

## THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE RECOGNITION OF SIGN LANGUAGE COMMUNICATION WITHIN THE DEAF/HOH COMMUNITY

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### Abstract:

*The paper explores the fundamental rights related to Freedom of Expression and the Recognition of Sign Language as outlined by human rights law, in accordance with UNCRPD. It also examines the core principles and frameworks for the Deaf/HoH Community under this national law in the country's context, which aim to eliminate barriers to Sign Language.*

*Protection and Recognition are essential, particularly in public institutions. This involves adopting regulations, policies, mechanisms, and other procedures to prevent discrimination against Deaf Individuals and Communities, while also promoting the implementation of a suitable new national law. The framework emphasizes the value of judgment, dignity, and respect for Deaf individuals' rights, without discrimination.*

*The aim of research in public policy and regulation. is to ensure that the World Federation of the Deaf's findings help adapt national acts on Sign Language Recognition in countries where such laws exist, and that the Deaf community adopts them to achieve those objectives. The paper aims to explore Deaf Studies and Sign Language, focusing on 82 countries with a recognized Sign Language Status Act and 111 countries without such recognition.*

**Keywords:** sign language recognition; public policy; non-discrimination; Deaf community; human rights; legal framework

### Introduction

In Sign Language recognition studies, researchers have examined the policy framework for ensuring the rights of the Deaf Community, particularly with respect to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) obligations regarding key aspects of the furthest extent possible quality standards regulation, and the social policy framework. These are frequently used to protect the Deaf community's rights, to combat barriers to communication in Sign Language, especially between different concepts and ideas in the national legal and policy frameworks, to promote the fundamental rights to freedom of expression, and to ensure that Deaf cultural identity, traditions, and sports remain an integral part of their community.

The role of Sign language in Deaf Education is also to ensure monitoring of the implementation process, such as in schools for the Deaf, in accordance with the UNCRPD, where potential measures to address and reduce barriers are specifically aimed at making Sign Language Accessible. This may include, where stipulated by national law in each

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respective country, the obligation of the national authorities to implement measures to overcome barriers to communication between Deaf and hearing people.

This paper examines an academic interest in Deaf Studies that has increased in recent decades, and the Deaf community's focus on combating discrimination, marginalization, and exclusion in Deaf society, as well as in the workplace, access to information, efficiency, and a prospective study on the resolution of the Sign Language recognition, which it intends to take, is based on reasons for doing so in the Deaf community.

Recent updates from the WFD highlight that Joseph J. Murray, a University Professor at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., and President of the WFD, states that Bolivia has passed a new law that officially recognizes Bolivian Sign Language (LSB). This milestone forward in linguistic rights. It solidifies LSB as a legitimate mode of communication across social, educational, cultural, political, and economic spheres for the Deaf community<sup>1</sup>. This is a development of previous WFD resolutions regarding Bolivia's recognition of Sign Language, which also references the UNCRPD mechanism.

In the context of the World Federation of the Deaf, prior research in Deaf Studies and Sign Language has contributed to the evolving concept of a human rights-based approach to Sign Language Recognition. This development aims to align legislation with international standards concerning legal capacity and human dignity for the Deaf Community. Currently, 82 countries recognize Sign Language through regulations, policies, and methodologies, including 37 in Europe, 20 in South / North America, 11 in Asia and the Middle East, 9 in Africa, and 5 in Oceania, supported by national laws. Evidently, 111 countries have adopted laws consistent with the Conventions on Disability Rights, including 42 in Africa, 33 in Asia and the Middle East, 15 in South and North America, 11 in Europe, and 10 in Oceania. However, these regulations often face issues leading to national laws that do not support Sign Language Recognition. With the exception of several Western countries that have laws protecting Disability rights and Sign Language interpretation, most other countries do not. The Western region aims to secure legal recognition for various sign languages, with the fundamental objective of sign language recognition in future legislation through stronger legal systems.

The research contributes to the existing literature on Deaf Studies by providing a comparative overview of how Sign Languages (SLs) are legally recognized, based on data available from the WFD. It analyses the distribution of countries that have adopted legal recognition and those that have not. The paper explores the links between sign language recognition, freedom of expression, and the implementation of international human rights under the UNCRPD, considering legal frameworks and policy developments. It highlights the importance of sign language in supporting the national laws that safeguard Deaf/HoH communities.

