2018

Valencia Declaration



Work group of gender equality of EUD

Valencia (SPAIN)

01/10/2018

VALENCIA DECLARATION

FOR THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT OF DEAF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SOCIETY AND FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST DEAF GIRLS AND WOMEN

The 33 delegates coming from 18 different countries, whose national deaf advocacy associations are members of EUD and EUDY delegates in the *I Deaf Women European Forum* taking place in Valencia (Spain) from 18th to 20th October 2018 whose open conferences have been attended by 250 deaf women,

Considering:

We, deaf girls and women, represent half of the deaf population, thus, half of its strength.

We, deaf girls and women, on a daily basis suffer from actions and behaviors which exclude and make us invisible: prejudices and doubts of our abilities for being women and for being deaf, for using sign languages; inequality in access to different spheres of life, as well as in access to resources and public or private services available to citizens, either due to the lack or insufficiency of their accessibility.

Intersectional discrimination is an infringement on the human rights of determined female groups, as it is for each and every deaf girl and woman.

Gender equality and a complete and real empowerment of all women and girls is one of the most powerful and effective tools to achieve social progress; not leaving anyone behind.

UN WOMEN, in their 2017-2018 report, recognizes the ever increasing presence and significance of the equality and women's rights movements all over the world and a call to men and boys in order for them to value and respect women and girls. This is a call to every corner of society, for all to make the causes of women their own causes and to assume responsibility.

One of the first principles and goals of the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 is to achieve gender equality.

The goals of the Europe Council Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2030.

Deaf advocacy organizations must inspire their acts, as well as other aspects within the principles determined by the International Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

People listed below, their own representation and in our National Associations', based on an understanding that every person should have the same rights, that deaf women as well as deaf men, deaf girls, deaf boys and non-binary persons must have the same rights in all spheres of life.

The delegates propose the following for deaf girls and women in Europe:

The same visibility, empowerment, leadership, responsibility and participation of deaf girls and women in all areas of life including deaf community and associative life.

Gender equality to be one of the priorities of the EUD, EUDY and their national deaf associations members, to bring awareness to civil society based on an understanding that fighting sexism, misogynistic violence, sexual abuse and removing barriers which deny genuine gender equality in our societies and condemn deaf girls and women to exclusion, is the responsibility of all sectors of society.

The need for a macro survey, which may be useful in order to learn more about the situation in Europe pertaining to deaf girls' and women's rights, as well as establish and implement a strategic plan to apply gender perspective in the deaf community in defense of deaf girls' and women's rights.

The voices of deaf girls and women must be heard in Europe. Thus, we call on deaf advocacy organizations to have their own representation in every organization and public body affecting their lives. We seek the recognition of international days dedicated to this subject and to enforce these rights so they may be honored by authorities, political representatives, social agents and the society as a whole.

Going forward, we seek that the Deaf Women European Forum be held every two years and organized by national associations in cooperation with EUD.

The time is now! It is the time to claim, to take responsibility, to take the steps needed to end gender inequality. We will not leave anyone behind. Deaf girls and women matter too!

In Valencia (Spain), 20th October 2018

