

Leaving No One Behind: Don't Forget Deaf Women! Importance of Reproductive Rights of Deaf Women and Sign Language-based Communication

17 November 2023, 10:00-11:30

Meeting Room A



Ms. Mariah Abgay,
President, Philippine
Federation of the
Deaf



Ms. Sudarat
Makeshine,
National
Association of
Deaf, Thailand



Mr. Dandy Victa,
National Council
on Disability
Affairs, Philippines



Dr. Andesha Mangla,
Assistant Professor of
Indian Sign Language,
Government of India



Ms. Cai Cai,
Chief, Gender
Equality and Social
Inclusion Section
(GESIS), ESCAP



Ms. Aiko Akiyama,
Social Affairs Officer,
GESIS, ESCAP
(EmCee)

More speakers from Asia-Pacific governments and CSOs to be announced soon.

An estimated 750 million persons live in Asia and the Pacific with some form of disability. Amongst them, Deaf women tend to be left behind.

Indeed, Deaf women tend not to be allowed to make their own decisions about their reproductive health, including family planning. They experience more unwanted pregnancies. Some may even be deprived of their right to parenthood. This deprivation is worsened by the lack of access to sign language-based communication.

This side event aims to raise awareness of issues faced by Deaf women and enhance the use of sign language to enable Deaf women's access to reproductive health services.



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