### **The Recognition Space in the Sign Language and Deaf Communication**

The recognition of Sign Language is essential, as part of the "freedom of expression and opinion" as cited by Hilde Hualand, as outlined in the *Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities*, adopted by the United Nations, stating that without Sign Language, the Deaf face a lack of access to vital information, a lack of technology and communication, and the ability of unself-expression in Sign Language. Hualand aimed to eliminate barriers and ensure the freedom of expression and access to information through Deaf Community

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<sup>1</sup> World Federation of the Deaf, "Recognition of Bolivian Sign Language", <https://wfdeaf.org/recognition-of-bolivian-sign-language/> (20.02.2026)

Communication. This includes sharing opinions, participating in discussions, and accessing educational opportunities, workplaces, religious, and non-governmental organizations within the Deaf community. It also covers Sign Language interpretation, recognizing and promoting Sign Language as a human right, aligned with the International Sign Language for linguistic, cultural, and traditional communities, in accordance with the UNCRPD<sup>1</sup>.

From this point of view, the principle of linguistic dignity is legally recognized as a fundamental protection, playing a vital role in ensuring the Sign Language, which is an integral part of cultural identity, and societal knowledge of the study of Deaf Studies and its “practical effects in the different spheres of daily life”<sup>2</sup>. The lack of recognition is a problem that, if solved, will result in preventing and reducing the risk of exclusion and marginalization of the deaf society<sup>3</sup>, highlighting the importance of legal recognition to avoid exclusion and discrimination against the Deaf community, or Deaf individuals.

The aspects of legal recognition, as outlined in the goals and recommendations of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), including the International Sign Language guidelines, regulations, and national laws, are a priority in light of the *UNCRP* regarding the protection of rights of the Deaf Community. This pertains to national states and the legal recognition standards for Sign Language. For instance, Deaf organizations must address the fundamental issue of ensuring human rights through legal recognition within their respective countries.

Ferri Delia and Ann Leahy highlighted the significance of *Implementing the Right of Persons with Disabilities to Participate in Cultural Life*, with a particular focus on Deaf cultural and linguistic identity. They are explicated and will be justified as necessary to protect the Sign Language and Deaf community culture. The roles outlined by the CRPD are key in promoting Deaf education through bicultural and bilingual approaches, as endorsed by the World Federation of the Deaf. According to the CRPD report, States Parties (Member States of the respective country) are obligated to take measures to safeguard the rights of Sign Language. This includes independent recognition and the case of official languages and national laws, such as those in European countries, Austria, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, and the UK. In Romania, Romanian Sign Language is recognized as the mother tongue of the Deaf/HoH Community<sup>4</sup>. Several member states of the European Union are obligated to promote the use of national sign language in the legislative process in a fair, transparent, and non-discriminatory manner. This is because national legislation must comply with the CRPD and the EU Convention on Human Rights, both of which are binding. Consequently, research studies identify criteria and priorities for the Deaf Community in cultural and participation life.

This issue is discussed in relation to the regulation of *UNCRPD and Sign Language Peoples* as one of the areas supporting the protection of Sign Language as a human rights treaty for the Deaf community. The topics of interest include the following:

- 1) focusing on the protection and promoting recognition of SLs at the European Union level;
- 2) recognizing the SLs as aligning to ensure communication;

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<sup>1</sup> Haualand Hilde, *Sign Language Interpreting: A Human Rights Issue*, “International Journal of Interpreter Education”, Vol. 1, No. 1, 2009, <https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/ijie/vol1/iss1/7>, pp. 98-99

<sup>2</sup> Venade de Sousa Filipe, *Essential Framework of the Legal Status of Sign Language: Recognition and Officiality*, “Revista De Llingua I Dret”, No. 7, 2022, doi: 10.2436/rld.i78.2022.3843, pp. 180-181

<sup>3</sup> *Idem*

<sup>4</sup> Delia Ferri, Ann Leahy, *Dismantling Barriers and Advancing the Right of Persons with Disabilities to Participate in Cultural Life: A Socio-Legal Analysis*, Routledge, Interdisciplinary Disability Studies, 2025, p. 114

- 3) guaranteeing the right to use them in interactions and official national sign language settings;
- 4) facilitating interaction, information access, and expression;
- 5) emphasizing education, including the fundamental rights to qualified sign language teachers and access to appropriate Deaf education;
- 6) legal accessibility for individuals with disabilities to justice systems is guaranteed through fully reasonable accommodations, such as closed captions and authorized sign language interpreters for Deaf individuals or communities;
- 7) acknowledging the existence of Deaf cultural and identity, including their use of SLs<sup>1</sup>.

