



JOINT STATEMENT
(adopted on 23/01/2006)

The World Federation of the Deaf and the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters are happy to issue the following statement to support their agreement to work in close partnership for the future benefit of Deaf people and people who use sign language and the sign language interpreting profession:

- In co-operation with National Associations of the Deaf we will work towards the establishment of sign language interpreter associations in countries where there are currently none, and encourage regional networks throughout the world
- We will strive to increase learning opportunities to increase the numbers of professional sign language interpreters who are competent and appropriately qualified to national standards
- We affirm the importance of joint working, close liaison and transparent communication between associations of Deaf people and sign language interpreters at local, national, regional and international levels
- We will pay particular attention to the development of international links in order to build capacity, provide a forum for discussion and share resources with developing countries
- This agreement recognises the primacy of organisations of Deaf people to chart the political, cultural, and educational development of sign language in their country, including the dissemination of sign language dictionaries and teaching materials.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Markku Jokinen', written over a horizontal line.

Date:

Markku Jokinen
WFD PRESIDENT

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Liz Scott Gibson', written over a horizontal line.

Date:

Liz Scott Gibson
WASLI PRESIDENT