



FIAPAS

**SPANISH
CONFEDERATION
OF FAMILIES
OF DEAF
PEOPLE**



FOSTERING INCLUSION, SUPPORTING PEOPLE, ADVANCING IN SOLIDARITY
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**International Day of the Deaf 2014
27 September**

FIAPAS MANIFESTO

LET THE WHOLE WORLD HEAR IT

On occasion of the International Day of the Deaf, we at the Spanish Confederation of Families of Deaf People-FIAPAS call for Society's attention so that we may, on one hand, contribute to a better knowledge of the present reality of deaf people. On the other, we demand the deployment of as many resources to support hearing and oral communication as these may require and which technological progress offers today.

Many barriers are encountered by deaf people in their day to day and in all spheres. Eliminating them is **a human rights issue**, as is ensuring their access to goods and services in the same conditions as the rest of the citizens.

We are currently coming across young people who, thanks to having received auditory and oral language stimulation, and thanks to having enjoyed support at school and at home (and obviously also having invested a great deal of personal effort) are now sufficiently educated, are socially competent and are ready to live autonomously and independently as active members of the society to which they belong.

These are young people who look towards the future with the excitement and hope of making **this society more inclusive**.

However, this does not mean that their lives are without difficulties or barriers. **Invisible communication barriers and barriers to accessing information and knowledge.** This is why **they are calling for resources to support hearing and oral communication**, in answer to their emerging needs and demands, in a changing, forward-looking environment.

- ✓ Every year **more than 2500 deaf children are born** in Spain. They should not have to wait between diagnosis and treatment.
- ✓ In Spain, **8% of the population has hearing problems.** More than a million people are deaf. Their disability is not a barrier.
- ✓ **More than 95%** of deaf people **communicate in oral language** and their families are hearing.
- ✓ Though it may be hard to believe, deaf people can have all sounds within their reach thanks to cutting-edge **hearing aids and hearing implants.** However, their use demands an important financial effort that is not within the economic capability of all families.
- ✓ **Technology** (hearing aids, subtitles, magnetic loop, frequency modulation systems, etc.) is not some whim for deaf people. It is indispensable **for their education, to obtain information, to communicate and participate in their surroundings.**

FIAPAS is the largest representation platform for the families of deaf people in Spain. And we families, who have not remained unaware of the evolution occurred in recent decades, are working every day towards the full inclusion of deaf people: children, young people and adults.

To do this, we also need everyone's commitment.

FIAPAS IS COMMITTED

AND YOU?