

DISABILITY JUSTICE & STRUCTURAL ADVOCACY

FOR

DEAF YOUTH ADVOCATES



Implemented by



Federation of Deaf Women
Empowerment Network - Kenya

This project is supported by



Sweden
Sverige

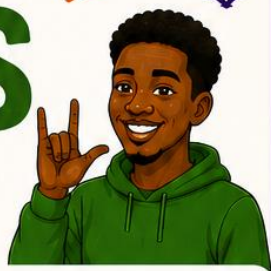
KENYA | UGANDA | TANZANIA | ZAMBIA | SOUTH AFRICA



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Our voices. Our rights. Our future.

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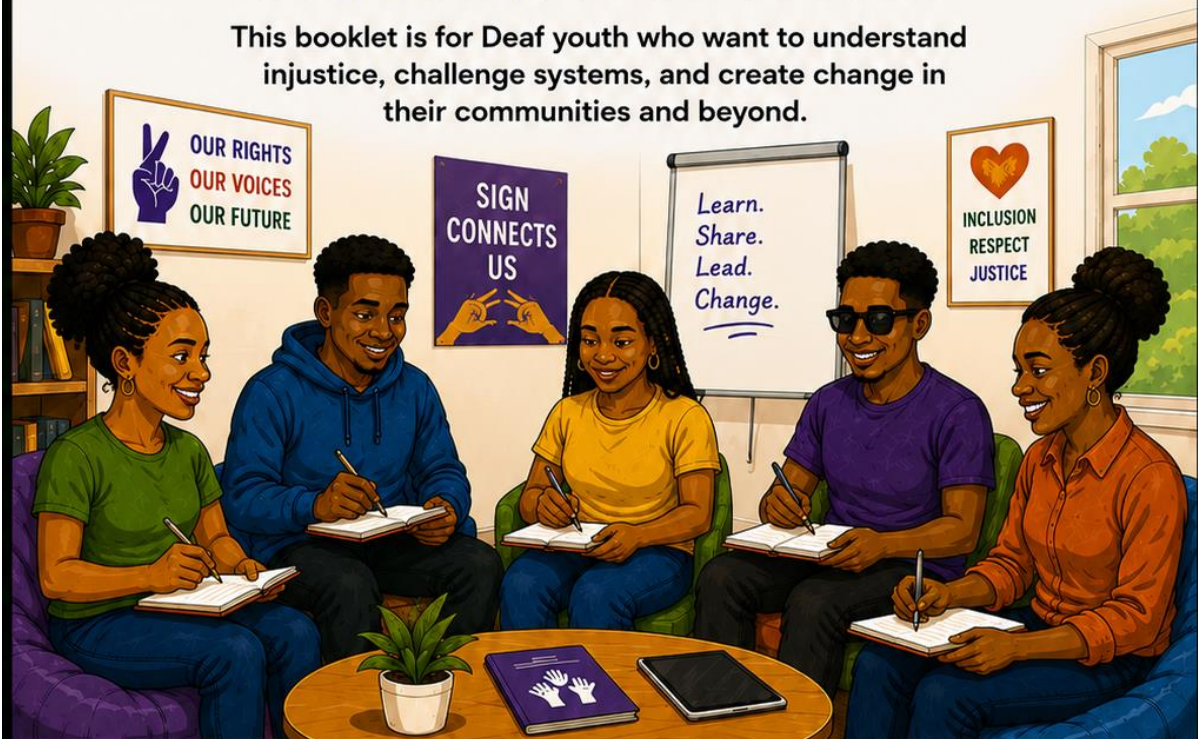
**TOGETHER,
WE BUILD JUSTICE.
WE CREATE CHANGE.
WE RISE!**



WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Welcome to this booklet on **Disability Justice & Structural Advocacy** for Deaf Youth Advocates.

This booklet is for Deaf youth who want to understand injustice, challenge systems, and create change in their communities and beyond.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We sincerely thank and acknowledge:



Federation of Deaf Women Empowerment Network Kenya (FEDWEN KENYA)

for implementing this important project with dedication, leadership, and a strong commitment to Deaf women, girls, and youth.



HIVOS Regional SRHR FUND

for supporting this project and believing in the power of Deaf youth to drive justice, equality, and meaningful change.



Your partnership helps build a more just, inclusive, and accessible world for all.

We truly appreciate your support!



HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

This manual is designed for Deaf youth advocates,
by Deaf youth advocates.

Use it in your own way, at your own pace,
and in your own space.

1



READ

Read each section
carefully and take your
time to understand.



2



DISCUSS

Discuss the key ideas
with your peers, group,
or mentor.



3



PRACTICE

Practice the tools,
activities, and skills
in real-life situations.



4



ACT

Use what you learn
to advocate, create change,
and build a more just
and inclusive world.



Learn. Share. Practice. Act.
Together, we create change!



TRAINING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this training, participants will be able to:



UNDERSTAND OUR RIGHTS

Understand our sexual and reproductive health and rights and other human rights.



STRENGTHEN LEADERSHIP

Build leadership skills, confidence, and self-advocacy to lead change in our communities.



ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

Use advocacy tools and strategies to influence decisions and create a more just and inclusive society.



We are informed.
We are leaders.
We are advocates.
We create change!

