



# KERRY DEAF RESOURCE CENTRE

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

Charity No: CHY20854

4 Gas Terrace  
Tralee  
Co. Kerry

18.12.17

## HISTORIC DAY FOR IRISH SIGN LANGUAGE.

On Thursday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of December, history was made when Irish Sign Language was officially recognised as the third language of the State.

The Dáil passed all 5 remaining stages on Thursday evening. The historic moment was witnessed by members of the Deaf community from across Ireland



The ISL campaign has been ongoing for over 30 years. In fact, Irish MEP Eileen Lemass became one of the first politicians to raise the issue at the EU. In June 1988, the European Parliament unanimously passed a resolution calling on member states to recognise their national sign languages as official languages of the Deaf.

The ISL Recognition campaign was led by the Irish Deaf Society & we were honoured to support them over the years. It's great to see this hard work finally recognised.

## WHAT WILL THE NEW IRISH SIGN LANGUAGE ACT MEAN IN REALITY?

- \* ISL is now the 3rd official language of the State along with English & Irish.
- \* ISL users will have legal rights to access Government Departments & Public Bodies through Irish Sign Language.
- \* ISL users will have a legal right to access all Courts through sign language.
- \* Government Departments & Public Bodies will be required to provide interpreters accredited by a scheme that is to be funded by a Government Department.
- \* The Government will also introduce a voucher scheme to enable access to private sector settings including social & cultural events.

## THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE ISL CAMPAIGN.



Thank You

Our service would like to thank the IDS for all their work to secure the new ISL Act. A sincere word of thanks also to all our friends, family members, individuals, & organisations who lent their support to achieve this historic outcome. Sincere thanks to our own Board, Manager, staff & service users for their support. We couldn't have done with you. ISL is now a Law.