



انصاف سب کا حق ہے

SIGN LANGUAGE

FOR DEAF AND DUMB GBV VICTIMS

MS. RIZWANA PATEL
FORMER JUDGE
ADVOCATE HIGH COURT



PAKISTAN
LEGAL
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Overview of Sign Language

Sign language is a visual mode of communication that employs gestures, facial expressions, and body movements. It is primarily used by the deaf and hard of hearing communities, enabling them to express thoughts, feelings, and information in a clear and effective manner.

Definition:

As per Article 2 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), "Language" includes spoken and signed languages and other forms of non spoken languages

SOME SIGNS OF ALPHABATE



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



J



K



L



M



N



O



P



Q



R



S



T



U



V



W



X



Y



Z

Lingvano

Origin of Sign Language

Historical Roots

Sign language has existed since ancient times, with various forms arising independently in different cultures.

1

2

3

Influence of Culture

Different cultures have influenced the development of sign languages, leading to a rich diversity of signs.

Early Documentation

The first formal recognition of sign language occurred in the 18th century with the establishment of schools for the deaf.

Types of Sign Languages



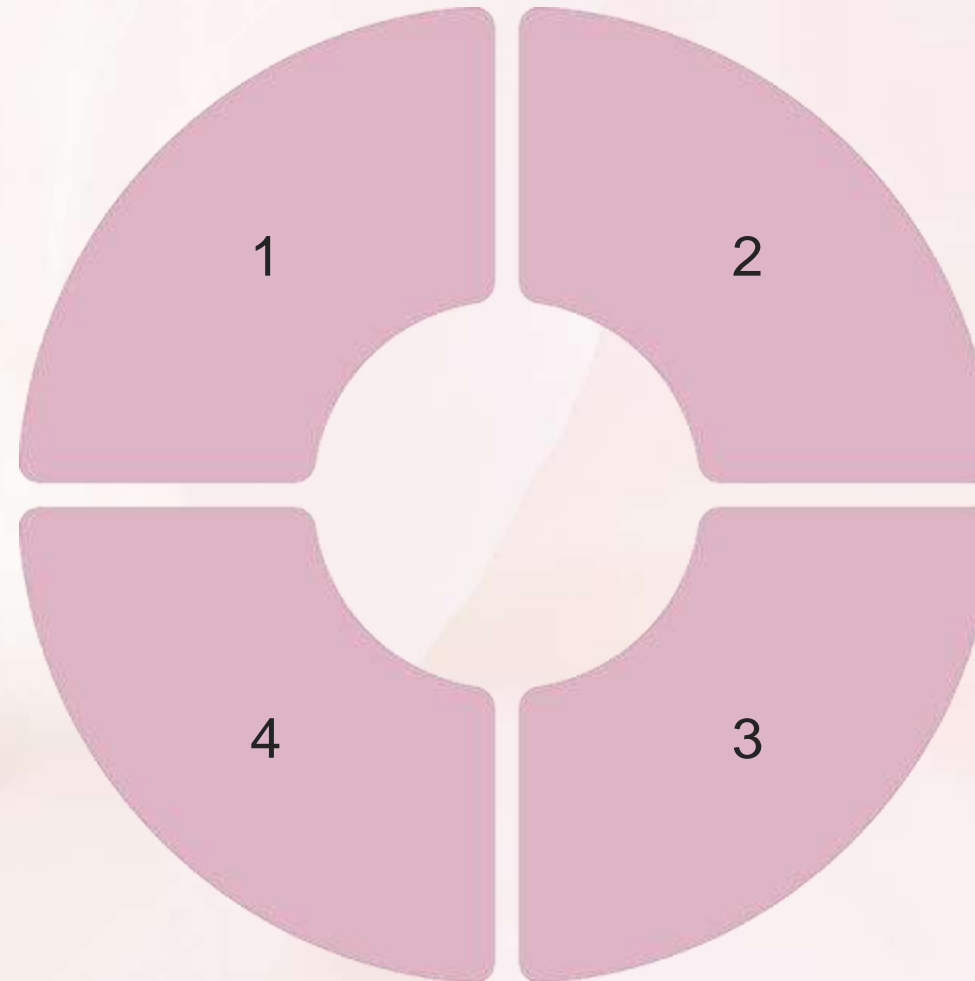
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Sign Language (ASL)

ASL is a distinct language with its own grammar and syntax, primarily used in the United States and parts of Canada, developed from French sign language influences.