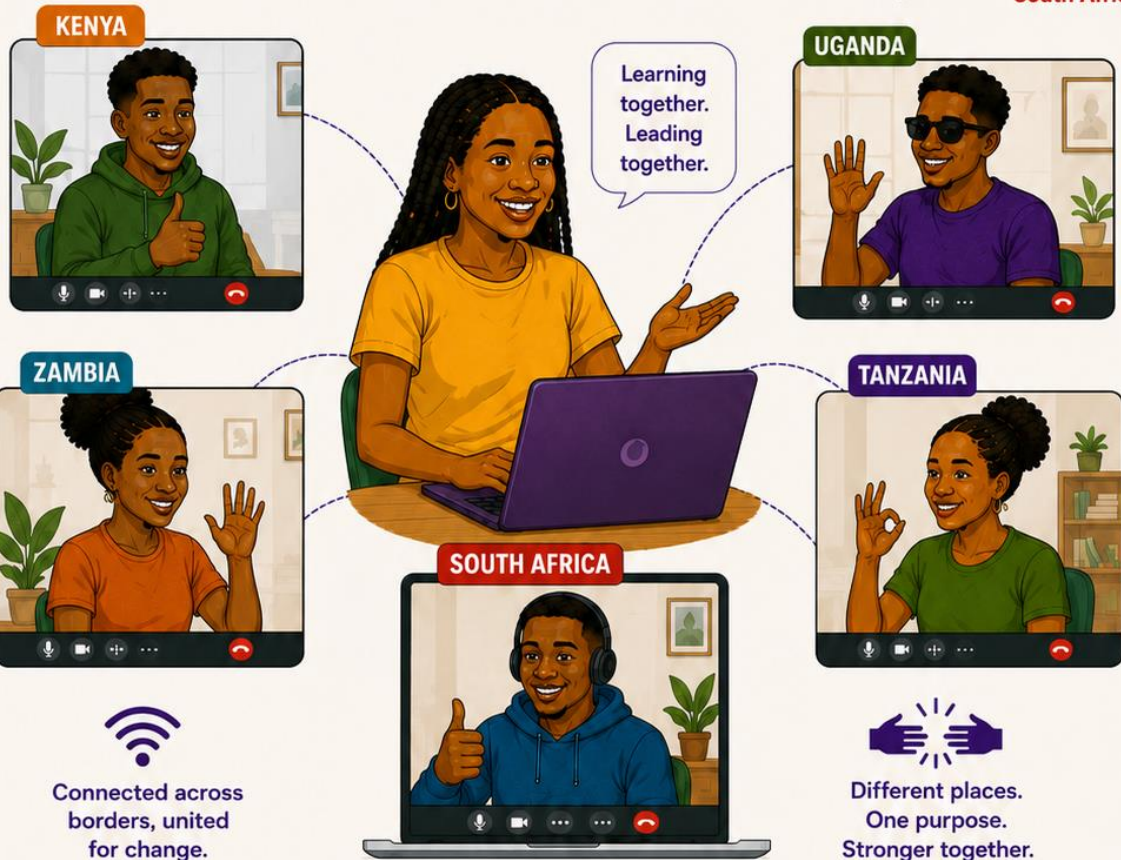
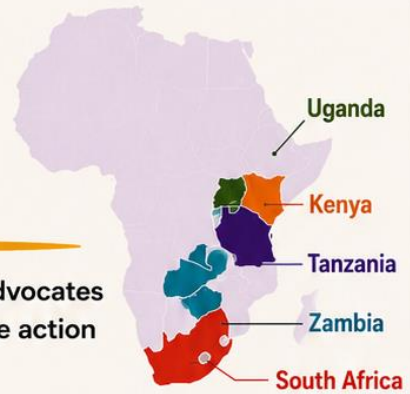


**TOGETHER, WE KNOW OUR RIGHTS.
TOGETHER, WE LEAD. TOGETHER, WE CHANGE LIVES!**



TRAINING OVERVIEW

This training brings together Deaf youth advocates from five countries to learn, share, and take action for justice and inclusion.



WHAT TO EXPECT



Interactive sessions

Engaging lessons and group activities.



Peer learning

Share experiences and learn from each other.



Skill building

Gain tools for advocacy, leadership, and change.



Action focused

Develop strategies and take meaningful action.



Stronger together

Build networks and support each other.



One Africa. Many Voices. One Movement.
We learn. We lead. We change lives!



INTRODUCTION TO JUSTICE

Justice means fairness, respect, equality, and the protection of rights for everyone, including Deaf people.



WHAT IS JUSTICE?

Justice ensures that everyone is treated fairly, has equal opportunities, and can live free from discrimination, violence, and harm.



Justice includes:



Respect

Valuing every person.



Equality

No one is left behind.



Voice

Everyone has the right to be heard.



Protection

Everyone has the right to be safe.



Accountability

Systems and people must be responsible.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What does justice mean to you?
- Have you experienced injustice?
- What can we do to promote justice in our communities?



Justice starts with us.
Justice is for all.
Justice is our right.



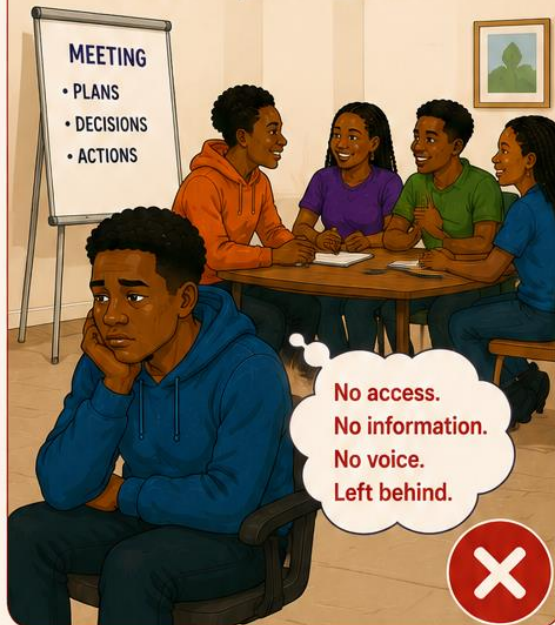
WHAT IS DISABILITY JUSTICE?

