



WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

WITH SIGN LANGUAGE,  
*Everyone  
is Included!*



*International Week  
of the Deaf*  
September

**INTERNATIONAL WEEK  
OF THE DEAF 2018**  
*23-30 September 2018*



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# ABBREVIATIONS

<b>2030 AGENDA</b>	2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
<b>CRPD</b>	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>DPOs</b>	Organisations of Persons with Disabilities
<b>ECOSOC</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Council
<b>IDA</b>	International Disability Alliance
<b>IDSL</b>	International Day of Sign Languages
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation
<b>IWDeaf</b>	International Week of the Deaf
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
<b>WFD</b>	World Federation of the Deaf
<b>WFDYS</b>	World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals

# INTRODUCTION

## *About*



### **International Day of Sign Languages**

#### **International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL)**

has been adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and will be celebrated annually on 23 September beginning in 2018. The objective of the IDSL is to raise awareness on sign languages and strengthen the status about sign languages. This event also will take place as part of the International Week of the Deaf (IWDeaf), which is celebrated on the last full week of September.



### ***International Week of the Deaf***

*September*

#### **International Week of the Deaf (IWDeaf)**

is an initiative of the WFD and was first launched in 1958 in Rome, Italy. It is celebrated annually by the global Deaf Community on the last full week of September to commemorate the same month the first World Congress of the WFD was held. IWDeaf is celebrated through various activities by respective Deaf Communities worldwide. These activities call for participation and involvement of various stakeholders including families, peers, governmental bodies, professional sign language interpreters, and DPOs.



### **WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF**

The **World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)** was established in Rome, Italy, in 1951, and is an international non-profit and non-governmental organisation representing approximately 70 million deaf people's human rights worldwide. The WFD is a federation of 135 national associations of deaf people. Its membership also comprises Individual Members, Associate Members, and International Members. It also has eight Regional Secretariats, one Regional Co-operating Member, and a Youth Section (WFDYS). The WFD has a consultative status within the UN system, including the ECOSOC, UNESCO, the ILO and WHO, as well as co-operating closely with the OHCHR. The WFD is a founding member of the IDA.

# INTRODUCTION

## *Why is IDSL and IWDeaf Important?*

### *Outreach and Awareness*

A joint effort, IDSL and IWDeaf takes place once a year for one week to seek **highly concerted global advocacy to raise awareness about the Deaf Community, sign languages and the rights of deaf individuals**. The objective is to focus on **gathering together, becoming united, and showing that unity to the rest of the world**.

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### *Promote Early Access to Sign Languages*

IDSL and IWDeaf strives to **promote sign language as a critical prerequisite toward the full realisation of human rights for deaf people** and to highlight topics that merit attention. **Early access to sign language and services provided in sign language are vital to the growth and development of deaf individuals**. This mission is also critical for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals.

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### *Unique Perspectives and Language Diversity*

IDSL and IWDeaf **supports deaf people as unique in their perspectives of disability and linguistic minority**. Sign language and deaf culture are recognised as **multilingualism with a means to promote, protect and preserve language diversity and cultural heritages from around the world**.

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### *Emphasis*

Structurally distinct from spoken languages, **sign languages are fully fledged natural languages**. Emphasis on **the principle “nothing about us without us” should be considered when working with deaf communities**. Refer to the principles of the CRPD for recognition on how sign languages and spoken languages are equal.

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### *Core Principles and Understanding*

The partnership shared between IDSL and IWDeaf **encourages international unity** through consistent, coordinated and widespread mobilisation. Through good media exposure, this will **ensure that the key messages of the campaign maintains its visibility and cohesiveness**.

# INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF THE DEAF

*23 to 30 September 2018*

The theme shared between the **International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL)** and the **International Week of the Deaf (IWDeaf)** is **"With Sign Language, Everyone is Included!"**

The IDSL has been adopted by the United Nations General Assembly to be celebrated annually on 23 September beginning in 2018. Members of the International Deaf Community gather together during this time to promote the status of sign languages and the rights of deaf people. Going forward, WFD will take the lead in promoting IDSL and IWDeaf one day of the week.

Inclusion and equal participation in society require sign languages to be accessible, respected and supported, all of which are subsequently required to achieve any of the sustainable development goals established by United Nations.

