

RECOGNISE NAMIBIAN SIGN LANGUAGE, EMPOWER LIVES, ENSURE INCLUSION!!



**Namibian National
Association of the Deaf**
Reg. No. WO84

Sign Language is not just a tool—it's a lifeline. For thousands of Namibian Deaf individuals, it serves as the key to education, employment, healthcare, and full participation in society.

Yet, without official recognition, Namibian Sign Language remains marginalized, and so do the people who depend on it.

WHY IT MATTERS:

- ✓ **Language is a Human Right:** Denying recognition to Namibian Sign Language is denying access to communication, culture, and identity.
- ✓ **Inclusive Education:** Learners who use Sign Language deserve qualified teachers, accessible materials, and equal opportunities to learn.
- ✓ **Economic Participation:** Without recognition, barriers persist in workplaces, public services, and civic life.



CALL TO ACTION: WHAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST DO

- 1 Legally Recognize Sign Language as an Official Language**
Enshrine Sign Language in national law to affirm its status, protect its use, and promote its development across all sectors.
- 2 Fund Interpreter Services and Training Programs:**
Invest in professional Sign Language interpreters and training to ensure accessibility in schools, hospitals, courts, and public events.
- 3 Integrate Sign Language into Public Education and Media**
Mandate Sign Language instruction in schools and include it in public broadcasting to normalize its use and foster inclusion.

Sign Language is a vital, vibrant language that deserves full recognition. Legal status, funding, and integration into public life are essential steps toward equality. The government must act now to ensure no one is left unheard.



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WHAT YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL CAN DO

- ✓ **Raise Awareness**
Use social media, blogs, and community events to educate others about the importance of Namibian Sign Language and the need for its recognition.
- ✓ **Engage Politically:**
Write to local representatives and participate in public hearings or campaigns advocating for legal recognition, if need be, sign petitions!
- ✓ **Learn and Promote Sign Language:**
Take courses, encourage friends to take up Sign Language classes, and use it in daily life to normalize its presence (NNAD offers classes).
- ✓ **Support Deaf-Led Initiatives:**
Donate to or volunteer with organizations led by Deaf individuals such as NNAD and NDEO. Their voices must be central in this movement.

WHAT CORPORATES CAN DO

- ✓ **Implement Inclusive Policies**
Recognize Namibian Sign Language as a workplace language. Hire interpreters, offer training, and ensure Deaf employees have equal access to communication.
- ✓ **Use Sign Language in Branding and Media**
Include Sign Language in advertisements, public announcements, and customer service platforms to promote visibility and inclusion.
- ✓ **Fund Advocacy and Education**
Sponsor awareness campaigns, interpreter training programs, and inclusive education initiatives.
- ✓ **Partner with Deaf Communities**
Collaborate with Deaf organizations to co-create programs, products, and services that reflect their needs and expertise.

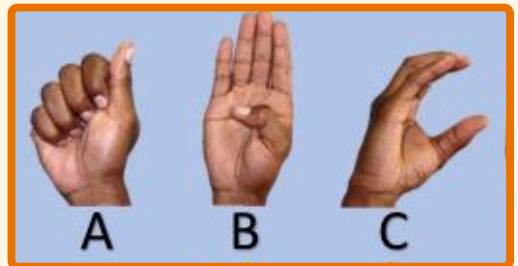
Every time Sign Language is used in public spaces—whether by a teacher, a CEO, or a content creator—it reinforces its legitimacy.

The more visible and normalized it becomes, the harder it is for governments to ignore the call for official recognition.

The time is NOW and it starts with YOU!

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**"No Human rights without
Namibian Sign Language Rights"**

#IWDP2025- #IDSL2025