International Sign (ISL)

IS is a pidgin sign language used at international events, combining signs from various countries.



British Sign Language (BSL)

BSL is the sign language used in the UK, characterized by its own unique signs and syntax, differing significantly from ASL.

Pakistan Sign Language (PSL)

PSL is the sign language used in Pakistan, characterized by its own unique signs and syntax, differing significantly from ASL and BSL.



Learning Sign Language

Importance of Learning

Learning sign language fosters inclusion and communication, allowing hearing individuals to engage with the deaf community, enhancing mutual understanding and respect.

Resources Available

Numerous resources are available, including online courses, apps, and community classes that make it accessible for anyone interested in learning sign language.

Practice and Immersion

Engaging with deaf communities and practicing with fluent signers is crucial for developing proficiency and understanding the cultural nuances of sign language.



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Benefits of Sign Language

Communication Access

Sign language provides deaf and hard of hearing individuals with a vital mode of communication.

Cognitive Development

Learning sign language enhances cognitive skills, improves memory, and boosts creativity.

Cultural Identity

Sign language promotes a unique identity and fosters social cohesion among its members.



Sign Language in Society



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Influence on Media

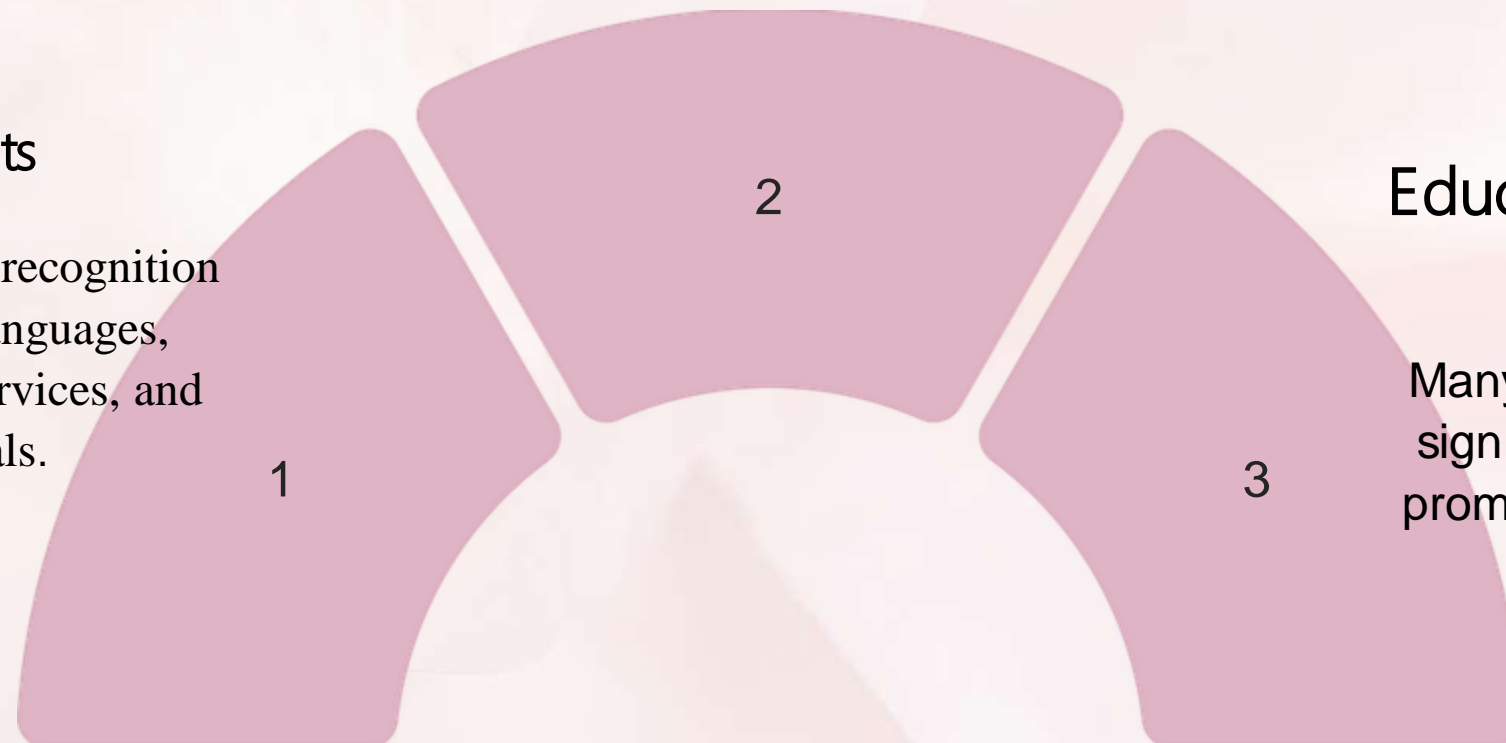
Sign language representation in media has increased awareness and acceptance of the deaf community.