## CAMPAIGN KEY MESSAGES

### CORE PRINCIPLES

Reflect the principles of the CRPD in its recognition of sign languages as equal to spoken languages

### OUTREACH

Reach out to and influence as many governments as possible to legally fulfill obligations to promote the status of sign languages and linguistic human rights of deaf people

### PROMOTE

Promote sign language as a critical prerequisite to the full realisation of human rights for deaf people

### EARLY ACCESS

Stress early access to sign language and services in sign language, including quality education available in sign language, is vital to the growth and development of the deaf individual and critical to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals

### UNDERSTANDING

Emphasise that when working with deaf communities, the principle of "nothing about us without us" must be considered and integrated

### EMPHASIS

Emphasise that sign languages are fully fledged natural languages, structurally distinct from spoken languages, alongside which they coexist

### LANGUAGE DIVERSITY

Promote sign language and deaf culture as multilingualism and as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving diversity of languages and cultures globally

### UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES

Promote deaf people as unique in having both perspectives of disability and linguistic minority



*International Week  
of the Deaf*

# GET INVOLVED!

## Advocate to Educate Your Community

### 1 Social Change Through Action Planning

- Identify an issue or barrier you or your group wants to change.
- Analyse the area where change is needed
- Are you changing attitudes, institutional practices, or informational barriers?

### 2 Where Will the Change Happen?

- Government
- Organisations and Private Companies
- Society and Individuals
- Public Systems
- Deaf Community

### 3 Understanding the Issue

- Describe the problem or barrier:
  - How does it affect deaf people's lives?
  - Who does it affect?
  - What are the possible causes?
- Relate the problem or barrier to the CRPD. What rights are violated?
- How does addressing the problem improve the lives of deaf people?
- What specific actions can be done to address the problem?
- Who needs to be involved to take those actions?

### 4 Gather Information

- What laws protect you and support the right that has been denied for deaf people?
- What statistics of information do you have to support your campaign?
- Identify potential allies, people that will help and support you in resolving this problem, and explore how you can work together to achieve your goals.

### 5 Plan and Take Action

- Now is the time to follow the action plan and take action. Implement the steps you identified to create social change.

### 6 Follow Up after IDSL and IWDeaf

- All advocacy action requires follow-up!
- Did you complete the action plan? What was successful? What was challenging?
  - If you met your goal:
    - What has helped you to be successful?
    - Can you use the same strategies for other goals?
  - If you did not meet your goal:
    - What changes need to be made to the action plan to achieve your goal?
    - Do you need more resources, group members, allies, or information?
    - What are your next steps for action?

**SOURCE:** United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). *"It's About Ability: Learning Guide on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,"* publication is available at this site: [https://www.unicef.org/publications/index\\_50687.html](https://www.unicef.org/publications/index_50687.html).





## GET INVOLVED!

### *Identify Issues*

**In your advocacy, do reference international human rights laws for each key message surrounding the theme. Refer to the sidebar ‘General Questions to Ask’ as a guideline. The WFD toolkit on CRPD and SDGs provide additional guidance in International Sign on how to use these instruments. For more information, visit: <https://wfdeaf.org/idsl2018/>.**

### **Birth Right**

*CRPD Article 21.e and 24.3b*

Obligates the governments to encourage the learning of sign language and promote the linguistic identity of the Deaf Community.

### **Deaf Identity**

*CRPD Article 30.4*

Requires the governments to recognise and support specific cultural and linguistic identity, including sign languages and deaf culture.

### **Equal Language**

*CRPD Article 2*

Makes clear that sign languages are equal in status to spoken languages.

*CRPD Article 21.b*

Allows deaf people to choose to give and receive official communications in the way they choose, including in sign languages.

*CRPD Article 23.3*

Requires the governments to provide early and comprehensive information, services and support to children with disabilities and their families, including information about deaf culture, sign language and bilingual education.

### **General Questions to Ask**

Does the Deaf Community know that access to sign language is a human right?

Are national sign languages accepted and documented by the Deaf Community in your country?

Are the decision makers and the Deaf Community aware of the richness and variations of sign languages?

Are decision makers aware of the right of deaf children to acquire sign language as early as possible?

Do decision makers know that sign language should be the first language of a deaf child to which other language skills in a spoken/written language are built on? Are they aware of the importance of access to a language?

