

**Manifesto 2000 : the right to language / British Deaf Association ; sponsored by Granada, the top name in rental.**

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# W manifesto

# 2000



## *The RIGHT to* **LANGUAGE**

Each nation has its own Sign Language. In the United Kingdom, British Sign Language - BSL - is the fourth most commonly used indigenous language. It is a distinct visual language with its own precise rules and grammar.

As a linguistic minority, Deaf people claim the right to have BSL officially recognised as one of the nation's languages.

The bridge between the Deaf BSL user and the hearing English speaker is the BSL interpreter. In order to cross that bridge, Deaf people must have a right of access to professionally qualified Sign Language interpreters. But there is a critical shortage of trained interpreters and a pressing need for further research into BSL - funding is urgently needed.



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