



**WORLD FEDERATION
OF THE DEAF**



#IDSL

Concept Note

Shine a Blue Light on Sign Languages!

On this 2023 edition of the International Day of Sign Languages, the world will highlight the unity generated by our over 200 different national sign languages. Deaf communities, governments and civil society organisations continue their collective efforts - hand in hand - to foster, promote and recognise national sign languages as part of their countries' vibrant and diverse linguistic landscapes.

A World Where Deaf People Everywhere Can Sign Anywhere!

Following the success of the first Shine a blue light on Sign Languages in 2022, the WFD is continuing the Blue Light for Sign Languages this year, aiming to highlight the unity brought by the shared experience of national sign languages.

This event aims to unite the world, its citizens, communities and societies through the blue light.

We invite all public places, public landmarks and official buildings, Presidential houses, County buildings, City Halls, and others to be spotlighted in blue light on 23 September 2023. By highlighting the blue colour on their buildings and landmarks is a reaffirmation of our joint commitment to supporting national sign languages and showing solidarity with global deaf communities. Together, we can achieve human rights and a more equal society via the use of national sign languages in all areas of life.

The colour blue has been used by the WFD since its founding in 1951, and the Blue Ribbon has been used as a symbol of deaf communities' work over the centuries for equality in society and recognition of their national sign languages. To read more go to this link <https://wfdeaf.org/70th-anniversary/>.

The Blue Light Challenge is a unique opportunity for national governments to partner with their national associations of deaf people in achieving the human rights of their deaf communities. Join us in Shining a Blue Light on Sign Languages!

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An International Non-Governmental Organisation in official liaison with ECOSOC, UNESCO, ILO, WHO and the Council of Europe. WFD was established in Rome in 1951.

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Technical modalities

The WFD encourages its 135 Ordinary Members, national associations of deaf people, as well its international partners and all other relevant stakeholders, to reach out to their governments officials and invite them to contribute to this Blue Light For Sign Languages Event by lighting their buildings with the Blue Light.

In order to colourfully harmonise this Blue Light On Sign Languages initiative, the WFD recommends using this blue reference: #007EC4.

Photos and Videos should be published on social media with the hashtags [#IDSL](#) and [#BlueLight](#) tagging [@Wfdeaf](#).

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