



FEPEDA STATEMENT – COVID-19

In the context of this pandemic situation, the European Federation of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children (FEPEDA) is aware that deaf and hard-of-hearing people are facing multiple barriers and calls European, national, regional and local authorities to assure their rights, recognised by UN CRPD:

Right to information: Persons with a hearing disability has the right to access to information simultaneously to the rest of the population. Official information must include subtitling and sign language interpretation.

Access to emergency numbers: Different emergency numbers have been established in this context. It is essential to assure its accessibility through writing and videoconference.

Right to education: European children are now studying at home, online education must be accessible for them: speech to text, subtitled materials must be used, as well as sign language interpreters for those students who use this language.

Right to health: It is essential to assure the supply of batteries and spare parts of hearing aids and earring implants, as well repairs services.

Right to (re)habilitation: Children with a hearing disability must continue with online early intervention sessions.

Right to leisure and culture: It is essential that TV programmes, including those for children, are accessible, through subtitling and sign language interpretation.

Right to social protection: A disability in the family is an economical burden. Families with a deaf or hard-of-hearing child must be considered as vulnerable group in the future social protection measures

Right to be consulted: All the adopted measures must be consulted with the organisations representing deaf and hard-of-hearing persons and their families and their sustainability must be assured.

We, deaf and hard-of-hearing children and their parents, will stay at home, but please do not leave anyone behind!