

*Rainbow of Shades* is a song that not only fits the theme of the WFOT Congress, *Connected in Diversity*, it is also a song to be shared by many in order to have impact. It was written in the context of a world that is becoming more and more intolerant, prejudiced, segregated, polarized, bigoted, violent. As occupational therapists we are driven by context, and as human beings we are commanded by our conscience, so these contextual developments are surely a deep concern to all of us. So this song celebrates diversity and its colorful enrichments in the first verse; whilst the second verse focusses on the human core in terms of needs and aspirations, which are the same the world over, with the strong message: We are One!

## **RAINBOW OF SHADES**

It's the color and the creed  
It's the language, the food we eat  
It's the customs and beliefs  
The dress code, convictions and lifestyle we lead  
It's abilities, gender, looks  
It's our habits, our age and our books  
Our perspectives, the way we cook  
The art and the music and values and meanings we took  
    a rainbow of shades  
    an infinite number of ways  
    to live and to be  
    so strange and inspiring to see  
    a rainbow of shades  
    a vast celebration of ways  
    to think and to see  
    the You and the We  
    but beneath all those countless and colorful things  
    each one and all of us are precious unique human beings

We all need safety, shelter, food  
We strive for purpose and for the good  
We all struggle with the bad and the rough  
We all need respect and acceptance and love  
We want justice, create our goals  
We all need deeds, and we all carry loads  
We are curious and we want to know  
We're social, need family, friends and others to grow  
    a rainbow of shades  
    an infinite number of ways  
    to live and to be  
    a wonderful variety  
    a rainbow of shades  
    a glittering treasure of rays  
    that fade in the sun  
    the colors start to run  
    entwined in time and space and all that we've done  
    welded together in joy, pain and hope  
We are One

*Blue Chilli, written in October 2016*