These principles regarding the rights of persons with disabilities highlight the need, in some countries, for guidelines that align with the UNCRPD at the appropriate level for the Deaf/HoH community and individuals who require reasonable accommodation. These national policies should also be supported to ensure effective, non-discriminatory, and necessary access.

These Sign Languages constitute a cultural and linguistic minority, as the international Deaf Community, represented by the World Federation of the Deaf, has attained under national laws, which are guaranteed in accordance with the provisions of the International Convention<sup>2</sup> on Disability in relation to Human Rights, thereby ensuring legal recognition.

In relation to the regulations, treaties, and national laws in every country on the Human Rights Convention for Persons with Disabilities, in the interpretation of the principles of Sign Language and Deaf Education, respectively, it's obligatory to respect a fundamental aspect of freedoms of expression and opinions. Considering these points regarding the recognition and protection of Sign Language, public policies have been developed to prevent discrimination against Deaf individuals. These policies focus on legal principles, covering areas such as education, interpreting, and cultural and identity issues.

### **The World Federation of the Deaf's Strategy on the Recognition and Protection of Rights Policy for the National Sign Languages**

The World Federation of the Deaf endorses its role in supporting national organizations within the Deaf community, particularly in the cultural, educational, sporting, and moral dimensions. The WFD efforts focus on ideas and initiatives that promote Sign Language as a first language and as an educational medium. In the event of consensus, the World Congress States affirms the following "Recommendations of the Commission on Sign Language" from 1991, emphasizing that they should be robust, action-oriented, and effective, and that they are recognized as Deaf education. Specifically, recognizing National Sign Languages as essential for the Deaf Community is paramount<sup>3</sup>.

The International legal and policy contexts outlined by the WFD for the Deaf Communities' self-identification as a linguistic-cultural-traditional-sport-bilingual group are

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<sup>1</sup> De Meulder Maartje, *The UNCRPD and Sign Language Peoples*, in A. Pabsch (Ed.), "UNCRPD Implementation in Europe-A Deaf Perspective. Article 29: Participation in Political and Public Life", European Union of the Deaf, 2014, <https://jyx.jyu.fi/bitstreams/fb875781-8c57-44fd-9250-942657c0bb24/download>, pp. 9-10

<sup>2</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Resolution A/RES/61/106*, 13 December 2006, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-persons-disabilities> (12.02.2026)

<sup>3</sup> Jan Branson, Don Miller, *Nationalism and the Linguistic Rights of Deaf Communities: Linguistic Imperialism and the Recognition and Development of Sign Languages*, "Journal of Sociolinguistics", Vol. 2, 1998, DOI: 10.1111/1467-9481.00028, pp. 25-26

grounded in the human rights of minority groups to use their language. These rights are understood as linguistic human rights, including the need to recognize and promote one's own "mother tongue" and sign language communication. In this regard, both UNCRPD and the UNESCO – Convention Against Discrimination in Education, adopted in 1960, recognize that minority language rights for the Deaf Community in the school, university, and professional training, which are obligations under international human rights treaties, would have the same status as the WFD, and shall be determined under official recognition and promotion of Sign Language<sup>1</sup>. The provisions of both the UNCRPD and UNESCO are comprehensive measures against discrimination and encompass all aspects related to Deaf accessibility, and the promotion of Sign Language, aiming to promote human rights.

On the other hand, necessary aspects of the WFD must be analyzed and discussed, especially regarding the *Recognition of Sign Language Under International Law*, as explored by Meereboer, Spijkers, and Meereboer. They examine whether Sign Languages possess a public policy nature and if the WFD helps fulfill Deaf rights. Although this perspective has not yet been officially adopted, it is considered fundamental by the Deaf community. Specifically, one of the key articles has demonstrated that state parties are obligated to guarantee that deaf or deafblind individuals or communities can express themselves and communicate in Sign Language, some through Braille, and others through their preferred accessible information methods, thereby ensuring equal access with others<sup>2</sup>.

