

Caracas, August 16, 2022

**Excellency. Vasilka Sancin.  
Vice-Chair of the UN Human Rights Committee.**

**Present. -**

First of all, please receive a cordial greeting from the Confederación Sordos de Venezuela (CONSORVEN), a non-governmental organization with national competence that groups twenty-three (23) associations of deaf people in eighteen (18) states of the country and maintains alliances with 40 organizations of and for people with disabilities. Our main objective is to make visible the deaf community and the movements of people with disabilities, promoting their organization, training and monitoring in the field of Human Rights.

On this occasion we would like to bring to your attention the following situation:

On March 25 of this year, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities issued a series of recommendations to the Venezuelan State, related to the rights contained in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), among which it expressed its concern about the restrictions faced by Persons with Disabilities in Venezuela to access the justice system on equal terms with others, specifically with regard to accessibility to physical spaces, communication and information.

Faced with this barrier, the Committee suggested to the Venezuelan State to reform the Law on Public Interpreters in order to incorporate the figure of the Venezuelan Sign Language Interpreter, so that they can legally participate in judicial proceedings.

However, this organization expresses its concern because, certainly the Venezuelan Public Ministry in April of this year, carried out a process of selection and certification of Public Interpreters, but this process was carried out without taking into account the participation of Civil Society and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, as stipulated in Article 4 of the CRPD, which establishes that the participation of Persons with Disabilities and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities must be ensured and promoted for the exercise of legislation and policies, as well as other decision-making processes on issues related to persons with disabilities. Likewise, regarding the Torre Parque Avila, 17th floor, Avenida Francisco de Miranda c/c 2 da Avenida de los Palos Grandes. Impact Hub Caracas-Venezuela. E-mail: consorvenddhh@gmail.com. Social networks: Instagram: @consorven, Twitter: @consorven\_Ve

recommendation on the right to accessibility the Committee suggested: "*Referring to its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and taking into account goal 11, of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in coordination with the organizations of Persons with Disabilities b) Establish a follow-up on the services offered to the public, such as health and justice, among others, in which interpretation in Venezuelan Sign Language is provided*".

Likewise, to date, the State has not provided clear information in accessible formats on how this service would work for deaf people, in order to know how and in what form they can exercise this right in the Public Prosecutor's Office and what mechanisms will be available, among others.

Another important aspect is that on May 18 of this year, the National Assembly approved in second discussion the reform of the Public Interpreters Law without having summoned this or any other organization of Persons with Disabilities, for the process of elaboration and revision of the same.

It is worth mentioning that the aforementioned law contemplates, among other things, access to Sign Language Interpreters, who are an important figure for the deaf community, since they facilitate and guarantee access to communication and information between a hearing impaired person and a hearing person, thus favoring their inclusion in the family and social environment.

In this regard, we are concerned about the lack of participation or consultation with members of the deaf community, who are fundamental beneficiaries of this legal instrument.

Likewise, the Venezuelan State, represented by its institutions, is aware of our concern, since, through this organization in April 2022, we sent communications addressed to the Attorney General's Office of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Ministry of People's Power for Internal Relations, Justice and Peace in all their offices respectively, without any response to date.

It is for this reason that we bring to your attention, motivated by the fact that as observed in previous lines, the Venezuelan State is not properly complying with the recommendations issued by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the United Nations.



# CONSORVEN

ATTENDANT:

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