



**WASLI Philosophy Statement
(Pertaining to Education and Training)
July 23, 2009**

The World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) is committed to the advancement of the profession of signed language interpreting worldwide. Interpreter educators from countries with established interpreter education will collaborate with educators from countries where interpreter training is not available or is newly developing. Educators will work together to design effective practices and deliver quality education in a manner that recognises and incorporates local expertise in the cultural, linguistic, social and political conditions that affect teaching and practising signed language interpreting in that country. The goal of collaboration is to ensure accessibility, relevance and effectiveness of training in diverse contexts while maintaining the integrity of national signed languages, customs and norms.

Experienced international educators will collaborate with relevant stakeholders including, but not limited to, Deaf and hearing community members, Deaf and hearing interpreters, national Deaf and Deaf-Blind organisation representatives, spoken language community and translation/interpreting organisation representatives, government representatives, and educational-institution representatives. The aim of these collaborative efforts is the development of expertise and empowerment of local personnel to lead the establishment of interpreter education in their respective countries and to support existing and developing national associations of signed language interpreters. The recognition of, respect for and incorporation of linguistic and cultural values throughout the process are imperative to the success of all activities.