In China, sign language legislation refers to protections under various systems, such as "local sign language" and "national sign language". China's National Legislation has inadequately addressed local sign language. Despite efforts by the Chinese Deaf Community to promote and recognize the national sign language, which can integrate national differences between local and national levels, the Chinese government promotes and protects the nationalization, standardization, and uniformity of Sign Language<sup>3</sup>. The Government of China has not yet officially recognized Chinese Sign Language, including national and local sign languages, according to the World Federation of the Deaf<sup>4</sup>. This obligation serves as a guiding instrument for recognizing the rights of the Deaf Community and ensuring the practice of the two sign languages, the national sign language and the local sign language.

### The Officially Recognized Sign Languages in Various Countries

The latest data from the World Federation of the Deaf shows that 193 countries have laws either recognizing or not recognizing Sign Language, as detailed in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1 demonstrates that legal recognition often serves as a normative interpreter authorization in Sign Language, in police stations in cases involving Deaf individuals, the

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<sup>1</sup> Victoria Manning, Joseph J. Murray, Alexandre Bloxs, *Linguistic Human Rights in the Work of the World Federation of the Deaf*, in Tove Skutnabb-Kangas; Robert Phillipson (Eds.), "The Handbook of Linguistic Human Rights", Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2023, [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Tove-Skutnabb-Kangas/publication/369197901\\_Introduction\\_Establishing\\_Linguistic\\_Human\\_Rights/links/641359a066f8522c38ad79a6/Introduction-Establishing-Linguistic-Human-Rights.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Tove-Skutnabb-Kangas/publication/369197901_Introduction_Establishing_Linguistic_Human_Rights/links/641359a066f8522c38ad79a6/Introduction-Establishing-Linguistic-Human-Rights.pdf), pp. 270–271

<sup>2</sup> Swen Meereboer, Kika Meereboer, Otto Spijkers, *Recognition of Sign Language under International Law: A Case Study of Dutch Sign Language in the Netherlands*, "Netherlands Yearbook of International Law 2017: Shifting Forms and Levels of Cooperation in International Economic Law: Structural Developments in Trade, Investment and Financial Regulation", TMC Asser Press, 2018, p. 421  
[https://pure.eur.nl/ws/portalfiles/portal/100601764/978-94-6265-243-9\\_13.pdf](https://pure.eur.nl/ws/portalfiles/portal/100601764/978-94-6265-243-9_13.pdf),

<sup>3</sup> Zhuiwen Lai, Zhengzong Huang, Ya Wen, Jinmei Feng, *Enhancing Sign Language Recognition and Accessibility for the Deaf Community in China*, "Disability&Society", Vol. 40, No. 9, 2024, DOI: 10.1080/09687599.2024.2412271, p. 2628

<sup>4</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 2626

justice system, and within public administration. Additionally, the regulatory claims for political participation accessibility encompass access to voting and electoral information throughout democratic processes, for example, among the various Sign Language interpretation activities in TV programs.

In various countries, Europe demonstrates stronger legal recognition due to supranational institutions, such as the European Union and the Council of Europe, which provide human rights protections and frameworks (e.g., recognized official language, the guarantee of legal mechanisms protection). In this study, legal recognition specifically refers to the National Association of the Deaf and other NGOs' support in Europe for the "Sign Language Act" from an initiative proposed by Deaf community organizations and endorsed by the national parliament. The educational access includes bilingual Deaf education, Sign Language curriculum, and instruction aimed at teaching, adapting reasonably for learning, and evaluating Deaf pupils within the school.

In South and North America, public institutions are acknowledged and respected under the UNCRPD Convention on disability rights, which was initiated by the World Federation of the Deaf, aligning with information about the Deaf Community's Rights.

In Asia and the Middle East, it may be influenced by the UNCRPD, which has assumed a stronger role in international norms through the adoption of the Disability Acts, in some democracies and totalitarian systems, thereby supporting the Deaf community.

In Africa, 9 (nine) nations are the relevant international standards, particularly those concerning the Deaf community.

In Oceania, there are still nations with a devoted attitude toward the Deaf community; however, the focus is on perspectives on Sign Language Recognition.

