

*Gladnet*

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*Cornell University*

*Year 2007*

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Changing What it Means to be Blind

World Blind Union

## Achieving a world accessible to blind and partially sighted people

- Achieve a world where blind and partially sighted people have equal access to all information sources;
- Monitor and input into the range of developments of technology and low vision services ensuring that the needs of blind and partially sighted people are addressed; and
- Work with external bodies, such as airlines, governments, corporations, etc to achieve a physical environment which is accessible for blind and partially sighted people.



We are a non-governmental and non-profit making organisation and do not discriminate against any organisation or individual on the basis of gender, age, race or religion.

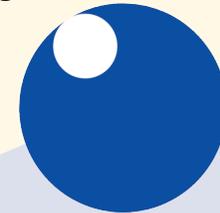


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# Changing what it means to be blind

World Blind Union



## Our purpose

We are a worldwide movement of blind and partially sighted people acting on our own behalf to:

- Eliminate prejudice;
- Promote belief in the proven abilities of blind and partially sighted people; and
- Achieve full participation and equality in society.

## **Basis of our contribution**

The World Blind Union is unique in that it is the sole international body representing the interests of blind and partially sighted people. We are committed to the equal participation of blind women in all our work and to the promotion and use of Braille. We have a passion for, and a deep commitment to, enabling all blind and partially sighted people to have equal opportunities to participate fully in their local, national, regional and international communities. We are respected and regularly called upon by governments and agencies worldwide to represent the views of our members.

## **Our values**

We believe in blind and partially sighted people and that we should speak for ourselves. We are professional, accountable and, democratic. Our organisation is diverse, balanced and united.

# **OUR WORK 2004 – 2008**

## **Capacity building and organisational development**

- Develop an inventory of resources and services for blind and partially sighted people in all member countries;
- Develop and implement a strategy to share resources;
- Work with organizations who provide programs in developing countries for blind and partially sighted people; and
- Work to achieve WBU membership equal to membership of the United Nations.

## **Developing and implementing advocacy and lobbying strategies**

- Continually review, update and implement all policy positions;
- Identify gaps and develop policy on a range of issues;

- Develop and distribute appropriate HIV Aids information in accessible formats; and
- Contribute to the development of the UN convention on disability.

## **Our own development**

In order to develop our profile and internal capacity we will:

- Establish a fixed staffed permanent office;
- Develop and implement best practice principals of good governance;
- Ensure we have a responsive, accessible and inclusive communication strategy;
- Develop a financially sustainable organization;
- Develop policies and processes that strengthen WBU and support its policy priorities;
- Implement succession planning and the involvement of youth in the organization.