

PRESS RELEASE

Join us to Celebrate the World Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus on 25 October!

Brussels | 1 October 2025

The 25th October 2025 marks the World Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Day (WSBHD). We established this day in 2011 to raise awareness and understanding about Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (SBH). It also serves as a means to advocate and promote the rights of persons with these conditions.

This year's theme is '**Accelerate Action for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus**'.

Individuals with SBH continue to face numerous barriers, including stigma, discrimination, and a widespread lack of awareness – all of which limit full participation in life's opportunities. Addressing these challenges and accelerating action on key issues affecting the SBH community is more important than ever.

During this year's WSBHD on October 25, we will raise further awareness on how we, as a global community, can work together to achieve this goal. This call to accelerate action is also underscored in the recent **Kuala Lumpur Declaration**, which IF launched with its co-signatories during the Global Disability Summit. The Declaration advocates for concrete measures to advance disability rights for persons with SBH, reinforcing the urgency of collective commitment and action.

Get involved!

We invite the global community to join the campaign to promote the WSBHD and raise awareness about the rights of people with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus!

- Download our **WSBHD25 Toolkit** and join our campaign on social media (hashtags: #WSBHD25 #Action4SBH);
- Participate in the **WSBHD25 Conference Webinar** on October 25th to learn more about SBH and how the global community works towards 'Accelerate Action for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus';
- Join the **WSBHD25 challenge** by providing a video, text, picture, drawing on which domain you want to accelerate SBH actions;
- Support local SBH communities. Check the SBH organisations in your region here: www.ifglobal.org/members.

IF ivzw

International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus

Consultative status special category Economic and Social Council at the United Nations

Cellebroersstraat 16 - B-1000 Brussels

T: +32 (0) 471 84 41 54 | E: info@ifglobal.org

www.ifglobal.org

Who we are

The International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (IF) is the international organisation representing people with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (SBH) and their families worldwide. IF has country members in Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, and Europe with unique and expert knowledge on SBH. The mission of IF is to improve the quality of life of people with SBH and their families, and to reduce the prevalence of Neural Tube Defects (NTDs) through improving maternal health literacy, raising awareness, political advocacy, research, community building, and human rights education.

You can find more information about:

- Our work: www.ifglobal.org;
- Our global SBH community: www.ifglobal.org/members;
- The World Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Day:
www.worldspinabifidahydrocephalusday.com;
- Our 31th International Conference on Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus in Montreal October 15-17, 2026: www.sbhconference2026.com/en/.

Contact

For further information, please contact us at: info@ifglobal.org.

IF ivzw

International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus

Consultative status special category Economic and Social Council at the United Nations

Cellebroersstraat 16 - B-1000 Brussels

T: +32 (0) 471 84 41 54 | E: info@ifglobal.org

www.ifglobal.org