Disability justice means Deaf people are not just included, but valued, respected, and supported to lead and belong.

It's about **access**, **equity**, and **power** for all.

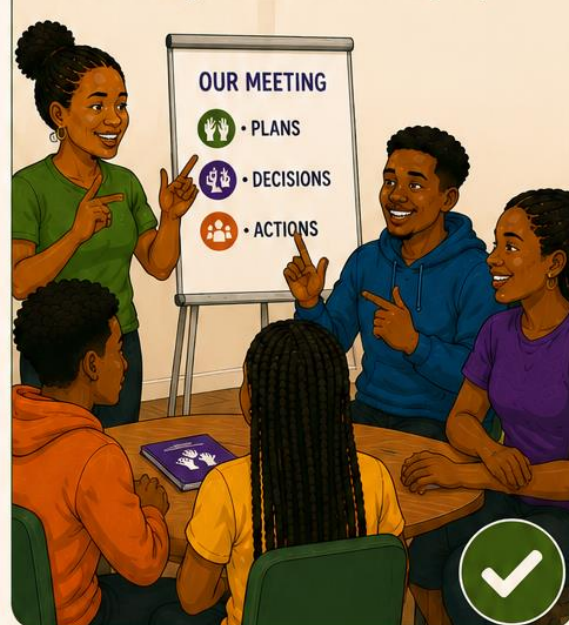
EXCLUSION

When Deaf youth are **left out...**



INCLUSION

When Deaf youth are **included equally...**



DISABILITY JUSTICE IS:



**Centering
Deaf voices**

Our voices
matter most.



**Removing
barriers**

Access to
information,
spaces, and
opportunities.



Sharing power

Deaf people
lead and
make decisions.



**Respecting
our identities**

Our Deaf identity,
culture, and
experiences
are valued.



**Building
liberating
communities**

Together, we
create safety,
justice, and joy.



Inclusion is being invited to the table.

Disability justice is having a voice,
power, and a seat at the table.



MODELS OF DISABILITY

Different models shape how we understand disability.
Let's compare four common models.

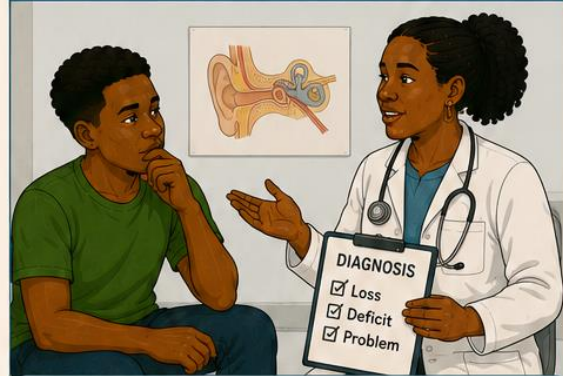
1. CHARITY MODEL



Sees Deaf people as someone to feel sorry for and help.

Focus: Pity and charity

2. MEDICAL MODEL



Sees disability as a problem in the individual that needs fixing or curing.

Focus: Treatment and cure

3. SOCIAL MODEL



Sees disability as barriers in society that exclude Deaf people.

Focus: Removing barriers and promoting inclusion

4. JUSTICE MODEL



Sees Deaf people as equal citizens with rights, power, and leadership.

