

Interview with Colin Allen

Frontrunn3rs – <http://fr3.frontrunners.dk>

How do you feel coming here again as you came for FR2?

I am feeling very good and happy to be invited to come here again as I was here in the last year for FR2 because it means that the philosophy of Frontrunners is to work with deaf people in Developing Countries are very important! Thanks for that!

Why did you bring with you two men?

In the last year, I was the only person who gave lectures to Frontrunners for 5 days, so I thought and discussed with the instructor Frontrunners as I considered that it was important to have people from Developing Countries where there are projects and to welcome them. So the instructor agreed with me. These persons are one man from Albania and one man from Kosovo who can offer to Frontrunners direct information about the situation in Developing Countries plus both men are able to meet, to talk and to exchange important information with Frontrunners in the free time and they can come back to their countries attempting to establish youth clubs, associations etc.

What is your new Project now?

Ah, my new project is very interesting and is supported from World Federation of Deaf (WFD) and Swedish Association of Deaf (SDA). The Swedish government funded this Project which focuses in the human rights of Deaf people. How is it possible? There is a questionnaire that contains different questions like, is the education for deaf good? Are the working conditions good for deaf? Are there special statutes from government for deaf and more in eleven different groups and they will be sent to seven secretariats which collaborate with WFD. Secretariats will gather all information and report them back to the Swedish Government next year in 2008. After if the government supports our project then in 2009 it will start teaching to deaf peoples how they can be stronger to fight for their human rights!

Are you the only deaf in the whole world who works for Developing Countries?

No, I am not the only deaf as there are other deaf who work for example in Cambodia, in Africa, in Albania, in Kosovo, in Balkans and in more countries but there aren't information about these people available if there are deaf or hearing people who work with deaf organisations in Developing Countries. But the Frontrunners team 3 created a database. What is it? It collects all information about if projects had carried out and where, plus you will be able to connect with persons who work with projects in Developing Countries. I consider it very interesting and important because it works as a centre of information.

What do you think about Frontrunners3?

The Frontrunners team 3 is like The Frontrunners team 2 in which Deaf men and women participate and they are the future leaders for the deaf world. It is important they to collect information and knowledge so they will be able to face and fight for the deaf community and their countries!

Thank you!