

Deaf Awareness Month: From SF to the Global Deaf Community

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September 18, 2026



2026: A milestone year for Deaf leadership

GLOBAL

75 - World Federation of the Deaf

- Founded in 1951
- Advancing Deaf people's human rights and sign language rights everywhere.

NATIONAL

145 – National Association of the Deaf

- Founded in 1880
- Oldest continuously operating civil rights organization in the USA.

2026: A milestone year for Deaf leadership (2)

CALIFORNIA

120- California
Association of the Deaf

- Founded in 1906
- Preserve, protect, and promote the rights of Deaf Californians.

SAN FRANCISCO

58th Biennial NAD
Conference

- “Roots and Rising” brought national Deaf leadership, learning, advocacy, and community to SF.

International Week of Deaf People – September 21-27 “Declaring Deaf People’s Human Rights”

- **MON 21** 20 Years of the CRPD + National Sign Languages
- **TUE 22** Quality Multilingual Inclusive Education
- **WED 23** **Declaring Deaf People’s Human Rights**
- **THU 24** No Access Without National Sign Language



International Week of Deaf People – September 21-27 “Declaring Deaf People’s Human Rights” (2)

- **FRI 25** Nothing About Us Without Us
- **SAT 26** Deaf Culture Is a Human Right
- **SUN 27** 75 Years of Human Rights

[International Week of Deaf People 2026 - World Federation of the Deaf](#)



International Week of Deaf People 2026 - World Federation of the Deaf



and strengthening the recognition
of national sign languages.

Deaf Leadership in San Francisco

01

NAD came to San Francisco

The 58th Biennial NAD Conference brought a national gathering of Deaf leadership, advocacy, learning, and culture to our city.

02

Connecting SF to global Deaf DRR

Through WFD's Disaster Risk Reduction Expert Group, San Francisco's experience is contributing to global conversations about accessible warnings, climate resilience, and Deaf leadership.



Deaf Leadership in San Francisco

03

Make visibility visible

One opportunity under discussion: lighting City Hall blue during International Week of Deaf People — date to be confirmed.



From awareness to action

September is an opportunity to celebrate
and to ask what meaningful inclusion looks like in practice.



RECOGNIZE

Sign languages, Deaf
culture, and history



INCLUDE

Deaf people in decisions
that affect us



ACT

Build access into services,
policy, and public life



Thank you!

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