

# Exploring the Declaration on the Rights of Deaf Children

Grade Level: High School

Subject: Social Studies/History

Objective:

- Students will understand the significance of the Declaration on the Rights of Deaf Children.
- Students will analyse the key rights outlined in the declaration.
- Students will discuss the importance of advocating for the rights of deaf children.

Materials Needed:

- Copies of the Declaration on the Rights of Deaf Children (see here: <https://wfdeaf.org/rightsdeafchildren/>)
- Whiteboard and markers
- Internet access for research
- Handouts with discussion questions
- Multimedia resources (videos, articles, etc.)

Some Guiding Questions:

- Why are human rights for deaf children and adults so important?
- What makes a deaf person's human rights different from other cohorts, such as hearing CALD communities?
- What are some of the challenges in fulfilling a deaf child's human rights?
- Are there any examples where you have had your rights unfulfilled?
- What would you do differently if it happened again? How would you approach the situation?

## Lesson Outline:

### Introduction (10 minutes):

- Begin the lesson by discussing the concept of human rights. Ask students to share examples of rights they believe every person should have.
- Introduce the Declaration on the Rights of Deaf Children. Explain that it outlines the rights of deaf children and the importance of advocating for those rights.

### Understanding the Declaration (15 minutes):

- Provide each student with a copy of the Declaration on the Rights of Deaf Children.
- In small groups or pairs, have students read through the declaration and highlight key rights outlined in the document.
- After reading, facilitate a class discussion to identify and summarise the main rights discussed in the declaration. Write these rights on the whiteboard.

### Analysing Key Rights (20 minutes):

- Divide the class into smaller groups and assign each group one or two rights from the Declaration to analyse in depth.
- In their groups, students should discuss the significance of the assigned rights, why they are important for deaf children, and any challenges deaf children may face in accessing these rights.
- Each group will present their findings to the class, including examples and real-life scenarios to illustrate their points.
- While students work, ask each student one at a time to pick a key article from the Declaration and film them sign their version of the chosen article.

### Case Studies and Real-Life Examples (15 minutes):

- Present case studies or real-life examples of situations where the rights of deaf children have been violated or upheld.
- Discuss the outcomes of these cases and the impact they have on the lives of deaf children and their families.
- Encourage students to reflect on how these examples relate to the rights outlined in the Declaration.

### Advocacy and Action (20 minutes):

- Lead a discussion on the importance of advocacy in ensuring the rights of deaf children are respected and upheld.
- Brainstorm ways in which students can advocate for the rights of deaf children in their own communities or globally.
- Encourage students to consider using social media, writing letters to their local MPs, volunteering with organisations, such as Deaf Australia, or organising awareness campaigns.

### Reflection and Conclusion (10 minutes):

- Ask students to reflect individually on what they have learned during the lesson.
- Prompt them to consider how their understanding of human rights and advocacy has evolved.
- Conclude the lesson by emphasising the importance of continued advocacy for the rights of deaf children and the role each person can play in creating positive change.

### Extension Activity (Optional):

Have students research current events or ongoing issues related to the rights of deaf children in different parts of the world. They can then present their findings to the class and discuss possible actions that can be taken to address these issues.

### Assessment:

Assess student understanding through participation in group discussions, presentations, and reflection activities. You can also assign written reflections or a short essay on the significance of the Declaration on the Rights of Deaf Children and the importance of advocacy.