



DONATE



President  
COLIN ALLEN  
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On behalf of the World Federation of the Deaf, I would like to urge you to join and support your local Deaf Community in their celebration of International Week of the Deaf. 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: FULL INCLUSION WITH SIGN LANGUAGE!**

International Week of the Deaf 2017 has as its theme: 'Full Inclusion with Sign Language!'. This mirrors the theme of the [3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf](#), and highlights that full inclusion of deaf people is possible when sign language is recognised and used widely within the society.

International Week of the Deaf 2017 emphasises the importance of sign language. Without the recognition, utilisation and promotion of sign language, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the recently adopted 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Goals will not be fully achieved for deaf people.



**CAMPAIGN KEY MESSAGES AND MATERIALS**



I invite you to learn more about the campaign key messages and download associated materials on our webpage [here](#).

Have a happy International Week of the Deaf!



Colin Allen  
President  
World Federation of the Deaf

**About the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)**

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 133 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 2017 Webpage: <https://wfdeaf.org/iwd2017-full-inclusion-with-sign-language/>