

# Disability: South African Sign Language (SASL)

NID Training Disability Diary

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Assembly gave its approval to make SASL official on 2 May 2023. The president signed the amendment as law and is an amendment to Section 6 of the Constitution (The conversation, 2023). SASL is now the 12th official language in South Africa, a step that will promote the rights of people who are deaf and hard-of-hearing (Masweneng, 2023).

## Conclusion

Unfortunately, individuals living with deafness face many challenges navigating through a world which prefers the ability to speak, and where few users of spoken languages use sign language. As such, there is an increasing need for business owners to accommodate deaf people through cultivating sign language-friendly workplaces. Businesses need to incorporate sign language into their workplace not only because it reflects a move towards inclusion, equality and diversity, but because it is valuable.

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## References

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## Introduction

The ability to communicate and master the art of sound and speech is one of the foundations of human undertakings. Communication can take place through speech, or in the Deaf community through sign language. The distinguishing feature of signed languages is that they are communicated through the medium of space, not sound and that signers use their hands, face, head and upper torso. There is no one universal sign language, in fact it is reported that there are 150 distinct sign languages around the world. Many sign languages use similar signs, and it is interesting that soon after meeting, hearing impaired people from different parts of the world can communicate and understand each other (Emmory, 2023).

## Discussion

South Africa is a diverse country where regional and cultural differences influence the way people sign, and as with spoken languages, there are regional differences, but South African Sign Language (SASL) is mainly used by the Deaf community. SASL is an acknowledged language that is different from all other spoken languages in South Africa and was formally recognised in 1995. The South African Schools Act permits the study of sign language in place of an official language studied at school and is used at the 40 schools for the Deaf in South Africa. It is also used by interpreters in television newscasts. After public hearings in March 2023, the National