Focus: Equity, rights, and liberation

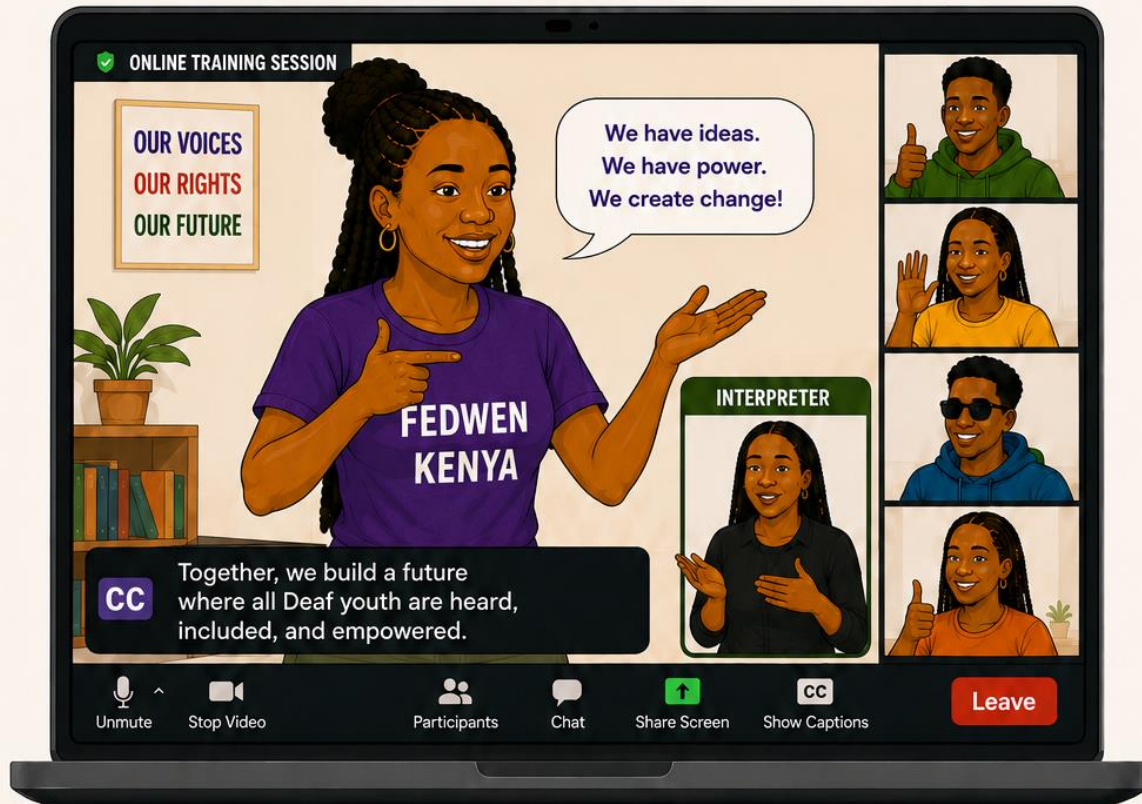


The Justice Model centers Deaf voices, challenges oppression, and creates change.
It's not about fixing us— it's about including us.



ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility removes barriers and ensures Deaf youth can fully participate, lead, and **thrive**—online and offline.



WHAT ACCESS LOOKS LIKE



SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

Ensures Deaf participants can communicate and fully understand.



CAPTIONS

Provides real-time captions for Deaf and hard of hearing participants.



VISUAL & CLEAR CONTENT

Use clear slides, visuals, and easy-to-follow information.



INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION

Everyone has the chance to speak, share, and be valued equally.



ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY

Use platforms and tools that everyone can access easily.



ACCESS IS A RIGHT. INCLUSION IS OUR POWER.

When we make spaces accessible, we make leadership possible for all.



INTERSECTIONALITY

Our experiences are shaped by many parts of who we are.
These parts connect and affect how we live, learn, and lead.

GENDER



Gender shapes how we are treated and the opportunities we have.

DISABILITY



Being Deaf is part of who we are and how we experience the world.

POVERTY



Poverty can create barriers to access, education, and opportunities.

AGE



Our age affects our experiences and the opportunities available to us.



These parts of our identity overlap. Together, they shape our strengths, our challenges, and our voices.

**We are more than one thing.
We are whole. We matter.**



WHY IT MATTERS

Understanding intersectionality helps us build a more inclusive movement where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued.

- ✓ Recognize different realities
- ✓ Include every voice
- ✓ Create real change together



**When we understand each other,
we stand stronger together.
Intersectionality helps us build justice for all.**



CASE STUDY

Let's look at a real-life example.
What's the difference accessibility makes?

NOT ACCESSIBLE

NO INTERPRETER



- ✗ The Deaf patient cannot understand the doctor.
- ✗ No interpreter is provided.
- ✗ Important information is missed.
- ✗ The patient leaves worried and uncertain.

ACCESSIBLE

WITH INTERPRETER



- ✓ The interpreter helps the patient understand clearly.
- ✓ The patient can ask questions and get answers.
- ✓ Information is shared in an accessible way.
- ✓ The patient leaves informed and confident.

WHAT DO WE LEARN?



Communication
is a right.



Access builds trust
and dignity.



Inclusion leads to
better outcomes.



Justice means
everyone gets
equal access.



Takeaway:

When services are accessible,
everyone can participate, understand,
and make decisions.



ACTIVITY 1

Let's learn from each other!
Share your experiences, ideas, and solutions.



WHAT TO DO



1. DISCUSS

Talk together about what makes services accessible or not accessible for Deaf youth.



2. WRITE

Write your ideas on sticky notes. One idea per note.



3. SHARE

Place your sticky notes on the flipchart and explain your ideas to the group.



4. PRIORITIZE

As a group, choose the top ideas you think can create the biggest change.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What ideas do we agree on?
- What ideas surprised us?
- What small actions can we take to make these ideas happen?



Your ideas matter. Your voice leads change.
Together, we can build a more just and inclusive world!



GROUP DISCUSSION

Great ideas grow when we listen, share,
and learn from each other.



In small groups,
we can explore ideas
and find solutions
together.

WHAT WE DO



Listen

We listen to
each other with
respect.



Share

We share our
experiences
and ideas.



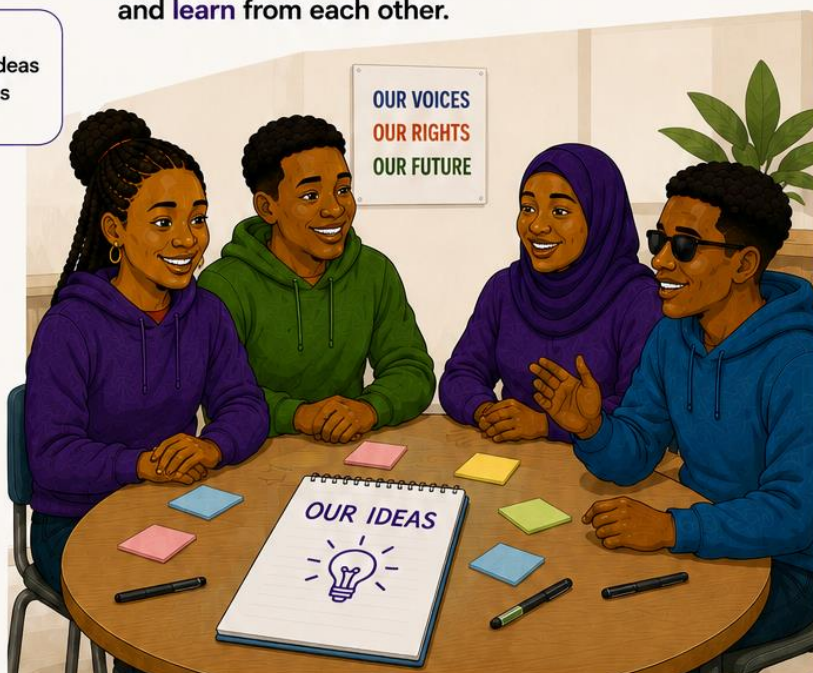
Discuss

We ask questions
and explore
solutions.



