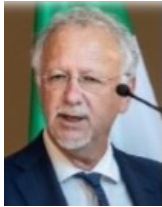


CONFERENCE

SIGN LANGUAGE**The right to one's own language and its impact**

TIME: Tuesday, December 10th, 2024, 12:30 – 16:00 hrs

LOCATION: University of Salzburg, Faculty of Catholic Theology, Auditorium 101

SPEAKERS**Equality, access and inclusion: The use of sign languages as a human rights obligation****Prof. Dr. Fernand DE VARENNES**Former UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues,
human rights expert**National sign languages as human rights****Alexandre BLOXS, LL.M.**

Policy Manager of the European Union of the Deaf (EUD)

**Sign languages in the context of the rights of persons
with disabilities and language rights****Prof. Dr. Christian RATHMANN**Head of the Deaf Studies and Sign Language Interpreting Department,
Humboldt University of Berlin**The human right to Austrian Sign Language
in the context of the Austrian legal system****Mag.^a Christine STEGER**

Austrian Disability Ombudsperson



With subsequent

PANEL DISCUSSION

Introduction:

Mag.^a Helene JARMER, President ÖGLB

Moderation:

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Reinhard KLAUSHOFER
Head of Austrian Human Rights Institute

The conference will be interpreted into Austrian Sign Language (ÖGS) and International Signs (IS).
No registration required. Participation is free.

CONTENTS

The disability of deaf people arises from the numerous barriers in communication with the hearing majority in society. To put it provocatively: deaf people ARE not disabled, they BECOME disabled. The unique aspect amongst the group of people with disabilities is clearly their own language: sign language.

Sign languages are already recognized as independent languages in many countries around the world, including Austria since 2005. However, many international human rights related to language and their numerous impacts are not accessible to the deaf community in Austria. Given the ban on discrimination based on language, there is a lot of catching up to do here, not least with regard to the potential of recognizing sign languages as minority languages.

The event aims to discuss the following questions, among others, with national and international experts in a forum open to the public:

- How can the human rights of deaf people in terms of access and linguistic non-discrimination be strengthened?
- Why is the implementation of measures to reduce linguistic barriers and discriminatory exclusion and to recognize the rights of the linguistic minority of sign language users progressing so slowly?
- What would be the impact of recognizing the Deaf community as a linguistic minority?
- What kind of activities can stakeholders undertake to strengthen the political will to comply with the requirements of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the rights to equality and non-discriminatory practices, and to position the Deaf community as a linguistic minority?

Organizer



Österreichischer Gehörlosenbund

Waldgasse 13/2, 1100 Wien
politik@oeglb.at



Austrian Human Rights Institute
University of Salzburg
Kaigasse 17/3, 5020 Salzburg
menschenrechte@plus.ac.at