



# KERRY DEAF RESOURCE CENTRE

*KDRC provides services to Deaf and hard of hearing people at county level and contributes to national issues of equality, access and rights.*

Charity No: CHY20854

4 Gas Terrace  
Tralee  
Co. Kerry

14.11.16

## REPORT FROM THE DAIL DEBATE ON IRISH SIGN LANGUAGE RECOGNITION



Last week, Dáil Éireann debated a motion on the ISL Recognition Report by the Joint Oireachtas committee.

To see this information in Irish Sign Language (ISL), go to <https://www.facebook.com/IrishSignLanguageRecognitionCampaign>

Here is a report from John Bosco Conama.

“The report was published by this committee after Wendy Murray, Brian Crean and myself gave testimonies to the committee and they decided to issue the report calling on the government to recognise ISL. The report was published on 13 October. Yesterday, this report was handed to the Dáil for debate.

About 35-40 Deaf and hearing people including those who travelled from afar - from Cork and Monaghan. Two interpreters were there and interpreted from the press gallery. No photograph or filming was allowed.

The debate was interesting and positive. Sinn Fein TD Caoimhghin O’Caolain from Monaghan started the debate and spoke about the need for ISL recognition. He is the Chairperson of the Joint Oireachtas committee.

The Minister of State for Disability Affairs, Finian McGrath responded and he agreed with the need to recognise ISL recognition but he has concerns with some clauses in the Bill. There was a good debate after the Minister’s response.

For example, the opposition told the Minister to go back to civil servants to stop negative thinking and see if they are willing to work with him to create effective clauses. Clare Daly TD said the most important clause is number 4 of the Bill which states that ISL is a language, not a tool. The Minister responded by saying that he supports the Bill too but has to do his job to check the Bill if it can work.

Most of us who were there felt positive but pointed out that the debate was about which comes first - setting up services or recognise ISL? A bit like which comes first – the chicken or the egg situation. We felt it was a repeated belief from the former minister, Kathleen Lynch. Some TDs disagreed with this approach.

After the debate, we retired to the hotel and had a good discussion about the debate and what to do next? The motion is passed and the Minister will go back to the civil servants for more discussion on the Bill.

We have the ISL Bill, which will be examined by the Seanad's committee probably next January, and they will examine the Bill line by line. They will check the implications of costs and may remove the clauses if they think not right.

We in IDS will prepare a plan of what to do with the Bill in near future and we know some of you are anxious and want to offer support and assistance. We in the IDS will promise to keep you informed of what happens to the Bill.

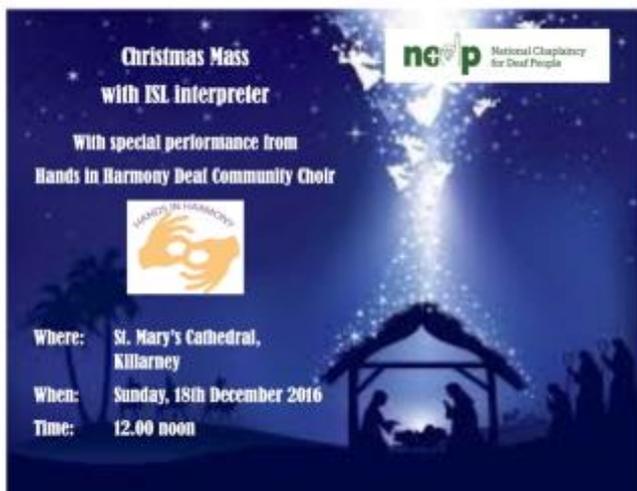
We did search for a legal expert and we are lucky to get a barrister who will work for us for no cost. We will rely on his advice if we are not sure about the amendments and discussion about the Bill. We have not started work with him but will start very soon.

We thank you for your continued support, patience and cooperation. We are considering plans of how to keep you posted and will let you know of our plans.

Yesterday's debate was really a positive step for ISL recognition and there is no way of dismissing this Bill. TDs and Senators have a clear understanding of this great need for ISL recognition"

Full transcript can be seen at this link: <https://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2016-11-10a.368>

## HANDS IN HARMONY PERFORMANCE IN KILLARNEY



Hands in Harmony is a choir made up of Deaf & hearing members. The choir perform songs in Irish Sign Language (ISL).

The choir come from the Limerick/Mid-West region.

We are delighted to hear that they will be performing at a Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral in Killarney Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> of November at 12 noon.

Our thanks to Kathleen Daffy in DeafHear Limerick for informing us of the event

## DEAF COMMUNITY CENTRE LIMERICK (DCC) 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Deaf Community Centre (DCC) in Limerick will be celebrating its 10-year anniversary on 28th January 2017.

If you would like to celebrate with them, book your tickets for a Gala Dinner and entertainment.

The celebrations will include a 3 course meal, Hands in Harmony sign language choir will perform and you will also get to see Deaf comedian John Smith's Comedy Show.

The celebrations will take place in The Strand Hotel in Limerick at 6pm. Tickets are €50. Everyone is welcome.

We would like to extend our best wishes to DCC and wish them a very Happy 10-year anniversary.