Agree

We agree on
key ideas to
move forward.



DISCUSSION TIPS



Take turns speaking

Give everyone
a chance.



Respect all ideas

Every idea
matters.



Use clear language

Communicate
in ways that
everyone
understands.



Work together

Together we
can create real
change.

REMEMBER:

We are stronger
together. Our ideas
today can build a
better tomorrow.



When we listen, share, and support each other,
we build a more inclusive world for Deaf youth.



SESSION SUMMARY

Today we learned that when we work together,
we can build a more just and inclusive world for Deaf youth.

Here are the key takeaways:

1



JUSTICE

Every Deaf youth has the
right to be treated fairly
and with respect.

2



ACCESSIBILITY

Accessible communication
and environments remove
barriers and open doors.

3



INCLUSION

When everyone is included,
we all belong and
everyone benefits.

4



LEADERSHIP

Deaf youth have the power
to lead, speak up, and
create change.



Together, we listen. Together, we act.
Together, we build a better future.



Thank you for participating and sharing your ideas!

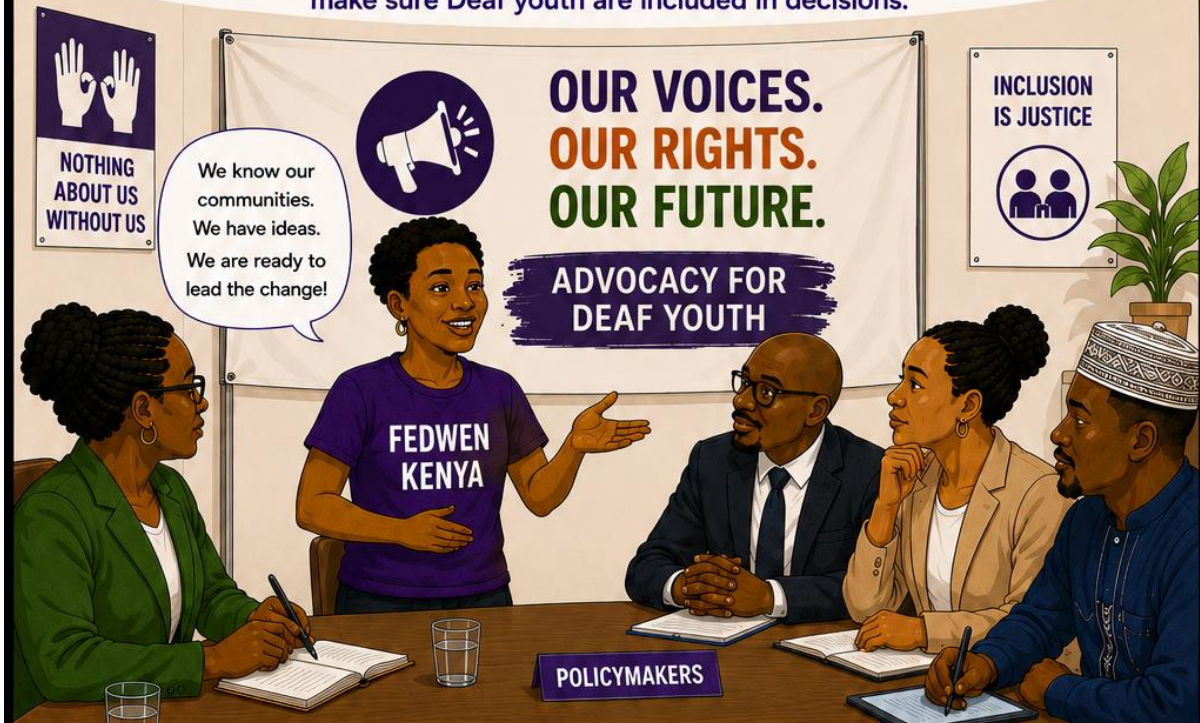
Your voice matters. Your ideas matter. You matter.



ADVOCACY INTRODUCTION

Our voices can create change.

Advocacy is how we speak up for our rights and make sure Deaf youth are included in decisions.



Advocacy is speaking up and taking action to influence decisions, policies, and systems. It helps make sure our rights are respected and our needs are met.

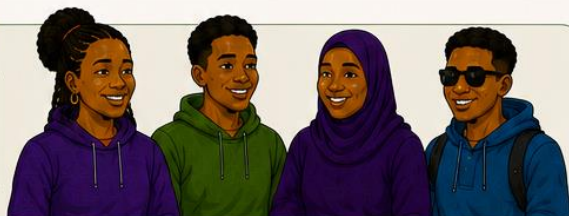
Advocacy can:

- ✓ Raise awareness
- ✓ Influence decisions
- ✓ Create inclusive policies
- ✓ Improve services and opportunities

WHO CAN ADVOCATE?



Every Deaf youth can advocate! We can advocate as individuals, in groups, or with our organizations. Young voices lead strong change.



WHY IT MATTERS



When we advocate together, we build a more just, inclusive, and accessible world for Deaf youth today and tomorrow.

- ✓ Our rights are respected
- ✓ Our voices shape the future
- ✓ Our communities grow stronger



**We are not just part of the conversation.
We lead the conversation. We drive the change.**



RIGHTS-BASED ADVOCACY

How we think about the issue shapes how we create change.

