



Photo: Margarethe von Witzleben Gemeinschaftsstiftung

## A «Saint» for People with Hearing Loss

**Margarethe von Witzleben died 100 years ago**

*The first association for hard of hearing and deafened people worldwide was founded in Berlin, Germany in 1909.*

**Margarethe von Witzleben** (1853-1917), who became hard of hearing at the age of 13, organized the first worship service for hard of hearing and deafened people in Berlin in 1901. 8 years later she organized the first self-help group for people with hearing loss called “HEPHATA” in Berlin. Today, February 1, 2017 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death.

The Hearing Loss Association of Germany (Deutscher Schwerhoerigenbund e.V.) today walks in the footsteps of Margarethe von Witzleben and will host “**Future Loops**” the 4<sup>th</sup> IFHOH International Hearing Loops & Accessibility Conference in Berlin, Germany, October 6-8, 2017.

More information is available at: <http://www.schwerhoerigen-netz.de/IFHOH-2017/english>  
E-Mail: [IFHOH-2017@schwerhoerigen-netz.de](mailto:IFHOH-2017@schwerhoerigen-netz.de)

We honor Margarethe von Witzleben today, this “saint” for people with hearing loss, for her outstanding service and we will continue to advocate for hard of hearing and deafened people until they receive the public acceptance they deserve. Hearing aids, cochlear implants, hearing loops, lipreading courses and aural rehabilitation can make life for them much more inclusive than at the time of Margarethe von Witzleben.