

## Home



Welcome to CSLDL - Centre for Sign Language and Deaf Literacy!

Established in 2020 by a group of passionate Ghanaian intellectuals, CSLDL is a Deaf-centered NGO dedicated to empowering the Deaf community in Ghana. We recognised the pressing need for a supportive organisation that prioritises sign language training, Deaf literacy, and overall well-being.

As we navigate through the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have come to realise the critical importance of bridging communication gaps and fostering Deaf empowerment. That's why our team is committed to providing comprehensive programs and services to meet the unique needs of Deaf individuals.

Our core objectives include supporting the government in promoting the rights outlined in the Persons with Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715) among Deaf citizens in Ghana. Through education and research, we aim to enhance the capacity and opportunities for growth within the Deaf community.

At CSLDL, we organise a wide range of programs encompassing social work, Deaf culture, and advocacy. By raising awareness, offering support, and championing the rights of Deaf individuals, we strive to create a more inclusive society.

We invite you to explore our website, where you'll find valuable resources, information on our initiatives, and ways to get involved. Whether you are a member of the Deaf community, a supporter, or simply curious about our work, we welcome you to join us on this remarkable journey of empowerment and positive change.

Thank you for visiting CSLDL, and we look forward to working together to uplift the Deaf community in Ghana.

Warm regards,

Timothy Mac Hadjah  
Founder, CSLDL - Center for Sign Language and Deaf Literacy

## About/ Who we are

CSLDL is an NGO founded in 2020 by a PhD candidate specialising in sign language linguistics and led by Deaf members and intellectuals with a calling to support and promote sign language and Deaf individuals in Ghana. CSLDL provides literacy programs for the Deaf community to empower them and training on sign language communication for the hearing community to create an inclusive environment. They provide tuition-free programs and aspire to create a resource centre for learning, research and skill training. They operate from a small office space in Koforidua but plan to secure a bigger space to accommodate the growing demand for their programs and services. Overall, CSLDL is a vital organisation that positively impacts the lives of Deaf individuals in Ghana. We are proud of our work and remain committed to supporting and promoting sign language and Deaf culture in our community.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission at CSLDL is to empower Deaf individuals, enhancing their dignity and quality of life. By eliminating barriers and providing comprehensive literacy programs, cutting-edge research initiatives, and expert sign language training and services, we create pathways for Deaf individuals to achieve their fullest potential. We are committed to fostering inclusivity, ensuring equal access to education and information, and championing the rights and aspirations of the Deaf community. Together, we strive to build a society that embraces diversity and empowers every individual to thrive.

## OUR TEAM

Our team consists primarily of Deaf individuals and members of the local Deaf community, ensuring a deep understanding of their needs and perspectives. In addition, we have professionals from diverse fields, such as social work, business and accounting, linguistics, and healthcare. CSLDL collaborates with professionals from various other disciplines to undertake specific programs whenever necessary. This holistic approach guarantees that our clients receive the utmost satisfaction and comprehensive experience.

## FOUNDING MEMBERS



**TIMOTHY MAC HADJAH** (Sign Linguist, affiliated with Leiden University, Holland)

"I'm thankful for the chance to give back to my country after my experience in inclusive education and linguistics. I couldn't do it without the amazing support of our team, partners, and volunteers. Let's keep working together to empower the Deaf community and make a real difference."



ALEXANDER OKYERE (Deaf Sign Language Translator)

“Being Deaf and a part of this organisation is fascinating, and my role in sign language translation brings clarity and ease to communication among the Deaf community. It's fulfilling to witness how my efforts facilitate understanding and connection among deaf individuals.”



ROBERT SAMPANA (Deaf Human Rights Advocate)

“As a Deaf individual, being a part of this impactful initiative holds great significance. It potentially creates positive change within our society, fostering inclusivity and empowerment for all. I am proud to be involved and excited about the transformative impact we can make together.”



JEREMY Bekui (Social Worker)

“As a deaf individual and a social worker, I am thrilled to be a contributing member of our NGO. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute my skills and passion towards our shared mission. Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those we serve and create a more inclusive and equitable society.”



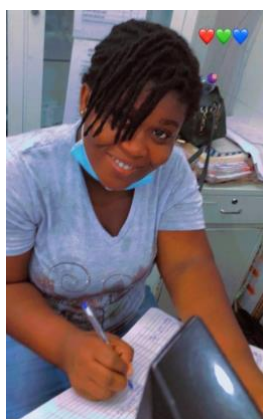
**HAYFORD AGYEMANG Baffour** (Accountant/ Financial advisor)

“As a Financial Advisor and proud member of this NGO, I am dedicated to providing sound financial guidance to support our mission. I believe that smart financial management is crucial for our organization's sustainability and effectiveness in making a positive impact. Let's work together to optimize our resources and ensure long-term financial stability for the betterment of our cause.”



