Apple iBooks or Google Play Android.

1. **Android books are open for business**

Android stopped accepting ebooks for a while, but as of now they are accepting ebooks again for self-publishing. Readers may prefer to read your book on their android phone/tablet, rather than on their iPhone/iPad or even Kindle. The more options you provide, the better!

1. **Plug your other books**

Insert cover images and/or sample chapters of your other book(s) at the end of your book. For ebooks, you have the option to insert your links into your ebook at the start and/or end of your book. Links can include your social media pages, websites, author profiles and retailer links to buy your other book(s). This allows readers to click or send the links to their friends; write reviews and buy your book series or different language versions and even hard copy versions (libraries particularly like paperback/hardcover copies and even audiobooks).

James C Laird's book, Path of the Necromancer, is available at: [amazon.com/author/jameslaird](http://www.amazon.com/author/jameslaird) Follow James on Twitter [@JC\_TheContinuer](https://twitter.com/JC_TheContinuer) and on Facebook [facebook.com/jcthecontinuer](https://www.facebook.com/jcthecontinuer/)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

# BELGIUM - BRAILLETECH 2018: THE NUMBER ONE EVENT IN VISUAL AIDS

The BrailleTech organized by the Ligue Braille will be held in Brussels from 18 to 20 October 2018. It brings together all Belgian distributors of adapted equipment for the blind and partially sighted. A unique opportunity to compare and test in a single place the latest new technologies: aids to everyday life, adapted mobile phones, video magnifiers, optical magnifiers, braille bars, voice synthesizers, enlargement software, etc. The therapists of the Ligue Braille, the visual impairment specialist, will provide their knowledge and personalized advice. The 2018 BrailleTech will also be the occasion to inaugurate two new spaces: the “Espace Snoezelen”, a relaxation bubble with adapted massages, and the “Espace Multimédia” where you can enjoy some good movies with audio description. See full details in the [EBU website](http://www.euroblind.org/newsletter/2018/june/en/belgium-brailletech-2018-number-one-event-visual-aids).

# 14TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON AGEING

The International Federation on Ageing (IFA)14th Global Conference will be held in Toronto, Canada August 8–10, 2018. At the conference, on 9 August, the IFA will be hosting a panel discussion with international leaders on major issues threatening vision health and functional aging. For more details, visit the IFA website: [www.ifa2018.com](http://www.ifa2018.com)

# WORLD SUMMIT ON ACCESSIBLE TOURISM

The second World Summit on Accessible Tourism will be held on 1-2 October 2018 in Brussels. The aim of the summit is to ensure that, tourism, including transportation, offers an obstacle-free experience to all. Ms. Martine Abel-Williamson, Chair of the WBU Access to the Environment committee is in the Summit's programme committee. For more information visit the [Summit's website](https://www.destinationsforall2018.eu/).

# BECOME A WBU FRIEND

The World Blind Union is always looking for new Friends. We welcome blind, partially sighted and sighted persons as Friends. Friends of the WBU are people who support our organization. However, as non-members they do not have voting rights or represent the organization. The Friends donate their time and resources, may help with aspects of our work to make the world a better place for blind and partially sighted individuals. For more information, please visit the [WBU friends webpage](http://www.worldblindunion.org/English/support-us/Pages/default.aspx).

REMINDER: CONTACT INFORMATION

Friendly reminder to members: Please check your contact information on our website to ensure that it is up to date at: Member Regions and Organizations: <http://www.worldblindunion.org/English/about-wbu/membership/Pages/Member-Regions-and-Organizations.aspx>

Should you change your contact information any time please update us. You can contact Ianina at [ianina.rodriguez@wbu.ngo](mailto:ianina.rodriguez@wbu.ngo)

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome comments, feedback and new ideas to be featured in this section of Letters to the Editor. Those who want to comment on articles published in the newsletter can do so.

Brief letters with a maximum of 500 words will be considered. They must be submitted within the contributions deadline provided in each issue. Letters will be edited, usually for grammar, spelling, clarity and space. Every effort will be made to publish the letters and replies if any. However, the choice of letters for publication is at the discretion of the WBU office, subject to content and space. You can send your letters to [Terry.Mutuku@wbu.ngo](mailto:Terry.Mutuku@wbu.ngo)

# PICTORIAL NEWS



WBU CEO Mr. Jose Viera met with Mr. David Boterson, Chairman of [Genius Notebook](http://www.gnotebooks.com/about-us/) at the WBU office to discuss future collaboration.