Let's compare two approaches.

CHARITY APPROACH

Focus on pity and giving
Help is seen as a favor.



Sees Deaf people as needy or dependent.



Help is given, but people have little say.



Creates inequality and power imbalance.



Solutions are temporary and not sustainable.

RIGHTS & EQUALITY APPROACH

Focus on rights, inclusion,
and equal opportunities.



Sees Deaf people as equal rights-holders and leaders.



People are involved in decisions that affect them.



Promotes equality, respect, and justice.



Creates long-term, sustainable change for everyone.



We choose rights. We choose equality.

Rights-based advocacy lifts everyone up
and builds a fair and inclusive world.



KEY TAKEAWAY



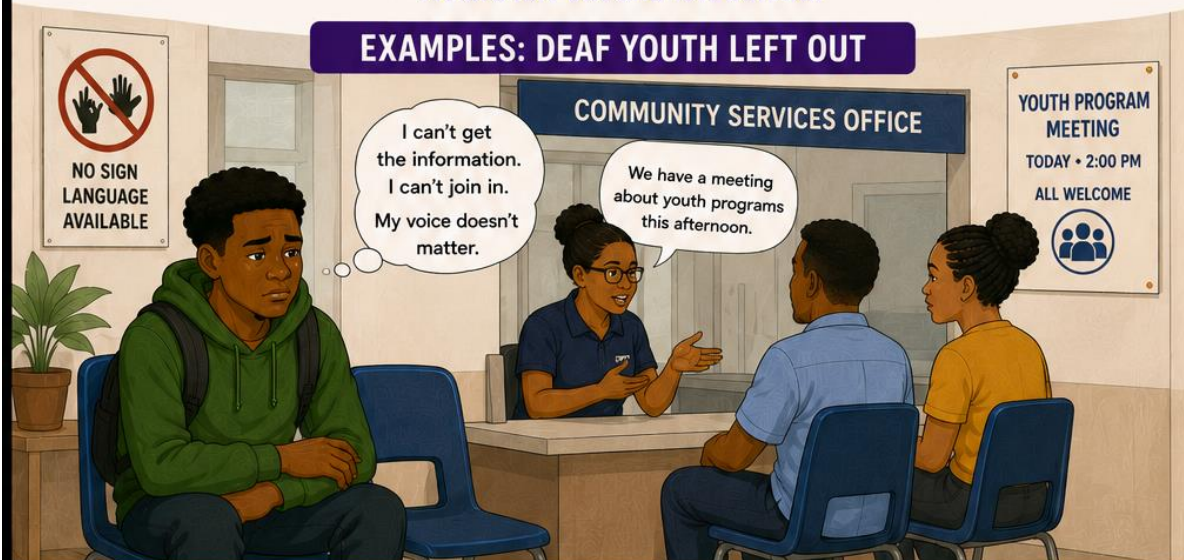
We do not ask for charity.
We demand our rights. We shape our future.



RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

When our rights are ignored,
we are left out and left behind.

EXAMPLES: DEAF YOUTH LEFT OUT



1. MISSING INFORMATION

Information is not accessible.



This means:

- ✗ No captions or sign language interpreters.
- ✗ No accessible formats (plain language, easy read, videos with signs).
- ✗ Deaf youth miss important opportunities.

2. COMMUNICATION BARRIERS

Deaf youth cannot communicate or understand.



This means:

- ✗ No sign language interpreters provided.
- ✗ Staff do not know how to communicate with us.
- ✗ We cannot share our needs or opinions.

THE IMPACT



We are excluded from services and decisions.



Our potential is limited.



We feel disrespected and invisible.



Communities lose our ideas, leadership, and contributions.



Our rights must be respected.
Information must be accessible.
Communication must include us.
Nothing about us, without us!



KEY TAKEAWAY



When our rights are violated,
we are excluded. When our rights are respected, everyone benefits.



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ACTIVITY 2

Let's connect the **problems** we face
to the **solutions** that create change.

WHAT TO DO

- 1 Read the problems in the left column.
- 2 Discuss possible solutions in your group.
- 3 Draw arrows to connect each problem to the best solution.
- 4 Be ready to share your ideas!



Work together.
Listen. Share.
Solve. Lead!



PROBLEMS (Challenges)



Information is missing
or hard to understand.



No sign language
interpreters in services
or meetings.



Places and programs
are not accessible.



Deaf youth are not included
in decisions that affect them.



Stereotypes and low
expectations limit
opportunities.



SOLUTIONS (What we can do)



Provide accessible information:
captions, easy read, videos in sign
language.



Provide qualified sign language
interpreters in all services and
meetings.



Make environments and services
physically and communication-
ally accessible.



Include Deaf youth in planning,
decision-making, and leadership
roles.



Challenge stereotypes and
promote Deaf strengths,
talents, and leadership.



GROUP REFLECTION

- Which problem affects your community the most?
- Which solution would create the biggest change?
- What can we do together to make it happen?



Great ideas
come from
working together!