Do deaf people have access to public information in sign language?

Are parents and family members of deaf children provided with sign language training?

Are parents of deaf children given information about the importance of sign language for their child's linguistic development and cognitive skills in their early childhood?

Is sign language as respected and recognised as spoken languages in your country? If yes, are the laws and practices in line with the official status?

Is the recognition of sign language seen as a significant step towards promoting human rights of deaf people?

Are the general attitudes towards sign language positive in society?

Are medical professionals aware of the linguistic input needed for a child to develop a language? Are they aware that language is not purely a means of communication but the starting point for a healthy identity and all cognitive skills?

Is the government funding any research in sign languages including developing a sign language dictionary?



# GET INVOLVED!

## *Identify Issues (continued)*

### **Bilingual Education**

*Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education (see page 18, paragraph 21)*

Addressed the right to receive education in a national sign language for deaf children.

*CRPD Article 24.1*

Requires the governments to ensure inclusive education system at all levels.

*CRPD Article 24.3b*

Allows deaf people to choose to give and receive official communications in the way they choose, including in sign languages.

*CRPD Article 24.4*

Requires teachers of deaf children to be qualified in sign language.

*2030 Agenda, Goal 4.5*

By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

*2030 Agenda, Goal 4.a*

Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

### **Lifelong Learning**

*CRPD Article 5, 24.5 and 27*

Requires the government to ensure vocational and lifelong learning.

*2030 Agenda, Goal 4*

Ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

### **General Questions to Ask**

Are there schools for deaf children that promote quality education in sign language?

Does the school system support and promote the learning of sign language and the linguistic identity of the Deaf Community?

Is sign language included as a subject in the educational curriculum?

Are deaf persons employed as teachers and staff members in school?

Do hearing teachers sign fluently?

Does the linguistic environment in the school support use of sign language? Do deaf students have deaf signing peers or deaf role models?

Are professional sign language interpreters available in the education settings?

Are decision makers and the Deaf Community aware of the concept of bilingual education?

Are decision makers and the Deaf Community aware of the concept of inclusive education from the deaf perspective?

### **General Questions to Ask**

Has the government taken legal action to ensure that all entities remove existing barriers to access for deaf people?

Are courses available in sign language or provided with professional sign language interpreters to enhance professional and personal development of deaf individuals?

# GET INVOLVED!

## *Identify Issues (continued)*

### **Equal Employment Opportunities**

*CRPD Article 27*

Requires the governments to provide 'reasonable accommodation' (adjustments and supports) to deaf employees.

*2030 Agenda, Goal 8.5*

By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

### **Accessibility**

*CRPD Article 2*

Requires governments to provide for accessibility to information and communication.

*2030 Agenda, Goal 11.2*

By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

*2030 Agenda, Goal 11.7*

By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

### **General Questions to Ask**

Has the government developed anti-discrimination legislation that protects deaf people against discrimination at work?

Is professional sign language interpretation paid and organised by the employer or government?

Is sign language interpretation available at the work place?

Are deaf people able to advance their professional development on equal basis with others and get promoted at workplaces?

### **General Questions to Ask**

Has the government taken steps to provide communication access to deaf persons? If yes, is professional sign language interpreting with a certified interpreter one of the options?

Is the use of professional sign language interpreters paid by government or other relevant stakeholder instead of deaf people?

Is there quality sign language interpreter training programmes in your country funded by the government?

Is there an agent that monitors the quality of sign language interpreting services?

Are important human rights materials such as the CRPD and the SDGs accessible in national sign language(s)?

Are there legal protections to ensure access on an equal basis with others?

Has the government developed minimum accessibility standards, guidelines, and monitoring mechanisms?

Is the government engaging in any acts, customs or practices that create barriers to accessibility?

Has the government taken legal action to ensure that private business remove existing barriers to access for deaf people?

# GET INVOLVED!

## *Identify Issues (continued)*

### Equal Participation

#### *CRPD Article 5*

Requires that the governments prohibit all discrimination on the basis of disability and guarantee to persons with disabilities, including deaf people, equal and effective legal protection against discrimination on all grounds.

#### *CRPD Article 12*

Requires the government to ensure that persons with disabilities, including deaf people, enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life.

