

WORLD DEAF DAY 26 September 2020

## FIAPAS manifesto

### FUNDAMENTALLY, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT RIGHTS



To mark World Deaf Day, the Spanish Confederation of Families of Deaf People (FIAPAS) wish to present our public authorities and society at large with the following Manifesto.

At a crucial time for Spanish society, with the current social and health crisis demonstrating the **fragility of the victories won** over many years, people with hearing disability have once again seen their rights infringed, jeopardising equal opportunities and non-discrimination, inclusion and involvement in all spheres, along with the emergence of new barriers preventing them from exercising these rights on equal terms with other people.

With all sectors firmly committed to progressing along the route set by the **2030 Agenda, the ambitious global development framework for the application of human rights without discrimination**, we need a reminder that the political and strategic measures that necessarily result from the application of these rights must include everyone.

And this **transformative vision** gives rise to new legal formulae and focuses intended to ensure a response to the needs and demands of those in situations of vulnerability and to provide them with proper protection in exercising their rights.

Among others, **the right to employment**, so important for the social inclusion and participation of deaf people.

Over recent years considerable progress has been made in the occupational integration of deaf people, above all at ordinary companies. Training has proved to be an essential instrument in this regard. We must therefore reassert the fact that everything that is done, or not done, to guarantee **the right to education** of deaf children and young people will shape their future, including employment.

**New generations of deaf people** have trained and developed their skills in accordance with their capabilities, aptitudes and interests. Substantial progress and change have been achieved compared with the situation of previous generations, thanks to the use of hearing aids and the early development of oral language. All of which brings them closer to this **change in their personal status, offering them integration at work and in professional life**, living independently as part of the economic fabric, and making a contribution to Society through engagement and joint responsibility.

There are, however, still barriers which hamper access to communication, information and knowledge, and which alongside stereotypes and ignorance about the contemporary reality of communication for people with hearing disability, prevent them from enjoying full participation and inclusion.

#### FIAPAS therefore has these **DEMANDS**:

##### **+ ACCESSIBILITY**

Technology has become the great ally of people with hearing disability, by offering access to oral communication and auditory accessibility in our surroundings.

##### **+ INCLUSION**

Resources, means and measures for support to help deaf people to share and participate in all spheres (education, employment, social life...).

##### **+ SOCIAL COMMITMENT**

Companies that believe in and support deaf people, and are committed to their inclusion and professional development.

##### **+ JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

As people with hearing disability we aim to show that we are just another member of the workforce, **a part of the inclusive jigsaw put together by the talent of each and every one of us.**



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# FIAPAS MANIFESTO



 FIAPAS

## Impact of deafness in Spain

- In Spain there are **1,064,000 people** with some type and degree of hearing disability **More than 97% of them use oral language to communicate.**  
According to the INE, 13,300 people use sign language.  
(Survey into Disability, Personal Autonomy and Situations of Dependence. 2008 - INE)
- **Five in every thousand new-born babies** reveal deafness of some degree, which in Spain means that **every year some 2,500 new families have a deaf son or daughter.**
- **50% of teenagers and young people aged between 12 and 35** in more developed countries are at risk of suffering hearing loss because of overexposure to noise in recreational contexts.  
(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 ENT Society).
- **One in every thousand** people in the general population will become **deaf during their life.**
- **8% of the population have hearing problems** of different types and degrees, making it difficult for them to follow a normal tone of conversation.



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Download the FIAPAS Manifesto at <https://bibliotecafiapas.es>



SPANISH  
CONFEDERATION OF  
FAMILIES OF DEAF  
PEOPLE