

Centre for Deaf Studies

Press Release

The use of an incompetent interpreter at Nelson Mandela's memorial service has brought international attention to bear on the consequences of the provision of untrained, unqualified interpreters on the participation of Deaf communities across the world.

The larger issue is the fact that unqualified interpreters continue to be used on a daily basis in many settings where, according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Deaf people have the right to full and equal access, from schools and colleges to hospitals to courts of law.

In Ireland, Trinity College Dublin has been committed to the development of high calibre programmes in Deaf Studies, delivered by the Centre for Deaf Studies. This includes a robust 4 year interpreter training programme, which last week saw the graduation of the first cohort from the Bachelor in Deaf Studies (Irish Sign Language/English Interpreting Programme), alongside those with specialisms in Irish Sign Language teaching and Deaf studies.

The Centre for Deaf Studies collaborates with key stakeholders in ensuring that Irish Sign Language interpreter education is to the forefront in international terms. This includes close collaboration with the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (EFSLI), who next week will launch its 'Learning Outcomes' for interpreter training programmes at the European Parliament. The initiative, which has been fully supported by the European Commission, is just the latest example of EFSLI's commitment to raising the standards of interpreting across Europe and, with it, the ideal of full citizenship for Deaf people.

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For further information:

Contact:

Professor Lorraine Leeson, Director, Centre for Deaf Studies
087 66 700 28 or leesonl@tcd.ie

Dr. John Bosco Conama, Acting Director, Centre for Deaf Studies
comamaj@tcd.ie

Additional Resources:

European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters: <http://efsli.org>

European Union of the Deaf: <http://eud.eu>

World Association of Sign Language Interpreters: <http://wasli.org>

World Federation of the Deaf: <http://wfdeaf.org>

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