



For Immediate Release

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A Call for Humanitarian Action from Hands & Voices

In Gaza... in Ukraine, our headlines scream of violence, terrorism, and war. In every region of the world, the brutality inflicted by humans on one another is unconscionable.

On behalf of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families, Hands & Voices holds the leaders of each nation responsible for the effects on all citizens of the world, including and especially the most vulnerable of us. **We call for actions that recognize how crisis is elevated for those without access to critical, lifesaving information and resources.** The impact of such experiences exponentially increases the traumatic effect, and our collective duty to respond with humanity and justice.

The First World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 acknowledged the urgent need for "States worldwide to take into account the rights and needs of persons with disabilities in their humanitarian responses."^{1*} <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2016/05/lets-not-miss-chance-include-disability-all-humanitarian-action-un-rights>

With that recognition comes an obligation to act globally and locally. Responsible action is both proactive and reactive. Hands & Voices supports the recommendations provided by these resources:

Create My Own Communication Card

<https://idhhc.illinois.gov/>

Emergency Preparedness featuring The Public Health Millennial

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JsDXoT_N_xw

How do Deaf People Contact Emergency Services

https://www.reddit.com/r/deaf/comments/16c6t41/how_do_deaf_people_contact_emergency_services/

NAD Position Statement on Accessible Emergency Management for Deaf People

<https://www.nad.org/about-us/position-statements/position-statement-on-accessible-emergency-management-for-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing-people/>

Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Stories

<https://amchp.org/2022/11/28/building-resilience-from-lived-experience-2022/>

Trauma in Deaf Children

https://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/resources/facts_on_trauma_deaf_children.pdf