

The right to communicate: Celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

PANEL ORGANISERS & AFFILIATION

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Background

2018 marks the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 19 focuses on the right to communicate and states: “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.” (United Nations, 1948). Professionals in the field of clinical linguistics and phonetics have an important role in promoting communication

Purpose

The purpose of this panel is to expand the discussion of communication as a human right as it relates not only to Article 19, but also to subsequent national and international conventions, declarations, legislations, policies, and practices.

Method

In order to examine a broad range of interpretations of communication as a human right, this panel draws on divergent perspectives from across the globe (Australia, Fiji, Ireland, South Africa, and USA). First hand accounts of people whose right to communicate is compromised/upheld are included and other papers will be presented by people with expertise and advocacy roles in speech-language pathology and education.

Results

This panel will consider communication as a human right from four perspectives: (1) communication rights of all people, (2) communication rights of people with communication disabilities, (3) communication rights of children, and (4) communication rights relating to language choice.

Conclusions

This panel will present commentaries and reviews, as well as original qualitative and quantitative research presenting “information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers” (United Nations, 1948). Attendees will be challenged to consider a rights-based perspective in their research and practice to support communication rights.

SPEAKERS ON THE PANEL AND THEIR AFFILIATION

Sharynne McLeod – Australia

Rena Lyons – Ireland

Deborah Hersch – Australia

Michelle Pascoe – South Africa

Suzanne Hopf – Fiji

Kathryn Crowe – Australia

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