Europe	South/North America	Asia and Middle East	Africa	Oceania
Albania	Argentina	Azerbaijan	Angola	Fiji
Austria	Bolivia	Bangladesh	Eswatini	Marshall Islands
Belarus	Brazil	India	Kenya	Mongolia
Belgium	Canada	Indonesia	Lesotho	New Zealand
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Chile	Japan	Malawi	Papua New Guinea
Bulgaria	Colombia	Malaysia	Namibia	
Croatia	Costa Rica	Nepal	South Africa	
Cyprus	Cuba	Philippines	Uganda	
Czech Republic	Dominican Republic	South Korea	Zimbabwe	
Denmark	Ecuador	Turkey		
Estonia	El Salvador	Uzbekistan		
Finland	Guatemala			
Germany	Honduras			
Greece	Mexico			
Hungary	Nicaragua			
Iceland	Panama			
Ireland	Paraguay			
Italy	Peru			
Kosovo	Uruguay			
Latvia	Venezuela			
Lithuania				
Luxembourg				
Malta				
North Macedonia				
Norway				
Poland				

Portugal				
Romania				
Russian Federation				
Serbia				
Slovakia				
Slovenia				
Spain				
Sweden				
The Netherlands				
Ukraine				
United Kingdom				
37	20	11	9	5

**Table 1.** The 82 Nations with Officially Recognized Sign Languages<sup>1</sup>

Table 2 indicates that countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, South and North America, Europe, and Oceania that lack legislation and do not legally recognize sign language, as evidenced by the absence of a simple law on the rights of persons with disabilities.

In this context, the baseline for comparing the analytical coherence of Table 1 was to examine countries that lack sign language recognition. These issues impact part of the Deaf community by affecting communication, interpretation in Sign Language, and human rights.

Africa	Asia and Middle East	South/North America	Europe	Oceania
Algeria	Afghanistan		Andorra	Australia
Benin	Bahrain		Armenia	Kiribati
Botswana	Bhutan		France	Micronesia
Burkina Faso	Brunei		Georgia	Nauru
Burundi	Cambodia		Liechtenstein	Palau
Cameroon	China	Antigua/ Barbuda	Moldova	Samoa
Cape Verde	Iran	Bahamas	Monaco	Solomon Islands
Central African	Iraq	Barbados	Montenegro	Tonga
Chad	Israel	Belize	San Marino	Tuvalu
Comoros	Jordan	Dominica	Switzerland	Vanuatu
R. of the Congo	Kazakhstan	Grenada	Vatican	
Côte d’Ivoire	Kuwait	Guyana		
R. D. of the Congo	Kyrgyzstan	Haiti		
Djibouti	Laos	Jamaica		
Egypt	Lebanon	Saint Kitts/ Nevis		
Equatorial Guinea	Maldives	Saint Lucia		
Eritrea	Myanmar	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		
Ethiopia	North Korea	Suriname		
Gabon	Oman	Trinidad/ Tobago		
Gambia	Pakistan	United States of America		
Ghana	Palestine			
Guinea	Qatar			
Guinea-Bissau	Saudi Arabia			
Liberia	Singapore			
Libya	Sri Lanka			
Madagascar	Syria			
Mali	Tajikistan			

<sup>1</sup> World Federation of the Deaf, *Sign Language Recognition Map*, [https://wfdeaf.org/wp-content/uploads/WFD\\_Sign-Language-Recognition-Map\\_20261201-1.pdf](https://wfdeaf.org/wp-content/uploads/WFD_Sign-Language-Recognition-Map_20261201-1.pdf) (13.02.2026)

Africa	Asia and Middle East	South/North America	Europe	Oceania
Mauritania Mauritius Morocco Mozambique Niger Nigeria Rwanda São Tomé/Príncipe Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Somalia South Sudan Togo Tunisia	Thailand Timor-Leste Turkmenistan United Arab Emirates Vietnam Yemen			
42	33	15	11	10

**Table 2.** The 111 Nations Without Officially Recognized Sign Languages<sup>1</sup>

The frequency presented in Table 2 also underscores a disregard for the basic limitations of human rights regarding specific practices, such as Sign Language for the Deaf community. Considering these practices as insufficient grounds for restricting core can cause unforeseen and severe consequences.

Several nations believe that, based on human rights and civil rights, the United States of America has sufficient “civil rights”, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act and other similar measures, within the context of American Sign Language and Deaf Studies.

In Europe, countries such as France, Switzerland, and Moldova have human rights policies that support the Deaf community, including interpretation facilitating in French Sign Language, Swiss-German Sign Language, and Moldavian-Romanian-Russian Sign Language.

In this respect, Australia, China, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates are similar to the Deaf Community. The data available from the World Federation of the Deaf offers a comparative overview of the global distribution of legal recognition of SLs. Based on these data, the present study examines differences between countries and regions with legally recognized national protection and those without such recognition and protection that have yet to be adopted. This comparison allows the identification of disparities in legal recognition and protection, highlighting the implications for the realization of the UNCRD and for the exercise of rights within Deaf / HoH communities.

