

Għaqda Persuni Neqsin mis-Smigh

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Dear whom it may concern,

I would like to state that the Deaf People Association (Malta) fully supports the ENS proposal “Measures for the removal of barriers of communication, for the recognition of LIS, the LIS tactile and for the promotion of social inclusion of deaf people and deaf-blind”, which was submitted to the XII Social Affairs Commission.

The Deaf People’s Association (Malta) represents around 400 D/deaf people in Malta. We are members of the European Union of the Deaf (EUD), the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and the Platform for Human Rights Organisations in Malta (PHROM)

It is Deaf People Association (Malta)’s aim to achieve equality in public and private life for Deaf people across the Maltese Islands to ensure they can become full citizens. Its main objectives are the recognition of the right to use an indigenous sign language, empowerment through communication and information, and equality in education and employment.

Considering Italy has signed and ratified the groundbreaking UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) on 3rd of the Italian Deaf Association (ENS) to recognise Italian Sign Language (LIS) in national legislation and to develop policies and services that enable deaf citizens to participate fully in public and private life, including employment and education. Deaf People Association (Malta) would like to point out that out of all 28 EU Member States, 25 have sign language recognised in the justice system and Italy is one of the last countries that still have not.

The Deaf People Association (Malta) urges the representatives of the Italian Council to co-operate with ENS to ensure the ratification of LIS and also support their forthcoming protests in order to achieve equality for all Deaf citizens in Italy.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Steven Mulvaney

President Deaf People Association (Malta)
2014-2016