



WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF



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**Joint Statement  
between  
World Federation of the Deaf  
and  
the Sign Language Linguistics Society**

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The World Federation of the Deaf and the Sign Language Linguistics Society are happy to issue the following statement as evidence of their agreement to work in close partnership for the future benefit of deaf people and to promote and encourage research and teaching in sign language linguistics:

1. In co-operation with national, regional and international associations of deaf people, we will work towards providing support to train sign language researchers wherever they work around the world.
2. We acknowledge the importance of increasing training opportunities to grow the number of deaf people working in sign language linguistics research and teaching and to promote the leadership of deaf people in sign language research projects.
3. We will work together to promote the development of, and compliance with, ethical standards for the appropriate conduct of research on communities of sign language users.
4. We affirm the importance of sign language linguists working jointly with national associations of deaf people and we strive to ensure transparent communication between sign language linguists and deaf lay people.
5. We will focus particularly on the advice our organisations can provide to build sign language linguistics research and teaching capacity in developing countries.
6. The agreement recognises the primacy of national associations of deaf people to lead on the political, cultural and educational place of sign languages in their country, including the development and dissemination of sign language dictionaries and teaching materials.
7. We jointly recognise the important and vital contribution that sign language linguists can make towards these goals.
8. We will work together to promote a direct communication policy at all conferences and workshops organised by the Sign Language Linguistics Society.

Signed at Melbourne, Australia on the 5th day of January 2016

Mr Colin Allen  
President  
World Federation of the Deaf

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Professor Diane Lillo-Martin  
Chair  
Sign Language Linguistics Society

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