



EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

On Equal Opportunities of Persons with Deafblindness in Europe

Adopted at the **European Deafblind Union 4th General Assembly**
and promoted at the **2nd Conference “Our Way To Equality In Europe”**
Which took place in Tampere (Finland), **5th - 9th of June 2017**

Having regard to:

- *the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its entry into force in the EU on 21 January 2011*
- *its resolution of 7 July 2016 on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with special regards to the Concluding Observations of the UN CRPD Committee,*
- *General Comment No 4 (2016) by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the right to inclusive education,*
- *the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,*
- *the Written Declaration (1/2004) on the needs of persons with deafblindness adopted by the European Parliament calling for the recognition of deafblindness across Europe*
- *the Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications,*
- *the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on 2 December 2015 on for the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States in regards to the accessibility requirements for products and services (COM (2015)0615),*
- *the European Parliament resolution of 23 November 2016 on sign languages and professional sign language interpreters (2016/2952 (RSP))*
- *the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters Deafblind Interpreter Education Guidelines,*

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- *the Resolution of the 6th EBU - EDbU Deafblind Conference of 20 August 2008,*
- *the First EBU Deafblind Women's Forum Resolutions on the Empowerment of Deafblind women on 20 September 2013*

We, the representatives of persons with deafblindness in Europe urge all EU Member States to:

Right to recognition

- recognise Deafblindness as an unique, dual sensory impairment which limits activities of a person and restricts full participation in society to such a degree that society is required to facilitate specific services in all European countries where such recognition does not exist,
- respect our right for full participation and equality in Europe, respecting our dignity, values, human rights, accessibility of information, communication, mobility and social interaction
- respect our right to access to information adapted to the specific needs of every deafblind person through indigenous sign languages, sign language adjustments and other communication systems specific to persons with deafblindness (braille, subtitling or typing, large print, speech/lip reading, manual alphabet, palm writing, etc...) and assistive technology (hearing loop, red-white cane, etc...)
- ensure legal recognition of national sign languages, sign language adjustments and other communication systems specific to persons with deafblindness and to take all appropriate measures, including promoting the use of the above mentioned,

Right to qualified and professional deafblind interpreters

- respect our right to qualified and professional deafblind interpreters in Member States and within EU institutions, formal training and formal recognition of the profession,
- recognise that deafblind interpretation constitutes a professional service requiring appropriate remuneration,
- respect our right to have a key role in developing, delivering, applying and evaluating the curriculum for education of deafblind interpreters,

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- acknowledge the importance of certificates for the professional interpreters given under authority of professionals with deafblindness,

Right for full participation, self-representation and equality in Europe

- respect our right to self-representation, to partake in governance and decision-making on all levels via support of properly trained and qualified deafblind interpreters,

- respect our right to obligatory presence of qualified and professional deafblind interpreters when providing inclusive education, health protection and rehabilitation to all persons with deafblindness,

- ensure inclusive education that best corresponds to requirements and preferences of children with deafblindness, exclusively via professional deafblind interpreters who are educated to work with persons with deafblindness and assistive technology,

- ensure educated and professional persons with deafblindness are given the employment opportunities while making reasonable communicational and physical adjustments of their working area,

- make the political process as accessible as possible through the provision of professional deafblind interpreters,

- acknowledge that equal access to justice for citizens with deafblindness can only be ensured through the provision of appropriately qualified and professional deafblind interpreters,

- take appropriate measures and enable opportunities for persons with deafblindness to participate in cultural, creative, recreation and sport activities and manifestations, according to its interests and affinities.

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