

Rationale

Irish Sign Language is not yet recognised in Ireland. The Irish Deaf Society has been campaigning for more than thirty years to get it recognised to ensure equality for Deaf people in Irish Society.

Achieving recognition of ISL and official status would allow access for Deaf people to their full participation as citizens of their own country.

If we get Irish Sign Language recognition, this will ensure for us:

- More legal rights for ISL users
- Better access to public services
- Better education for Deaf children
- Better third level education and training for Deaf adults
- Better interpreting quality and monitoring - avoid fake interpreters

Irish Sign Language Fingerspelling



Irish Sign Language Recognition



Never give up on what is important to YOU,
Keep Fighting for what YOU want
Stay positive and keep strong.
We WILL get Irish Sign Language Recognised!

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Irish Deaf Society





Benefits for Irish Sign Language Recognition

- Irish Sign Language (ISL) is the indigenous language used by the Deaf Community in Ireland
- 5,000 Deaf people and up to 40,000 people use ISL daily
- Along with ISL, there is a Deaf culture which is unique
- The Deaf community prefers to be viewed as a linguistic minority
- ISL is not formally recognised which means access to vital public information is not always available
- Promote a greater awareness of the language and enforce the right of Deaf people to access essential information in Irish Sign Language
- Provide far more certainty that native ISL users could access ISL interpreting services for essential situations such as job interviews, using health services, education, court hearings.

Situation to date

- No Deaf child can fully learn Irish Sign Language as not all teachers are fluent or qualified in ISL.
- There is no automatic right for Deaf people to have an ISL interpreter (excluding criminal court proceedings).
- Service providers rarely translate information into ISL.
- Only a small amount of ISL on our TV screens (usually in the early hours of morning)
- Irish Sign Language is considered a 'support service' as evident in the Education Act of 1998 (the only legislation that mentions ISL)
- The UN convention on the rights of people with Disabilities (UNCRPD) mentions signed languages in five of its articles. Ireland has not yet ratified it.