#### *CRPD Article 20*

Requires the government to take effective measures to ensure personal mobility with the greatest possible independence for persons with disabilities, including deaf people.

#### *CRPD Article 29*

Requires the government to guarantee and promote an environment that ensures effective and full participation in political and public life on an equal basis with others, including the opportunity to vote and be elected.

#### *CRPD Article 23*

Requires the government to take effective and appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities, including deaf people, in all matters relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships, on an equal basis with others.

### General Questions to Ask

Are deaf persons legally allowed to marry one another?

Are deaf persons legally allowed to vote or become elected in the political arena?

Are deaf persons allowed to inherit property?

Are deaf persons allowed to become a jury member?

Are deaf people allowed to reproduce or adopt children?

Are deaf persons allowed to obtain driving licence?

Do deaf children receive education in sign language of the same quality as their hearing peers?

#### *CRPD Article 24*

Obligates the governments to facilitate the learning of sign language and to promote the linguistic identity of the Deaf Community, so that they learn life and social development skills to facilitate their full and equal participation in education and as members of the community.

#### *2030 Agenda, Goal 10.2*

By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

# GET INVOLVED!

## Spread the Message

### Unite with Campaign Messages

Consistency and coordinated mobilisation is one way to show support and that you are part of this global movement. Below are the campaign materials available to you.

Facebook Banner



Twitter Banner



IWDDeaf Logo



Poster



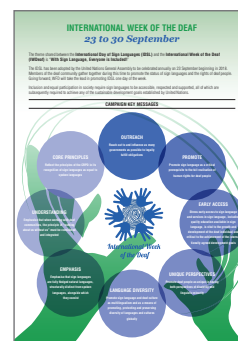
Toolkit



Support Letter



Key Messages



The IWDDeaf 2018 campaign materials are available for download at the following link:

<https://wfdeaf.org/idsl2018/>



## Social Share the Movement

### Hashtags

Spread the word by using the following hashtag names:

#IDSL2018

#SignLanguagesDay

#IWDDeaf2018

#GiveSignLanguage

#SupportSignLanguage

### Example

Create a sub-theme by pairing a hashtag together with a phrase or key message:

**Give Sign Language  
so that millions of people  
can have a full life.**

#GiveSignLanguage

# SUPPORT THE WFD

## *Become a Member*

MEMBER TYPE	BENEFITS
<b>Ordinary Member</b> Registered national organisation of the deaf whose goals are in line with the WFD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voting rights at the WFD General Assembly</li> <li>• Direct support for local advocacy purposes</li> <li>• Support and collaboration opportunity</li> <li>• Receive regular information on deaf issues and global events</li> <li>• Discounts on WFD events and merchandise</li> </ul>
<b>Associate Member</b> Registered national or regional organisation, if not an Ordinary Member and whose goals are in line with the WFD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observer privileges at the WFD General Assembly</li> <li>• Support and collaboration opportunity</li> <li>• Receive regular information on deaf issues and global events</li> <li>• Discounts on WFD events and merchandise</li> </ul>
<b>International Member</b> Registered international organisations or institutes whose goals are in line with the WFD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and collaboration opportunity</li> <li>• Receive regular information on deaf issues and global events</li> <li>• Discounts on WFD events and merchandise</li> </ul>
<b>Individual Members</b> Any individuals who wish to support the work of the WFD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive regular information on deaf issues and global events</li> <li>• Discounts on WFD events and merchandise</li> </ul>



### ***Become a Member Today!***

All organisational memberships require approval from the WFD Board. Contact [memberships@wfd.fi](mailto:memberships@wfd.fi) for more information.

<http://wfdeaf.org/get-involved/become-a-member/>

# SUPPORT THE WFD

## *Fighting Fund*



WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

### **Help the WFD fight for sign languages to be included in as many legislations so no more deaf people are abused, ignored, silenced and excluded.**

Globally, it's women who are more likely to endure prejudice, violence and isolation because they are deaf. They are prevented from learning sign language and so cannot explain their needs. They are denied sign language interpreters, so cannot seek justice. They are abandoned by those who should care for and support them. They are denied their right to education, to healthcare, and to freedom.

Your donation today can make sure no more deaf people are denied their rights and left vulnerable to abuse.

