The CRPD is a legally-binding treaty which entered into force in 2006 and has been ratified by 159 countries and 81% of UN Member States.

Sign language and Deaf culture mentioned 8 times in 5 different articles:

Article 2: Definition
Article 9: Accessibility
Article 21: Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information
Article 24: Education
Article 30: Participation in cultural life, recreation leisure and sport

“[...] no other disability group and their needs are mentioned overtly as precisely and as often in the convention as the Deaf/Deafblind group”

Wilcox et al. 2012

The CRPD is a legally-binding treaty which entered into force in 2006 and has been ratified by 159 countries and 81% of UN Member States.
132 Ordinary Members (countries)

Nearly 90% of the WFD’s member countries have ratified the CRPD

9 Regional Secretariats/partners
Ordinary Members

Representative National Associations of Deaf People:

- Represent the majority of the deaf community in that country.
- Democratic organization with leaders selected by all members, a majority of the governing board should be deaf.
- Inclusive organizations.
WFD Human Rights Outreach Activities
2011-present

79 COUNTRIES
42 PRESENTATIONS
23 WORKSHOPS DELIVERED
21 HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING DELIVERED
136 WFD ATTENDANCE*
7 CRPD COMMITTEE SESSIONS ATTENDED
3 HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECTS

*Includes attendance of WFD Board, Regional Secretariat Representatives and Expert Group members at congresses, conferences, seminars, social events, and meetings with stakeholders.
WFD Guidelines for Development
Work with Deaf People

Nothing about us without us

Development projects should be planned and implemented in close cooperation with the deaf association in that country.

If no deaf association exists, establishment of such an association should be part of the project goals.

WFD CRPD Training Activities

CRPD training with Deaf Associations in El Salvador, Azerbaijan, Mongolia, Dominican Republic, and Serbia.
Support Deaf Association in the CRPD Reporting Process

Critical to bring representative deaf NGOs into the conversation:

- Participation in CRPD reporting process and Side Events.
- Accessibility via national sign language interpreters.
Nothing about us without us:
Implementing the CRPD

Article 4(3) In the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the present Convention [...] States Parties shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations.
Nothing about us without us: International Cooperation

Article 32  States Parties [...] and will undertake appropriate and effective measures[...], between and among States and, as appropriate, in partnership with relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities. [...]  

• a) Ensuring that international cooperation, including international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;
4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

CRPD Article 24 (3):

b) Facilitating the learning of sign language and the promotion of the linguistic identity of the deaf community;

c) Ensuring that the education of persons, and in particular children, who are blind, deaf or deafblind, is delivered in the most appropriate languages and modes and means of communication for the individual, and in environments which maximize academic and social development.
By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States.

CRPD Article 24 (4)

In order to help ensure the realization of this right, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who are qualified in sign language.
Conclusion

The Sustainable Development Goals should be implemented in a manner consistent with the rights and obligations of the CRPD.

Obligations in the CRPD for the inclusion of disabled/deaf persons organizations is also incumbent upon aid organizations and other nongovernmental actors.

Representative Deaf Associations should be involved in all human rights development projects, including projects to do with education and health and rehabilitation.

Deaf community involvement promotes project accountability, ensures stakeholder participation, and strengthens post-project period sustainability.
References

