

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEAF PERSONS
28 September 2019

MANIFESTO FIAPAS

**ACCESSIBILITY,
IN EVERY SENSE**

On the occasion of the International Day of the Deaf, the Spanish Confederation of Families of Deaf People - FIAPAS would like to make the following Manifesto known to Society and to the Public Authorities.

The shared heritage with which we as citizens identify **is a historical legacy, but also a store of value for the future, and as a living and constantly evolving entity it draws nourishment from the involvement of those who share it.**

Accessing, understanding, taking part in and contributing to this shared heritage which unites and binds us as a society, through continuous interaction with our family, educational, social, cultural and political environment, **is vital in order to learn values, to forge identity, for the way we understand the world and to generate a sense of inclusion in the society we belong to.**

In order for people with deafness to feel part of that heritage and to allow them to interact with and within their surroundings, by preventing discrimination or their own self-exclusion, **accessibility must be instigated and extended.**

Technology here becomes our greatest ally, by offering aids that provide deaf people with auditory accessibility and oral communication. In short, it means that they are not left on the margins of activity inspired by tangible cultural or social heritage, but can instead, beyond heritage itself and palpable creations, approach and access knowledge, conviviality and interaction with others, culture, art, traditions, beliefs, history

Our current legislation enshrines the rights of people with deafness to equal opportunities, to non-discrimination and to full participation in every sphere of life.

Today's technology allows us to guarantee the auditory accessibility and oral communication needed to exercise these rights within our shared context: products, goods, services, the built environment, dealings with public authorities

Nonetheless, schools, health centres and hospitals, workplaces, monuments and historic buildings, public events and venues, the performing arts, the audiovisual world, political and democratic life, access to justice and legal agents, citizen security, financial management are not always accessible.

In Spain, over 97% of people with deafness and their families, who have chosen oral language as their vehicular language of communication by using hearing aids and implants, demand an accessible environment allowing them to take part in the whole stock of historical, political, cultural, legal and other facets of the society they live in and share, and to which they contribute like everyone else.

In order for those of us with deafness to feel part of the society in which we live and to enrich our shared heritage, at FIAPAS **WE DEMAND:**

- The inclusion of **auditory accessibility and oral communication** as a precondition in the design of products, goods and services, in the policy planning of the different government departments, and in the awarding of any type of public finance or grant.
- The provision of **technological aids in our surroundings**, such as induction loops, to guarantee auditory accessibility allowing us fully to exercise our rights in every sphere of life.

A sense of living

LET THE WORLD HEAR IT

IMPACT OF DEAFNESS IN SPAIN

- In Spain, there are **1,064,000 people** with differing types and degrees of hearing impairment. Of these, **more than 97% uses oral language to communicate.**
 According to INE, 13,300 people use sign language.
(Survey on Situations of Disability, Personal Autonomy and Dependency. 2008 Æ INE)
- **Five in every thousand newborns** are deaf to a varying degree, which in Spain means that **each year**, there are around **2,500 new families with a deaf child.**
- **50 % of adolescents and young people between 12 and 35 years old** in the most developed countries is at risk of hearing loss due to overexposure to noise in recreational settings.
(World Health Organization)
- **Presbycusis** affects some **30% of the population between 65 and 70 years old**, rising to **80% of those aged over 75.** Because of noise pollution and modern lifestyles, these age-related hearing problems are becoming apparent ever earlier, **at around 50 years of age.**
(Spanish Society ENT)
- **One in every thousand** persons in the general population becomes **deaf in the course of their lives.**
- **8% of the population has hearing problems** of varying types and degrees that causes them difficulties in understanding a conversation in a normal tone of voice.