

Submission from Miss E J Raymond

Hello, please let me introduce you myself. My name is EJ Raymond, am deaf since birth and British Sign Language is my first language. I self-taught English myself after left secondary school. I really want to explain to you the reasons why BSL are very important to deaf community. And why interpreters (and training-well Communicate Support Worker - "CSW") are very important for deaf people. I would give you the example.

A patience who is not feel so well so decide to visit GP. However, no interpreter service (or NHS can't afford to booking interpreters) available. Patience, with very poor English language, and doctor writing on the paper to communicate each other. Doctor usually write down very deeply words that a patience have no idea what these are meaning(s) but nodding, still have no idea what it did mean, so doctor sent this patience home. She/he have no full information about what's wrong with him/her and then next few minutes/days - she/he could end up getting worst unwell, collapse and/or passing away. Because they have no aware what's wrong with themselves. Sometimes doctors can't be bother to write down more information and tell them "don't be silly, you're absolute fine" etc but it still not good enough. That's why BSL can save deaf people's lives if these GP, hospital, dentists and go on, booking interpreter(s) so deaf people can understand the information full than miss out the most of it.

Also I would like to point it out... Why not every each of the workplaces give deaf people the opportunity to offering the jobs? They are often rejection from every workplaces because they are deaf. Is it because these people are so worrying how to communicate deaf people? Are they worrying about health and safety? That's why they need to learning BSL so they can communicate with deaf people. Deaf people indeed have good skills with hands and very focus. I research some informations about the accidents between hearing and deaf employees in the factories etc... High percent of hearing people than deaf people end up in accident because the noises catch hearing employees' attentions, suddenly end up hurt/accident/killing themselves while deaf people can't heard the noises and keep focus at one point - less hurt/accident/killing themselves.

Back in 1700, so many deaf people been offered several of jobs. Unfortunately, in 1800, all deaf people banned by one government and force all deaf people to learning lip-reading and use their voices than British sign language "to improve their English". But lip reading are very tired to focus for hours and hours. It's not their fault for poor English. It's from the education- teacher taught them with deeply of pitying which still same as today. I am deaf actress, my English's much better than in my school time. I went in mainstream school, people who called themselves "interpreters" when they all don't have any BSL levels qualifications on themselves, they always pitying and thought I'm not too smart to do anything in the future. They told me I can't be acting because of my deafness. But they are wrong. Deaf people can do anything hearing people do, except to hear. (You can read more information on my blog about BSL/deaf culture - <http://officialej.blogspot.co.uk>)

I would love to tell you more but I don't want to make you going and fell sleep! All I can say...BSL are save our lives, and more quickly. It will be a massive appreciate if

every school (primary and secondary) in Scotland will learning BSL language, so their future will becoming good environment for both hearing and deaf. I hope to see every deaf community's hate toward hearing people getting less than worst.

Thank you for your time to read this email. If you want to ask me any questions, please don't hesitate - just contact me and I will be happy to answer your questions.

Yours,

Miss EJ Raymond.