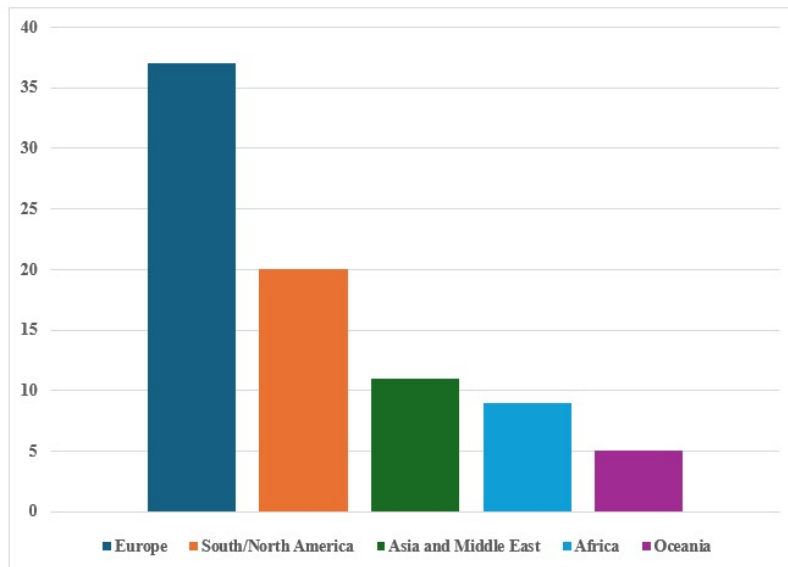
In this respect, the World Federation of the Deaf sets out the following specifications related to the process of accessing information and communication in their daily lives. For instance, the report views the absence of effective recognition sign language legislation as a serious violation of the fundamental rights of deaf people, as documented in human rights<sup>2</sup>.

Table 1 presents the average results for Europe, America, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Oceania across different situations regarding the extent of sign language

<sup>1</sup> *Idem*

<sup>2</sup> World Federation of the Deaf, “*The Legal Recognition of National Sign Languages*”, WFD, <https://wfdeaf.org/the-legal-recognition-of-national-sign-languages/> (16.02.2026)

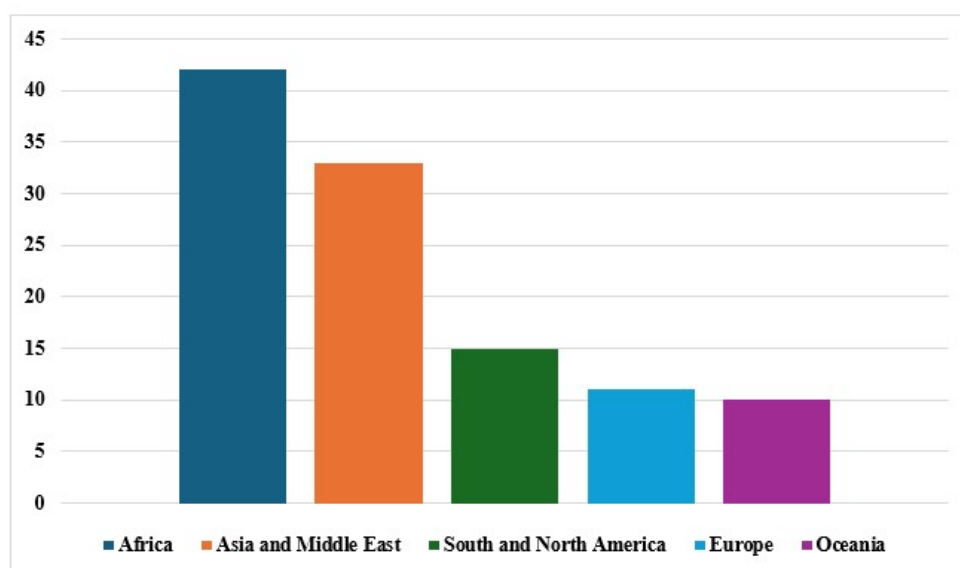
recognition in countries that have enacted laws for Deaf/HoH communities, as shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1.** Regional Comparison of Countries Recognizing National SLs

Figure 1 illustrates the regional distribution of countries that adopted legal recognition and national SLs recognition in various legal recognition settings. The figure provides a comparative visualization of the number of countries across different regions where SLs are adopted and recognized through legislation or official policies.

