

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE DEAF
30 September 2018

FIAPAS MANIFESTO

TOGETHER, WE CAN DO MUCH



In 1978, a group of parents, united in their concerns for improving the quality of life of their deaf children, decided to take their first steps as the current FIAPAS Family Association Movement.

Associations and federations, spread across the national territory, have been - and will remain - more than mere service providers.

The organisations of the Family Association Movement – FIAPAS have become a meeting point, a space for the exchange of experiences and training, a place for games, a shoulder to lean on in times of difficulty or the place where deaf people and their families find the information they need and through which they can voice their grievances.

The work of the FIAPAS - Family Association Movement is shared and supportive, capable of adapting to new scenarios and continuously seeking answers to people's emerging demands and needs, in line with scientific, technical and social progress.

Committed to what we are and to the bond that unites us

The association movement is ultimately a sum of efforts and emotions to face a complex and constant task in which each and every one counts. Families, deaf people and professionals support and encourage each other on this journey, which turns into a long-distance race for achieving equal rights and improvements in the quality of life of deaf people and their families. Asserting our claims is the driving force that has taken us this far and inspires us, for there is still much left to do.

For all these reasons we **CHAMPION** the role of the Family Association Movement for Families of Deaf People - FIAPAS as:

- ☑ a COLLABORATOR of the public authorities in **generating social change and improving public policies and regulations** affecting deaf people and their families.
- ☑ a FACILITATOR AGENT **for social transformation focusing on the rights, inclusion and participation** in the community of deaf people and their families.
- ☑ an ACTOR AND PROMOTER of **awareness-raising in Society** to encourage the active commitment of the citizens **and of the Public Authorities** in regard to the inclusion and participation of deaf people and their families.

**All this without forgetting that we are
more than a shared journey and a common agenda**

**We are
the Emotion that Unites us**

(((O))) LET THE WORLD HEAR IT

IMPACT OF DEAFNESS IN SPAIN

- In Spain there are **1,064,000 people** with differing types and degrees of hearing impairment. Of these, **more than 98% uses spoken language to communicate**. According to INE, the National Statistics Institute, **13,300 people** use sign language. **(Survey on Situations of Disability, Personal Autonomy and Dependency. 2008 – INE)**
- **Five in every thousand newborns** are deaf to a varying degree, which in Spain represents almost **2,500 new families with a deaf child each year**.
- **50 % of adolescents and young people between 12 and 35 years old** in the most developed countries is at risk of hearing loss due to overexposure to noise in recreational settings. **(World Health Organization)**
- **One in every thousand** persons in the general population becomes **deaf in the course of their lives**.
- **8% of the population** (more than 3 and a half million people) **has hearing problems** of varying types and degrees that causes them difficulties in understanding a conversation in a normal tone of voice.