# THE WBU REGIONS

Our regions are the bridge between the international level of work and the local level. Policies and treaties constructed at global levels are then carried out by our members in their own countries. Most of the regions have their own websites where they post updates on their work, member activities, and upcoming events in their area.

## 

## AFRICA

<http://www.afub-uafa.org>

## ASIA

Website is currently unavailable

## ASIA-PACIFIC

<http://wbuap.org/index/>

## EUROPE

<http://www.euroblind.org>

## LATIN AMERICA

<http://ulacdigital.org>

## NORTH AMERICA/THE CARIBBEAN

Website is currently unavailable

# WBU TABLE OFFICERS

Dr. Fredric K. Schroeder, **President**

[president@wbu.ngo](mailto:president@wbu.ngo)

Mr. Fernando Riaño

**1st Vice President**

[friano@ilunion.com](mailto:friano@ilunion.com)

Ms Donatilla Kanimba

**2nd Vice President**

[donakanimba@gmail.com](mailto:donakanimba@gmail.com)

Ms. Martine Abel-Williamson **Treasurer**

[martine.Abel@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:martine.Abel@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

Mr. A. K. Mittal

**Secretary General**

[mittal24ak@gmail.com](mailto:mittal24ak@gmail.com)

Mr. Arnt Holte

**Immediate Past President**

[arnt.holte@blindeforbundet.no](mailto:arnt.holte@blindeforbundet.no)

# REGIONAL PRESIDENTS

**AFRICA (AFUB)**

Mr. Yaw Ofori-Debra

[yawdebra2015@gmail.com](mailto:yawdebra2015@gmail.com)

**ASIA (ABU)**

Mr. Santosh Kumar Rungta [nfbsec.g@gmail.com](mailto:nfbsec.g@gmail.com)

**ASIA PACIFIC (WBU-AP)**

Ms. Michiko Tabata

[tabacchi@par.odn.ne.jp](mailto:tabacchi@par.odn.ne.jp)

**EUROPE (EBU)**

Mr. Wolfgang Angermann

[ebupresident@euroblind.org](mailto:ebupresident@euroblind.org)

**LATIN AMERICA (ULAC)**

Mr. Volmir Raimondi

[presidencia@ulacdigital.org](mailto:presidencia@ulacdigital.org)

**NORTH AMERICA/CARIBBEAN (WBU-NA/C)**

Mr. Charles Mossop

[charles.mossop@cnib.ca](mailto:charles.mossop@cnib.ca)

# WBU STAFF

Dr. Penny Hartin

**Chief Executive Officer**

[penny.hartin@wbu.ngo](mailto:penny.hartin@wbu.ngo)

Ms. Ianina Rodriguez, **Administrative Assistant**  [Ianina.rodriguez@wbu.ngo](mailto:Ianina.rodriguez@wbu.ngo)

Mr. José Viera

**Human Rights Policy Advisor**

[Jose.viera@wbu.ngo](mailto:Jose.viera@wbu.ngo)

Ms. Terry Mutuku**, Communications Officer**

[terry.mutuku@wbu.ngo](mailto:terry.mutuku@wbu.ngo)

The World Blind Union is registered in Canada as a charitable organization in order to raise funds for our work. Donations from individuals or groups are always appreciated and can be made via the “Donate Now” button on our website: <http://www.wbu.ngo>.

# OUR SPONSORS

Members listed below provide funds beyond their membership fees to support the work of the World Blind Union. We are grateful to these members and organizations for their valued contributions.

## Our Platinum Sponsors

* CBM International <http://www.cbm.org/>
* Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) <http://www.cnib.ca>
* Open Society Institute Foundation (FOSI) <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/>
* Organización Nacional de Ciegos Españoles (ONCE) <http://www.once.es/new/>
* Sightsavers International [http://www.sightsavers.org](http://www.sightsavers.org/)
* Vision Australia <http://www.visionaustralia.org/>

## Our Diamond Sponsors

* Swiss Federation of the Blind and Sight Impaired (SFB)
* Norwegian Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted (NABP) <https://www.blindeforbundet.no>

## Our Gold Sponsors

* National Industries for the Blind (NIB)
* Danish Association of the Blind (DAB)
* German Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted (DBSV).