**SANDRA BOATENG** (Social Worker)

“It is a rewarding experience to be an agent of change and have the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the lives of vulnerable individuals, enabling them to thrive in society. I feel privileged to contribute my knowledge and expertise to support the deaf community, and I am excited about the positive difference we can make together.”



**MELODY KPABITEY** (Health professional)

“It is great that I can contribute to this great initiative with my expertise.”



## Service/ What we do

### DEAF EMPOWERMENT



Deaf empowerment is crucial in enabling individuals to achieve self-sufficiency and economic stability, just like anyone else. At CSLDL, our empowerment programs are specifically designed to equip the Deaf community with valuable skills that enable them to be self-employed or connect them with employment opportunities.

To achieve this, we collaborate with experts and professionals in various fields to provide conventional and contemporary literacy and skills training. Conventional literacy and skills encompass areas such as pottery making, agriculture, woodworking, and fashion, which provide practical and hands-on opportunities for self-employment and entrepreneurship.

In addition to traditional skills, we recognise the importance of contemporary literacy and skills in today's world. Our programs also include academic literacy, computer literacy, hospitality management, and religious studies, offering Deaf individuals opportunities to excel in modern industries and professions.

By offering diverse literacy and skills training, we empower Deaf individuals to pursue their passions, enhance their employability, and become active contributors to the economy. Through our comprehensive empowerment programs, we strive to foster independence, economic stability, and equal opportunities for the Deaf community.

### SIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION



At CSLDL, we take immense pride in offering unparalleled Sign Language Tuition. Our dedicated team of Sign Language Teachers consists primarily of Deaf citizens who bring a wealth of knowledge and firsthand experience to the classroom. We provide sign language classes at various levels, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience. Our teaching programme goes beyond Sign Language Vocabulary. We delve into the

intricacies of syntax and the rich culture of the Deaf community. We emphasise teaching you to communicate like a Deaf individual, enabling you to be an interpreter or to engage fluently with Deaf individuals upon completing our program.

We offer comprehensive sign language training to various groups:

1. **Private and public institutions:** We collaborate with these institutions to promote service accessibility. We offer training that equips staff members with sign language skills and consulting services to help these organisations better serve their deaf clients and customers, fostering a more inclusive and accessible environment for all.
2. **Individuals:** We provide a wide range of classes and workshops for individuals interested in learning sign language, catering to personal and professional interests. We firmly believe that sign language is functional and enjoyable and can foster a sense of romance. It offers a unique form of security and protection, even for hearing individuals, in various settings such as the workplace, home, or public places. Sign language enables discreet communication, allowing individuals to express themselves quietly and from a distance. It proves invaluable in situations where noise must be minimised or when verbal communication might be disrupted. By learning sign language, individuals gain a powerful tool for effective and secret communication, enhancing their ability to connect and convey messages even in challenging environments.
3. **Regular primary schools:** As part of schools' extracurricular programs, we introduce sign language training to young students. By promoting inclusion from an early age, we aim to reshape the younger generation's mindset, fostering understanding and empathy towards the Deaf community.
4. **Families with Deaf members:** We provide sign language training to families, enabling them to communicate and engage in meaningful dialogue at home. This promotes stronger bonds and a supportive environment for Deaf individuals within their own families.

At CSLDL, our diverse sign language training programs promote accessibility, inclusion, and effective communication across different settings, empowering individuals and communities alike.

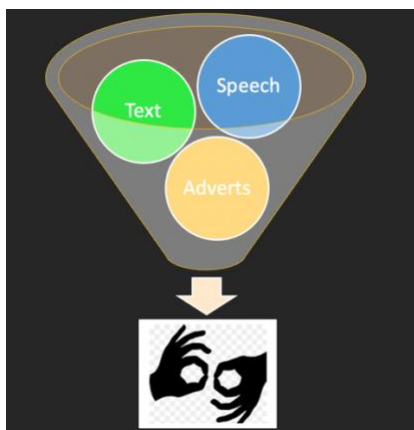
## INTERPRETATION



At CSLDL, we offer flexible Sign Language Interpreting Services for events scheduled on weekdays, weekends, and public holidays. We provide comprehensive sign language interpretation services for a wide range of gatherings, including job

interviews, lectures, meetings, seminars, workshops, and conferences. Our Sign Language Interpreters team comprises trained professionals with extensive experience and prioritise client needs. Feel free to contact us, communicate your requirements, and we will ensure you receive the highest quality services tailored to your specific needs.

## TRANSLATION



CSLDL offers a comprehensive translation service that bridges the gap between written or video information and sign language. We are equipped to assist in accurately translating written documents or videos into sign language, ensuring effective communication for Deaf individuals. Our skilled team of translators combines their written and sign language expertise to deliver high-quality translations. Whether written materials, online content, or multimedia presentations, CSLDL is here to provide accessible and inclusive communication through sign language translations.

## RESEARCH, CONFERENCE & PUBLICATIONS



We are dedicated to advancing the fields of linguistics and deaf studies within our country. Through research and academic initiatives, we aim to deepen our understanding of sign language, Deaf culture, and the experiences of the Deaf community. By promoting these areas of study, we contribute to the development of knowledge and the empowerment of the Deaf community.