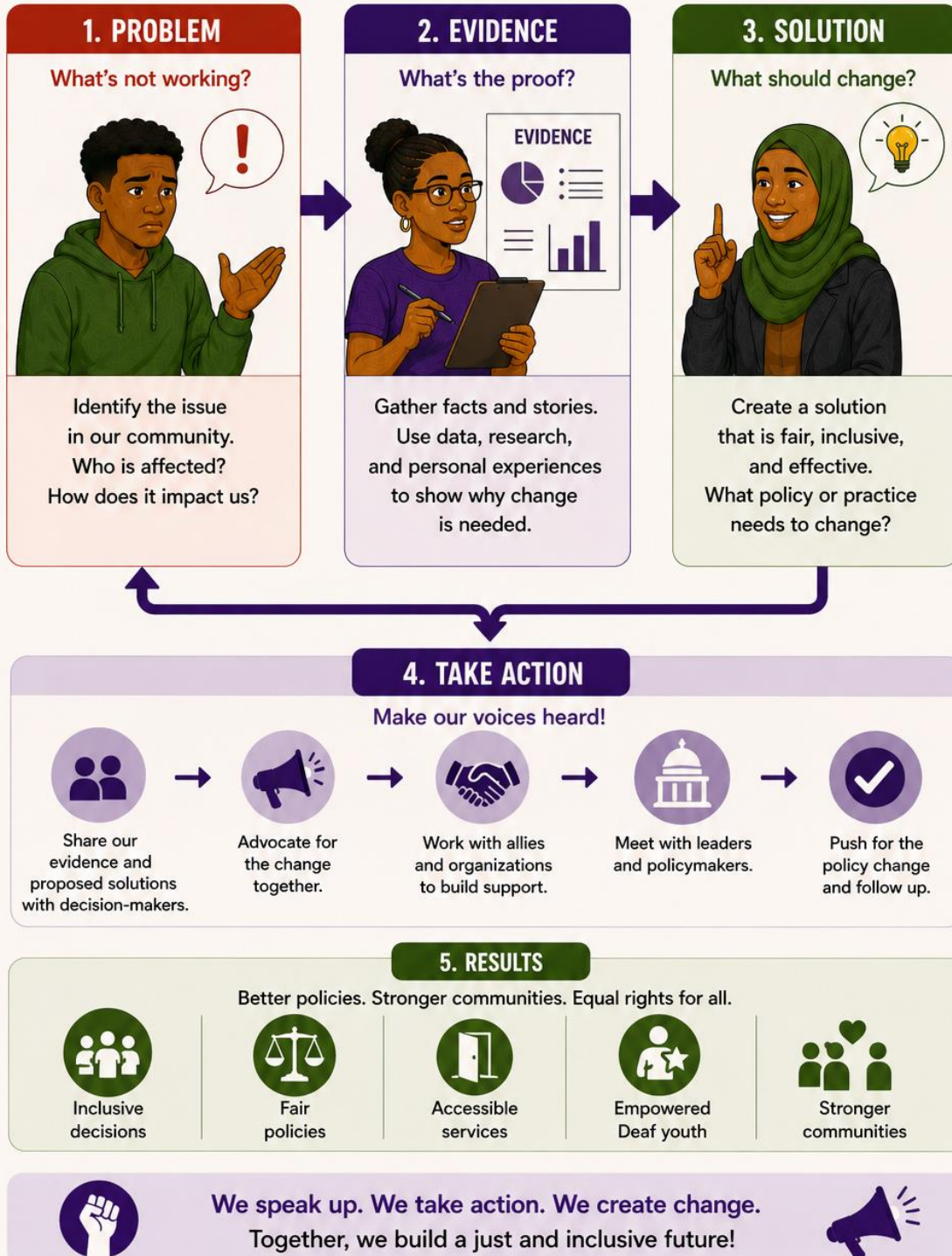


We identify problems. We find solutions.
We create change. We build a better future!



POLICY REFORM

We can change unfair policies and systems.
Here's how we turn **problems** into **solutions**.



CASE STUDY 2

Real stories. Real challenges.
Real change is possible.

MEET AMINA

Amina is a 17-year-old Deaf girl. She experienced violence at home and needed help. She reached out for support. This is her story.

“ I was scared and didn't know where to turn. But someone listened. They treated me with respect and helped me feel safe.



WHAT MADE A DIFFERENCE?



SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Amina was welcomed in a quiet, accessible, and Deaf-friendly space.



FRIENDLY ASSISTANCE

A trained Deaf staff member communicated in sign language and listened with care.



ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION

Amina received clear information in sign language and easy to understand formats.



ONGOING SUPPORT

Amina was connected to counseling, legal support, and a youth support group.

THE IMPACT



Amina felt safe and respected.



Her voice was heard in decisions about her own life.



She gained confidence and started helping other Deaf youth.



The service learned from her experience and improved.

WHAT WE CAN LEARN

- ✓ Deaf survivors need safe, accessible, and respectful services.
- ✓ Communication in sign language saves lives.
- ✓ Listening and believing creates trust.
- ✓ Support should continue, not just be one-time.



**SUPPORT.
RESPECT. BELIEVE.
EMPOWER.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 What made the support safe and helpful for Amina?
- 2 How can services be more Deaf-friendly?
- 3 What can we do in our communities to support Deaf survivors?



When we create safe spaces and provide the right support, Deaf survivors can heal, lead, and thrive.



COUNTRY JUSTICE BRIEF

Let's turn our ideas into action.
Plan. Prepare. Present. Create change!



WHAT IS A JUSTICE BRIEF?



A justice brief is a short, powerful presentation that shares:

- The problem
- The evidence
- Our solution
- The impact

YOUR TEAM'S TASKS



RESEARCH THE ISSUE

Find facts, data, and personal stories.



WRITE YOUR BRIEF

Keep it clear, concise, and compelling.



DESIGN YOUR PRESENTATION

Use visuals, charts, and key messages.



PRACTICE TOGETHER

Be confident. Be clear. Be prepared.



PRESENT AND ADVOCATE

Share your brief and call for change!

PLANNING TOGETHER

WHO ARE WE SPEAKING TO?



Policymakers, leaders, communities, and the media.

WHAT DO WE WANT THEM TO DO?



