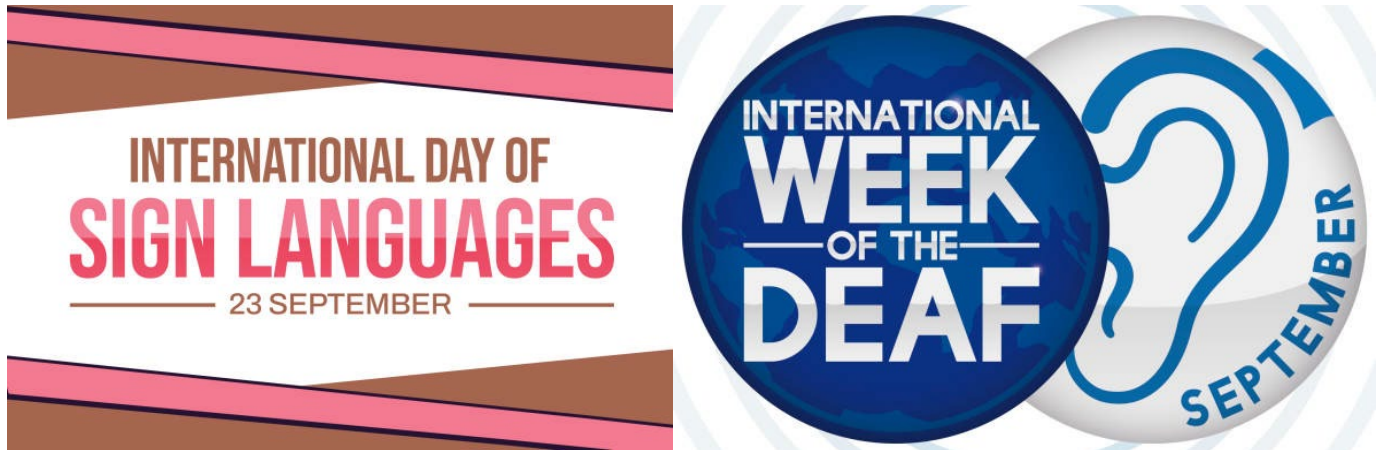


International Day of Sign Languages & International Week of Deaf People



By Navya Menon, Workforce Engagement Intern

Every year, the **International Day of Sign Languages** is celebrated on **September 23**, during the **International Week of Deaf People**, which this year runs from **September 22 to 28**. The 2025 theme, *“No Human Rights Without Sign Language Rights,”* highlights the importance of sign language in achieving equality for deaf individuals worldwide.

The day was proposed by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and placed on September 23 to commemorate the organization’s founding in 1951. This year’s theme draws attention to the ongoing mission of ensuring equal rights for deaf people and sign language users. While progress has been made through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the day also serves as a reminder that full equality is still a work in progress.

Throughout the week, each day has a unique theme to support this movement:

- **September 22 – Deaf Communities Leading**
Deaf-led alliances are essential. The motto *“Nothing about us without us”* emphasizes that deaf individuals must lead real progress.
- **September 23 – No Human Rights Without Sign Language Rights**
This day advocates for the recognition of sign language as a fundamental human right.
- **September 24 – Multilingual Education for Deaf Learners**
WFD supports education that is linguistically and culturally inclusive.
- **September 25 – Deaf Rights in Crises**
Deaf communities must be included in emergency planning and have access to information in sign language during crises.

- *September 26 – Recognition of National Sign Language*
Legal recognition of national sign languages is key to ensuring deaf people can fully participate in society.
- *September 27 – Sign Language Access Services*
Deaf individuals have the right to choose their preferred access services. Early planning ensures proper accommodations.
- *September 28 – Set the Basis for the Future: Innovate, Inspire, Impact*
Deaf communities are diverse and innovative. Learning from them helps build a more inclusive and forward-thinking world.

This week serves as a powerful reminder to continue advocating for the rights of deaf individuals and all who rely on sign language.