Deaf people all over the world are suffering injustices because society believes deaf people – and sign languages – are inferior and don't deserve equal rights.

Your donation will change this.

### **Visit**

<http://wfdeaf.org/fightingfund/>



## *Leave a Lasting Gift*

### **Bequest**

Leave a gift through your will. Everyone's circumstances are different, so we urge that you consult with your adviser and ask for appropriate clauses to be inserted into your will.

A charitable gift through a will generally contains the following:

- Name and address of the person making the will
- The WFD's name and business identification number
- Type of gift to be received by the WFD
- Signature of the person making the will and date in the presence of two witnesses

Contact the WFD Fundraising and Communications Officer for more information at [nafisah.rantasalmi@wfd.fi](mailto:nafisah.rantasalmi@wfd.fi).

All enquiries and requests will be treated in confidence.

### **Fundraising for the WFD**

**CROWDFUNDING:** Pick a platform to use, decide on the target amount and delivery time, and reach out to people.

**PLEDGES:** Share your pledge (on social media) with your friends and ask that, in lieu of gifts, they donate instead to the WFD.

**EVENTS:** Include fundraising for the WFD as part of your local events.

**GIVE-IT-UP OR MATCH THE EURO:** Encourage your peers to give, match the euro or currency of their cost spending.

Email [nafisah.rantasalmi@wfd.fi](mailto:nafisah.rantasalmi@wfd.fi) if you plan to conduct a fundraising event for the WFD during your IDSL and IWDeaf campaigns.

### **Donate!**

<http://wfdeaf.org/donate>



### **BANK TRANSFER INFORMATION**

**Account Name:** WFD Money Collection Licence

**Bank Name/Address:** Nordea Bank Finland Place, Aleksanterinkatu 36, FI-00100 Helsinki

**SWIFT/BIC Code:** NDEAFIHH

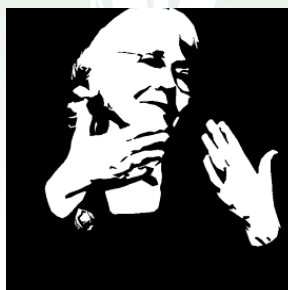
**IBAN:** FI07 1555 3000 1203 04

**Campaign Code:** IWDeaf2018

## SUPPORT THE WFD

### *Dr. Liisa Kauppinen Fund*

**Dr. Kauppinen** is an internationally recognised advocate for gender equality amongst women and women with disabilities. Her work has been influential through her contribution at the national and international level, including the WFD, IDA, UN and its special agencies. Dr. Kauppinen was instrumental in securing references to sign languages and the identity of deaf people within the CRPD, consequently advocating for deaf women's equal participation and opportunities in society. In 2013, Dr. Kauppinen received the UN Human Rights Award for her significant work. She has also been conferred with numerous professional honours.



Deaf women and girls are often faced with systematic exclusion and isolation due to social factors, including communication barriers. To address this, the Dr. Liisa Kauppinen Fund was established in 2015 to fund for activities focusing on deaf girls' and women's empowerment and to promote their rights and access to education. The core belief is that only with awareness and knowledge about human rights are deaf people, including deaf women, act, exert influence and overcome exclusion.

### *Our Purpose*

**HONOUR** The relentless dedication of Dr. Liisa Kauppinen to advance the human rights of deaf people.

**AIM** All deaf persons, especially deaf women and girls, knows their rights and are able to act and exert influence to overcome exclusion.

**GOAL** Equip and empower the global Deaf Community, especially deaf women and girls, with knowledge of human rights issues through projects, initiatives, and activities undertaken by the WFD.

### *Donate today!*

**CONTRIBUTE TO THE DR. LIISA KAUPPINEN FUND:**  
<https://wfdeaf.org/get-involved/donate/drliisakauppinenfund/>



## *Past Themes*

**2009** Deaf People's Cultural Achievements

**2010** Deaf Education

**2011** Accessibility to Information and Communications

**2012** Sign Bilingualism is a Human Right!

**2013** Equality for Deaf People

**2014** Strengthening Human Diversity

**2015** With Sign Language Rights, Our Children Can!

**2016** With Sign Language, I am Equal

**2017** Full Inclusion with Sign Language!





# INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF THE DEAF 2018

*23-30 September 2018*



WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

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