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GLOBAL CENTRE FOR PLURALISM GIVES HONOURABLE MENTION TO HAND TALK FOR THE 2017 GLOBAL PLURALISM AWARD

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION RECOGNIZES BRAZILIAN TECH START-UP FOR ITS DEDICATION TO OVERCOMING COMMUNICATION BARRIERS FOR THE DEAF COMMUNITY

OTTAWA– October 3, 2017 – Through technology, Brazilian social enterprise, Hand Talk, helps break down communication barriers between Brazilian society and the estimated 10 million people living in Brazil who are deaf. The Global Centre for Pluralism, an international research and education organization dedicated to advancing respect for diversity around the world, has recognized Hand Talk with an honourable mention for the 2017 Global Pluralism Award.

"Communication between groups is an essential part of developing mutual understanding and respect," said John McNee, Secretary General of the Global Centre for Pluralism. "High rates of illiteracy among Brazilian deaf people add to the challenges facing this marginalized community. Hand Talk is not only enabling communication between hearing people and those who are deaf, they are providing deaf people with more opportunities for education, inclusion and independence. "

The international Award jury selected Hand Talk as an honourable mention for its cutting-edge technology that builds a bridge between hearing and deaf people and helps deaf people become active participants in society.

Hand Talk's technology provides an automatic translation from spoken language into Libras, the Brazilian sign language. Purposefully designed with oversized hands and complex facial expressions, Hugo, an animated 3D interactive figure, is a sign language interpreter who processes over 6 million translations every month. Users can access Hugo on mobile devices, enabling him to be used anywhere including hospital emergency rooms, classrooms, offices and bars. Since its founding in 2012, over 1 million people have downloaded the app.

The Global Centre for Pluralism, founded by His Highness the Aga Khan and the Government of Canada, will recognize Hand Talk, along with six other honourable mentions and three winners, Daniel Webb of Australia, Alice Wairimu Nderitu of Kenya and Leyner Palacios Asprilla of Colombia, for their commitment to building more inclusive societies on November 15th, 2017 at the Global Pluralism Award Ceremony in Ottawa, Canada.

About the Global Centre for Pluralism
Founded in Ottawa by His Highness the Aga Khan in partnership with the Government of Canada, the Global Centre for Pluralism is an independent, charitable organization. Inspired by Canada's experience as a diverse and inclusive country, the Centre was created to advance positive responses to the challenge of living peacefully and productively together in diverse societies.

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Award Winners:
Leyner Palacios Asprilla, Comité por los Derechos de las Victimas de Bojayá, Colombia
Alice Wairimu Nderitu, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Kenya
Daniel Webb, Human Rights Law Centre, Australia

Honourable Mentions:
ATD Quart Monde, France
BeAnotherLab, Spain
Fundación Construir, Bolivia
Hand Talk, Brazil
Sawa for Development and Aid, Lebanon
Wapikoni Mobile, Canada
Welcoming America, United States