

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

UNDERSTANDING

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



*International Week
of the Deaf*

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

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