THE SIGN INTERPRETERS' LANGUAGE LAW





In 2016, Malta made the Maltese Sign Language one of its official languages, just like Maltese and English.



Sign language is a way for Deaf persons to talk and understand each other using their hands, face, and body instead of talking with words.



The Maltese Sign Language Council is a group that keeps Maltese Sign Language safe and helps Deaf persons in Malta and Gozo. That is why the government asked The Maltese Sign Language Council to help with this law.



This new law on Sign Language says that the Maltese Sign Language Council must set rules for what a person needs to know to work as a Maltese Sign Language interpreter and keep a list of all the people who have passed to be an interpreter.



An interpreter is a person who helps people understand each other when they speak different languages. For example, an interpreter helps a Deaf person understand what someone is saying in Maltese or English.



Other countries, like Ireland and Slovenia already have a law like this one.



Not just persons who know Maltese Sign Language can be on the list. To be on the list, persons can know any other sign language, because each country has its own Sign Language.



Interpreters from other countries in Europe can also come to Malta and work for a short time.



Interpreters who know other sign languages and come to Malta will be very helpful because people can get help in a sign language they understand. For example, an Italian Deaf person can get help by having an Italian Sign Language Interpreter.



Also, Maltese Sign Language Interpreters can learn a lot from other sign language interpreters.



A group of people will be chosen by the Ministry and The Maltese Sign Language Council. This group will choose who can be on the list and who gets official permission to work as an interpreter.



The law will start working two months after it is written in the Government Newspaper.



The Government is happy that this law will support the rights of deaf persons in Malta and Gozo.

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