

Irish Sign Language Recognition

Deaf Awareness Week 22-26 September 2014

Irish Sign Language is the indigenous language of the Deaf community in Ireland. Approximately 5,000 Deaf people and up to 40,000 people use ISL on a daily basis. *Deaf culture* is a unique way of life to the Deaf community of which they are extremely proud: ISL is a very strong part of this culture. The Deaf community prefer to be viewed as a linguistic minority.

Irish Sign language (ISL) is not yet recognised in Ireland. Achieving ISL status would allow Deaf people to participate fully as citizens of their own country.

Benefits of ISL recognition:

- 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 of interpreters— unqualified interpreters would no longer be used

Current Situation:

- Not every Deaf child can learn Irish Sign language as there is a shortage of qualified tutors
- There is no automatic right for Deaf people to have an ISL interpreter
- Service providers rarely translate information into ISL
- There is only a small amount of programmes signed on television and this is usually in the early hours of the morning
- Irish sign language is considered a 'support service' as evident in the Education Act 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 but Ireland has not yet ratified it.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Irish Finger-spelling Alphabet



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



J



K



L



M



N



O



P



Q



R



S



T



U



V



W



X



Y



Z