

Submission from Amy Myles

I am writing to you with my thoughts about the BSL Bill.

I am a hearing person, I am 22 and am currently in my third year of learning BSL. I have been introduced into a fascinating whole new world of which, up until 3 years ago, I knew very little about.

I wish I had learned sign in even a basic form years ago! I suppose few of us are aware of the lonely, life a deaf person experiences on a daily basis. I mean, simple things like going to a shop and having to write things down to communicate, a simple task us hearing people do on a daily basis and think nothing of it. Or wanting to go and see a movie but having to go early morning or some afternoons when there are subtitles available. Which is almost impossible for those who work!

How about going to a family party and feeling completely and utterly isolated and alone when no one around you can speak your language! When we go to a foreign country we might try and learn a few words and phrases to help with communication, so why when there are people here on our doorstep, in our own country do we make no effort to learn their language? Deafness does not make someone physically disabled but means they speak a different language!

I feel there needs to be much more awareness of this across Britain, after all these people are the same as us hearing people, bar they speak with their hands, not their mouths!

I feel that if there was a basic form of BSL taught in schools from an early age, this language barrier would be reduced.

Why is it that in 2015, a time where we are keen to include everyone and have equal rights for all, have we made little effort for those who cannot hear?

People refer to it as "the deaf world," giving the impression that they live in a different world to those who hear. I find this very sad and feel they should feel part of "our world" and not a separate, isolated, lonely world.

I hope these thoughts and opinions are taken into consideration.

Thanks for reading,
Amy Myles.