Furthermore, we are committed to developing learning materials that cater to the unique needs of deaf children, focusing on enhancing their language development in sign language and proficiency in the official language of Ghana, English. These materials aim to foster effective communication and language acquisition, empowering deaf children to thrive in their education and beyond. Additionally, we aspire to create

comprehensive sign language dictionaries that cater to diverse categories of learners, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity in language education.

Our vision is to organise an annual international conference: DALaCC (Deaf African Language and Culture Conference). Such talks would provide a platform for scholars, professionals, and community members to come together, exchange insights, and advance the understanding and appreciation of Deaf African languages and cultures. We foster collaboration, inspire innovation, and promote cultural diversity through such gatherings.

At CSLDL, we are committed to driving positive change, promoting education, and fostering inclusivity by developing learning materials, academic pursuits, and international conferences. We strive to make a lasting impact on the lives of deaf individuals and the broader community.

## FACILITY (coming soon)

1. Library: Our public library is a treasure trove of resources dedicated to deaf history, sign language, and English learning materials. It serves as a valuable hub for knowledge and self-improvement, providing a wide range of materials to support educational and cultural exploration.

2. Computer Lab: Our state-of-the-art computer lab is a dynamic space for research, learning, and teaching. Equipped with the latest technology, it offers a conducive environment for individuals to engage in academic pursuits, conduct research, and enhance their digital literacy skills.

3. Sign Language Proficiency Assessment Unit: Our Sign Language Proficiency Assessment Unit plays a pivotal role in evaluating and measuring signers' proficiency levels and skills. This assessment is valuable for individuals, interpreters, schools, and service providers as it provides a comprehensive understanding of a signer's abilities, enabling tailored support and effective communication strategies.

4. Deaf TV Station: We take great pride in our Deaf TV Station, which provides an employment opportunity for the deaf community while fostering inclusive media engagement. This platform allows deaf individuals to connect with television programming in a language they can fully comprehend, promoting cultural representation and accessibility in the media landscape.

At CSLDL, our comprehensive service facilities are designed to empower the deaf community, support their educational journey, and provide avenues for self-expression. We believe in creating inclusive spaces where knowledge, communication, and employment opportunities flourish.



## Contact



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Box KF 2840, Koforidua.

\*Your Name .....

\* Your Email.....

\* Your Message .....

\*SUBMIT

## Blog

### **Title: Bridging the Communication Gap: The Importance of Research in Ghanaian Sign Language Education**

**By: Timothy Mac Hadjah**

#### **Introduction:**

In recent years, Ghana has made strides towards inclusive education and the implementation of policies that emphasise the need for sign language training among essential personnel such as health workers, teachers, and social service providers. However, this growing demand has highlighted the importance of language research and the production of learning materials tailored to meet specific needs. In this blog post, we will explore the significance of conducting research on sign languages in Ghana and how it can effectively bridge the communication barrier between the Deaf and hearing communities.

#### **The Need for Research:**

Like many other countries, Ghana does not have a single unified sign language. Instead, multiple sign languages are used across the nation, with Ghanaian Sign Language being the de facto national sign language. However, even Ghanaian Sign Language exhibits various forms of variations. This linguistic diversity poses challenges when relying solely on American Sign Language materials, as it contributes to the complexity of sign language in Ghana. To address this issue, producing locally tailored sign language materials becomes crucial.

#### **The Role of CSLDL:**

The Centre for Sign Language and Deaf Literacy (CSLDL) is vital in empowering the Deaf community and facilitating effective communication. CSLDL must allocate research and language documentation resources to develop accurate and informed learning materials. By bringing together a team of experts and volunteers for long-term linguistic research on sign language usage in Ghana, CSLDL can gain valuable insights into the specific needs and variations of sign languages in Ghana.

#### **Benefits of Informed Research:**

The significance of conducting research on sign language in Ghana cannot be overstated. Scholarly research allows the creation of learning materials that are contextually relevant and tailored to the unique linguistic features of sign languages in Ghana. These materials serve as effective tools to bridge the communication gap between the Deaf and hearing populations, enabling vital personnel such as health workers, teachers, and social service providers to communicate better and understand the Deaf community.

#### **Conclusion:**

As Ghana continues its journey towards inclusive education and fostering a more inclusive society, the importance of research on sign language cannot be overlooked. CSLDL, with its resources and dedicated team, has the opportunity to lead the way in conducting linguistic research and producing locally tailored learning materials. By addressing the linguistic complexity and variations within sign languages in Ghana, CSLDL can make significant strides in bridging the communication barrier between the Deaf and hearing communities. Together, we can create a more inclusive Ghana where effective communication knows no boundaries.

## Jobs

(coming soon)

**Donation**

Join us in our Mission!

Together, we can make a difference in the world. Join us in our mission to help those in need.