



recognizing this right. We urge governments to recognize this right as well and provide braille literacy in schools".

WBU Honorary Life Member and Former CEO, **Dr. Penny Hartin**, says "This is great news indeed! It is wonderful that the UN has recognized the importance of braille. There have been few innovations that have made a more significant impact on the lives of persons with disabilities than the invention of braille. It has continued to bring independence, literacy and empowerment to millions of blind people worldwide. Unlike modern technology, which is too expensive for the majority of blind people around the world, braille can be written and read with the simplest of tools available and useable anywhere despite economic, geographic and linguistic barriers."

**Ms. Martine Abel-Williamson**, the WBU Treasurer from New Zealand, says "This is great news indeed! Braille is so every day – it's on key rings, coffee mugs and fridge magnets and in recipes, diaries and on tubes of skin moisturizer; yet, it also creeps into special occasions, being present in restaurant menus and on wine bottles. Braille enables us to keep in touch, to relate hands-on with the printed word and this in itself may be a touching experience. But in the end, it is us who have to interact with Braille. It is up to us to keep on connecting the dots, drawing the characters through into meaningful words – for it is the only true equivalent to print. Braille is our touch stone to literacy."

**Ms. Diane Bergeron**, Vice-President, Engagement and International Affairs for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), says "It is wonderful that World Braille Day has been acknowledged by the UN and will be commemorated on the birthday of Louis Braille who provided blind and partially sighted persons with a means to access the printed world. Literacy is important for everyone and people with sight loss are no different. Braille equals literacy and opens the doors for opportunities in education and employment. It allows us the chance to reach our goals and make our dreams come true."



WBU Secretary General **Mr. Ajai Kummar Mittal**, from India, says "Continuous braille reading holds the key to learning good spelling. Also, Braille is essential for subjects requiring intensive study, like mathematics, science, geography, grammar, semantics, phonetics etc. These are just a few examples to show how critical Braille is for us. Braille will remain the doyen of systems for giving to the visually impaired access to knowledge which is the main source of empowerment."

The Resolution will be posted on the UN website: [www.un.org](http://www.un.org) as well as the WBU website. WBU will also issue a statement to commemorate the World Braille Day.

We encourage all our members to share their comments on WBU Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BlindUnion/>,  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BlindUnion> and  
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3yNe9BFfeSSRUbts1YJALuA>

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