Table 2 indicates that countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, South and North America, Europe, and Oceania that lack legislation do not legally recognize sign language, as evidenced by the absence of a simple law on the rights of persons with disabilities.



**Figure 2.** Regional Comparison of Countries Without Legal Recognition of SLs

Figure 2 presents the regional distribution of countries where sign languages have not yet been legally recognized and protected. The comparison between 5 (five) regions highlights significant disparities in the implementation of legal frameworks protecting the linguistic rights of Deaf/HoH communities, which may lead to the failure of legislative protection of the Sign Language addressed to the Deaf Community, and it is often an act of discrimination, but a part of the protection of people with disability was sufficient to human rights international treaties in accordance with UNCRPD under legal conditions relating to the fundamental rights recognized.

This study provides the raw data for a comparative overview of the legal recognition of SLs and highlights regional disparities in legal frameworks and policies. It underscores the importance of legal SLs in ensuring freedom of expression and equal access to information for Deaf and HoH communities.

Analyses of reports from the World Federation of the Deaf reveal the consequences of the absence of recognition of sign language, as shown in Figure 2, which presents data for 111 countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, South and North America, Europe, and Oceania. Specifically, aside from “legislative violations to equal rights in society, the lack of recognition of sign language as the natural language of the Deaf and very limited access to educational programs make deaf persons disadvantaged in their desire for full participation in society and overall equalization of opportunities”<sup>1</sup>. The United States of America has strong protections of the Deaf community, more so than many other countries. This includes support from the Americans with Disabilities Act and from organizations, such as the National Association of the Deaf and Gallaudet University.

## Conclusions

This article has examined the evolution of Sign Language recognition, which is essential for effective communication within the Deaf Community, and is recognized as a vital aspect of international human rights. The World Federation of the Deaf is increasingly concerned about the recognition of legal national Sign Language in Deaf Education, culture, traditional, and sport practices within nongovernmental organizations. NGOs within the Deaf Community have developed strategies that provide sufficient support and foster effective decision-making. These efforts support Deaf communication and help develop the skills needed to make country-owned decisions that facilitate the use of Sign Language interpretation.

In terms of human rights decision-making, the UNCRPD approach within the Deaf community supports the roles of science, Deaf Studies, and research papers. All of these are recognized as playing important roles in sign language communication skills and in the ability to live independently in freedom and dignity. The measures of the CRPD must be adopted by countries to protect the recognition of Sign Language and to support the World Federation of the Deaf’s fair and balanced approach, and they require value judgments and justifications for the Deaf Community regarding appropriate national laws and policies. The International legal and policy issues facing the World Federation of the Deaf establish a framework for recognizing Sign Language. This considers the view that national human rights laws are vital, and that effective Deaf communication with NGOs’ target groups is key to their recognition.

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<sup>1</sup> Marjo Joutsalainen, „Deaf People in the Developing World”, in Peter Mittler, Ron Brouillette, Duncan Harris (eds.), *World Yearbook of Education 1993: Special Needs Education*, Oxford: Routledge, 2006, pp. 85–86.

This would be the official recognition of Sign Language to promote the Deaf community, helping them adopt an official procedure to advance their capabilities, combat discrimination, and overcome communication barriers with hearing people. Several countries should, without delay, establish a new legislative process on Sign Language Recognition in relation to the UNCRPD and begin the process for its official recognition, dedicated to Deaf Education, Culture, and related areas. This is also clearly demonstrated by data from the World Federation of the Deaf, which is widely regarded as the most authoritative source on Sign Language Laws, which indicate that every country should continue to ensure that its Deaf communities are not subjected to barriers or discrimination.

The study contributes to the discussion on sign language recognition and protection by providing a global comparative overview of the legal status of national SLs and highlighting disparities across regions in the implementation of legal frameworks that protect the linguistic rights of Deaf /HoH communities. The findings of this study demonstrate that the recognition of SLs is closely linked to the protection of fundamental human rights, particularly the right to freedom of expression and access to information dedicated to the Deaf community. Although several countries have adopted legal frameworks that recognize national SLs, significant global issues remain. The analysis highlights the importance of legal and policy frameworks to ensure that Deaf/HoH communities can fully exercise their linguistic, cultural, and language rights without discrimination.

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