

FOSTERING INCLUSION, SUPPORTING PEOPLE, ADVANCING IN SOLIDARITY

On the 10th anniversary of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

International Day of the Deaf 2016
24 September

FIAPAS MANIFESTO

IF YOU HAVE A DEAF CHILD,KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

On the occasion of the International Day of the Deaf and coinciding with the 10th anniversary of the creation of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Spanish Confederation of Families of Deaf People (FIAPAS) would like to make the public authorities, administrations, legal practitioners and society at large aware of its FIAPAS Manifesto 2016.



Some ten years ago, The United Nations General Assembly passed the first widespread international treaty on human rights of the 21st century: The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It has been a mandatory compliance standard in Spain since 2008 and it promotes, protects and ensures the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and freedoms by all persons with disabilities as any other citizen.

While the Convention doesn't address the rights of families, ultimately **it's the family who looks after, in this case, the rights of children** (to healthcare, education, social protection, freedom of expression and access to information, social participation, culture etc.) **and demands access to the resources necessary to guarantee the above.**

- **Five out of every thousand new-borns** suffer from some form of deafness, which in Spain equates to approximately **2,500 new families with a deaf child** each year.
(Commission for the early detection of hearing loss: SEORL, Spanish Paediatrics Association & FIAPAS)
- **More than 95% of deaf children are born into hearing families**, their mother tongue being the language spoken in their surroundings.
(Gallaudet University Research Institute, U.S.A. 2002)
- There are **1,064,000 people** with some kind of hearing impairment in Spain.
Of those, 13,300 communicate using sign language.
(Disability Survey, Personal independence & Dependence Situations. 2008 - INE)
- **8% of the population** (more than three and a half million people) **have hearing problems** of different types or degrees, which make it difficult for them to understand conversations held at a normal tone of voice without the use of hearing aids.

Among other issues, the Convention determines that **persons with disabilities should have the right to:**

- Inclusive, quality education at all levels, including secondary education, vocational training and lifelong learning
- Effective individualized support measures, in environments that maximize academic and social development, consistent with the goal of full inclusion
- Early identification and intervention as appropriate, and services designed to minimize and prevent further disabilities
- habilitation and rehabilitation at the earliest possible stage, based on the multidisciplinary assessment and intervention
- Initial and continuing training for professionals and staff working in habilitation and rehabilitation services
- Availability, knowledge and use of assistive devices and technologies designed for persons with disabilities, as they relate to habilitation and rehabilitation
- Access to cultural materials, television programmes, films, theatre and other cultural activities, in accessible formats
- Access to leisure, recreational, relaxation and sporting activities

In order for parents to **exercise their rights and duties in relation to protecting the health and education** of their deaf children, as well as **making other decisions** in that regard, both at the time of diagnosis and throughout the evolution of the condition, **families have a right to:**

***information that is clear, accessible, complete, exhaustive and objective**

***guidance and training**

***emotional support**

***qualified professional assistance**

***choice of mother tongue and educational language, as well as educative model for their children**

***financial assistance**

***inclusion on public policies**

Our legal framework is comprehensive as to the provision and regulation of the resources and measures designed to respond to these needs, ensuring that deaf children and their families have access to all of the above. Receiving a diagnosis of hearing loss can be hard but there's reason to be optimistic. Today, the future is brighter.

LET THE WHOLE WORLD HEAR IT... FIAPAS IS COMMITTED, HOW ABOUT YOU?

- In Spain there are more than one million people with impaired hearing, 97% of them communicate in oral language (INE, 2008)
- Five out of every thousand children are born with various types and levels of deafness, which means that, each year, there are 2,500 more families with a deaf child
- 93% of deaf children and adolescents study in an inclusive environment
- More than 94% of families with deaf children chose a school based on the fact that there are support teachers and speech therapists