Advocacy and Rights

There is an ongoing push for the recognition of sign languages as official languages, ensuring access to education, services, and rights for deaf individuals.

Educational Integration

Many schools are now incorporating sign language into their curriculum, promoting inclusivity and awareness.



Role of prosecutors in Facilitating Access to Justice

- ❑ Best practices for interacting with PWDs in both criminal and civil contexts.
- ❑ **Ensuring procedural accommodations:** accessible documentation and communication methods.
- ❑ **Special focus:** women and children with disabilities facing risks of abuse



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Legal Framework International



UNCRPD (2006):

- **Article 2:** Recognition of sign language as a form of language.
- **Article 9:** Obligation to provide professional sign language interpreters for accessibility.
- **Article 13:** Access to justice includes procedural accommodations such as interpreters.
- **Article 21:** Freedom of expression includes facilitating the use of sign languages and other accessible communication means.



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Legal Framework National and Provincial

Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018:

- **Section 5(2):** Right of expression for PWDs, with necessary support.
- **Section 16(1):** Ensures freedom of speech and access to information in accessible formats.
- **Section 18(1):** Equal access to justice, including provision of interpreters and free legal aid.

Qanoon-e-Shahadat Order, 1984 (Article 59):

Recognition of expert opinions, including those of professional sign language interpreters.

Criminal Procedure Code, 1898 (Section 543):

Legal mandate for interpreters to provide truthful interpretation in courts.

Sign Language and Accessibility Measures in Sindh

- Provision of **trained sign language interpreters** in courts, prosecution departments police stations.
- Establishment of **accessible communication platforms** (Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018, Section 6).
- Integration of sign language interpretation in **electronic and emergency services**.

Contributions of PLUS in implementation of 2018 Act as an IP of DEPD.

Free Legal aid and Representations

- Capacity Building Trainings
- Awareness and workshops
- Free Legal Aid Camps
- Job and Inclusive Education Portal
- Survey on Gaps and Challenges
- Establish PWDs court on grounds floor



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Challenges Facing Sign Language

Limited Recognition

Many governments do not officially recognize sign languages, leading to inadequate funding.

Misconceptions

Sign language is often misunderstood as mere gestures, not a legitimate language.

Access to Services

Deaf individuals face barriers in accessing services due to a lack of interpreters.

Future of Sign Language

Technological Advances

Innovations in technology, such as video interpreting services and apps, are improving communication access for deaf individuals.

Growing Awareness

Increased awareness about the Deaf culture and sign language is leading to more advocacy efforts.

Research and Development

Ongoing research into sign language linguistics is contributing to a deeper understanding of its structure and usage.



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Challenges:

- Limited availability of professional sign language interpreters.
- Lack of awareness among law enforcement agencies and judicial officers.
- Inadequate training programs for interpreters in legal terminology.



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Conclusion



- Recognition and facilitation of sign language are essential for ensuring **justice and equality** for PWDs.
- Compliance with national and international frameworks strengthens Sindh's legal system.
- Judicial officers play a pivotal role in bridging accessibility gaps and fostering inclusivity in legal processes.

**END VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES**



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Thank you