



June 2018

On behalf of the World Federation of the Deaf, I would like to encourage you to support your local Deaf Community by joining the celebration of **International Week of the Deaf on 23-30 September 2018**. First launched in 1958 in Rome, Italy, the International Week of the Deaf takes place annually on the last week of September. A truly global event, International Week of the Deaf is the only week in a year that sees highly concerted global advocacy to raise awareness about the Deaf Community.



### THEME FOR 2018:

**“With Sign Language, Everyone is Included!”**

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 during **International Week of the Deaf 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 AND MATERIALS:

There are eight key messages that support the theme for 2018: Outreach, Promote, Early Access, Unique Perspectives, Language Diversity, Emphasis, Understanding and Core Principles. I invite you to learn more about the Campaign Key Messages and become an active participant during this exciting event. Please visit the WFD website and refer to the associated materials available for [download here](#).

Happy International Week of the Deaf!

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World Federation of the Deaf  
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**The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)** is an international non-governmental organisation representing and promoting approximately 70 million deaf people's human rights worldwide. The WFD is a federation of deaf organisations from 135 nations; its mission is to promote the human rights of deaf people and full, quality and equal access to all spheres of life, including self-determination, sign language, education, employment and community life. WFD has a consultative status in the United Nations and is a founding member of International Disability Alliance (IDA). Website: [www.wfdeaf.org](http://www.wfdeaf.org) Email: [info@wfd.fi](mailto:info@wfd.fi) IWD 2018  
Webpage: <https://wfdeaf.org/idsl2018/>

