

*International Day of the Deaf 2021
FIAPAS Manifesto*

INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE GOODS, SERVICES, SPACES AND ENVIRONMENTS

To mark World Deaf Day, the Spanish Confederation of Families of Deaf People (FIAPAS) is keen to present the public authorities and society at large with the following Manifesto.

Not only has COVID-19 brought an unprecedented social and health crisis to our lives, it has caused us to become more dependent on technologies and virtual environments as a society. Work meetings, classes and conversations with family and friends all moved online. Medical consultations, appointments with public agencies and citizen care services are now mainly conducted over the phone or via apps. Added to this is the importance that social networks have acquired as one of our core information channels.

Technological progress in major areas like health, education, employment and audiovisual communication has given way to **telemedicine, online education, teleworking** and **Internet-based communication channels**.

Yet despite the usefulness and obvious expansion of these new forms of information, communication and citizen care, they **have caused significant limitations and damage for people with deafness**.

These barriers were already known, but during this period, especially in the worst times of the pandemic, their full scope emerged and there were no alternatives for accessing these services. Covid prevention measures (widespread use of masks, social distancing, installation of screens, noisier environments from opening doors and windows for ventilation...) without the availability of hearing and technological support products further increase **difficulties and limitations around access to information and communication by deaf people, users of hearing aids and oral language, in face-to-face interaction**.

Technology today offers solutions for the elimination of barriers and provides diverse responses to the needs of people with deafness and hearing problems whatever their communication profile so they can **tap and enjoy a full range of goods and services**. And so, they can **access and engage in any space or environment independently and on equal terms**.



Declarada de Utilidad Pública

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Society as a whole must step up and commit to **producing inclusive and accessible goods, services, spaces and environments**. But it is up to governments and public authorities to lay on the necessary resources and **adopt the adjustments and measures required to prevent breaches of health, education, information and employment rights and stop discrimination and unequal treatment**.

FIAPAS therefore **CALLS FOR:**

- ✓ **Universal access solutions. Expansion of hearing and communication support products to leverage goods and services across all spaces:** magnetic loops, modulated frequency stations, subtitled audiovisual material, real-time subtitling and oral communication supports.

- ✓ **Applications, platforms, content and virtual environments,** incorporating live and recorded subtitling, chat, instant messaging and video calling to allow real-time communication (voice, text and image) and the widespread use oral-communication support strategies.

**MORE SOCIAL
CLASSROOMS, MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS, MEDIA
NETWORKS ...**



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RATE OF DEAFNESS IN SPAIN

One in every thousand people in the general population will become **deaf during their life**.

- ✓ In Spain there are **1,064,000 people** with some type and degree of hearing disability. **More than 98% of them use oral language to communicate.**
According to the INE National Statistics Institute, **13,300 people** use sign language.
(Survey into Disability, Personal Autonomy and Situations of Dependence. 2008 - INE)
- ✓ **Five out of every thousand babies** are born deaf to varying degrees, which in Spain accounts for almost **2,500 new families with a deaf child each year.**
(CODEPEH Commission for the Early Detection of Hearing Loss)
- ✓ **50% of teenagers and young people aged between 12 and 35** in more developed countries are at risk of suffering hearing loss from overexposure to noise in recreational contexts.
(World Health Organization)
- ✓ Age-related hearing loss affects some **30% of the population aged between 65 and 70**, rising to **80% of over-75-year-olds**. Because of noise pollution and modern lifestyles, these presbycusis-related problems are becoming apparent ever earlier, **at around 50 years of age.**
(Spanish ENT Society).
- ✓ **8% of the population** (over 3.5 million people) **have hearing problems** of different types and degrees, making it difficult for them to follow a conversation in a normal tone of voice.
(ANA National Association of Hearing Aids)