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 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