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Subject: Introducing Sign Language Worldwide – a step towards International Integration

Dear President Sir,

The aviation industry has shrunk the world, making it possible to travel from any country to the farthest one within a matter of hours. And, this period is likely to shorten further. But the peoples of the world are not able to communicate with each other when they intermingle. This communication barrier exists on account of human inability to learn even a couple of the innumerable languages being spoken the world over.

The United Nations envisions and aims for global citizenship and cultural understanding. It's UNAI (United Nations Academic Impact) in collaboration with ELS Educational Services, Inc. organises *Many Languages, One World*, which, through International Essay Contests and Global Youth Forums, encourages students from around the globe to examine these aims of global citizenship, cultural understanding, and the role that the multilingual ability can play in fostering both. But, given the human inability to learn even a few languages, the multilingual route may be arduous in attaining these goals. The United Nations has six official languages. Even within countries, there exist many a languages.

The vision of global citizenship and cultural understanding is indeed praiseworthy. To keep up with the shrinking world, it is desirable that most people speaking only one/ two language(s) are able to communicate with people across the globe. We wish to share with you an idea that has the potential to meet the pressing need of free communication among communities as also the UN goals of global citizenship and cultural understanding:

The proposal is that Sign Language be adopted as the Global Language, and a Project *One World, One Language* be promoted on the lines of the UNAI and ELS Educational Services, Inc. In addition to facilitating communication and mutual understanding among all communities across the globe, a common language of people worldwide shall also prove immensely beneficial in many an instance, such as:

- An entire new world would open up for the Deaf and the Dumb;
- Tourists/ Diplomats/ would benefit, no matter which country they are visiting;
- Serve as a link between doctor and patient, as Medical Tourism is on the rise;
- Enable patients who have Lost Speech to talk with relatives/ doctors;
- Facilitate communication between refugees and their recipient country officials;
- Come in handy to everyone in Old Age when hearing/ speech get impaired; etc., etc.

Kindly consider introducing a Sign Language Course in all schools during any one year, which may have no bearing on the on-going curriculum of the students. It will be easy for even young students to learn, as here there is no script, no spellings, no grammar. Courses could also be made available on the net, television for all age-groups. The benefits that can accrue from such an exercise are unimaginable! And, at almost no cost to the State.

We shall highly appreciate if this simple, easily executable suggestion can be given a considerate view at your end, for the benefit of all of us – at some stage or the other.

Let us move towards International Integration. And, One Planet; One Family!

Yours sincerely,

[Birendra Kaur, Settler]

[Gudrun Inger, Member]

Cc: Heads of States