What change are we asking for?

WHAT MAKES OUR BRIEF STRONG?



Facts, stories, solutions, and our united voice.

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?



What impact do we hope to achieve?

PRESENTATION TIPS



Keep it visual

Use simple slides, pictures, and charts.



Tell stories

Personal stories create connection.



Stay within time

5-7 minutes to present. Leave time for questions.



Speak with confidence

You are experts. Your voice matters.

REMEMBER:



When we work together and speak up, we can influence policies and build a just, inclusive future for all Deaf people.



REGIONAL DIALOGUE

Different countries, one voice.
Deaf youth leading change across Africa!



WHY REGIONAL DIALOGUE MATTERS



We share experiences and learn from each other.



We build friendships and trust.



We speak with one voice for our rights.



We create stronger movements together.

OUR SHARED DISCUSSION



What challenges do Deaf youth face in your country?

What solutions are working in your community?



How can we work together across borders?

What change do we want to see in Africa for Deaf youth?



WE COMMIT TO

- ✓ Listen with respect
- ✓ Share openly
- ✓ Support each other
- ✓ Include everyone
- ✓ Take action together



OUR VISION FOR AFRICA



Inclusive education



Accessible information



Equal rights and justice



Deaf youth leadership



Stronger communities

One Africa.
Many voices.
One future.



We listen. We learn. We lead.
Together, we build an Africa where Deaf youth thrive!



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ACTION PLANNING

Our plans today. A stronger tomorrow.

Plan together. Take action. Create lasting change!



OUR PLAN: WHAT, WHEN, WHO?

ACTIVITY	WHAT WE WILL DO	WHEN	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE
Community meeting	Share information and listen.	15 June	Youth Team (Kenya)
Sign language training	Build skills and confidence.	20–21 June	Training Team (Uganda)
Advocacy campaign	Raise awareness and demand change.	July	Advocacy Team (Nigeria)
Peer support group	Support Deaf youth and share experiences.	Ongoing	Support Team (Tanzania)
Review and evaluation	Check progress and learn together.	Every Quarter	All Teams Together

OUR ROADMAP TO CHANGE



OUR COMMITMENT

- ✓ We will work together.
- ✓ We will include everyone.
- ✓ We will stay focused.
- ✓ We will not give up.
- ✓ We will create a better future!



NEXT STEPS

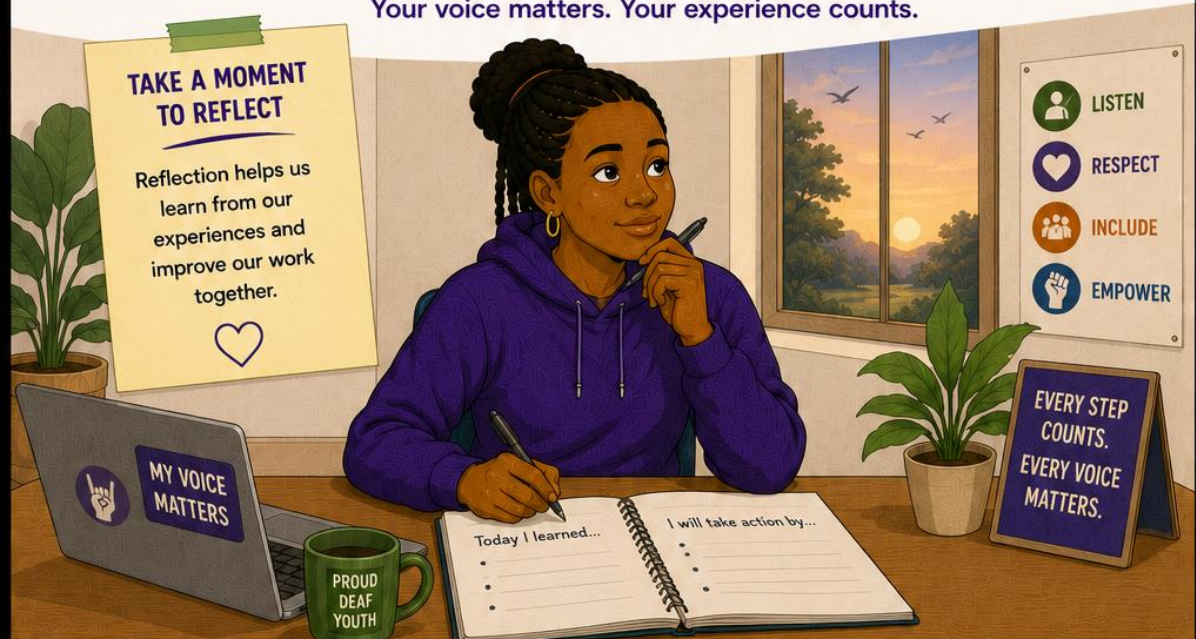


We have the power. We have the plan.
Together, we will create a future of rights, equality, and inclusion!



EVALUATION & REFLECTION

We pause. We reflect. We grow.
Your voice matters. Your experience counts.



1. SELF REFLECTION

Take time to think about your experience.



What did I learn? _____



What inspired me the most? _____



What challenges did I face? _____



What will I do differently? _____

2. YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS

Help us improve future activities.



How useful was this workshop for you?



How clear and accessible was the information?



How was the participation and teamwork?



How confident do you feel to take action?



Any other comments or suggestions? _____

3. GROUP REFLECTION

Discuss together and share your thoughts.



Listening to each other helps us grow stronger together.

4. OUR NEXT STEPS

Reflection leads to action!



Review our plans and commitments.



Follow up and support each other.



Speak up and advocate for change.



Keep building a just, inclusive future.

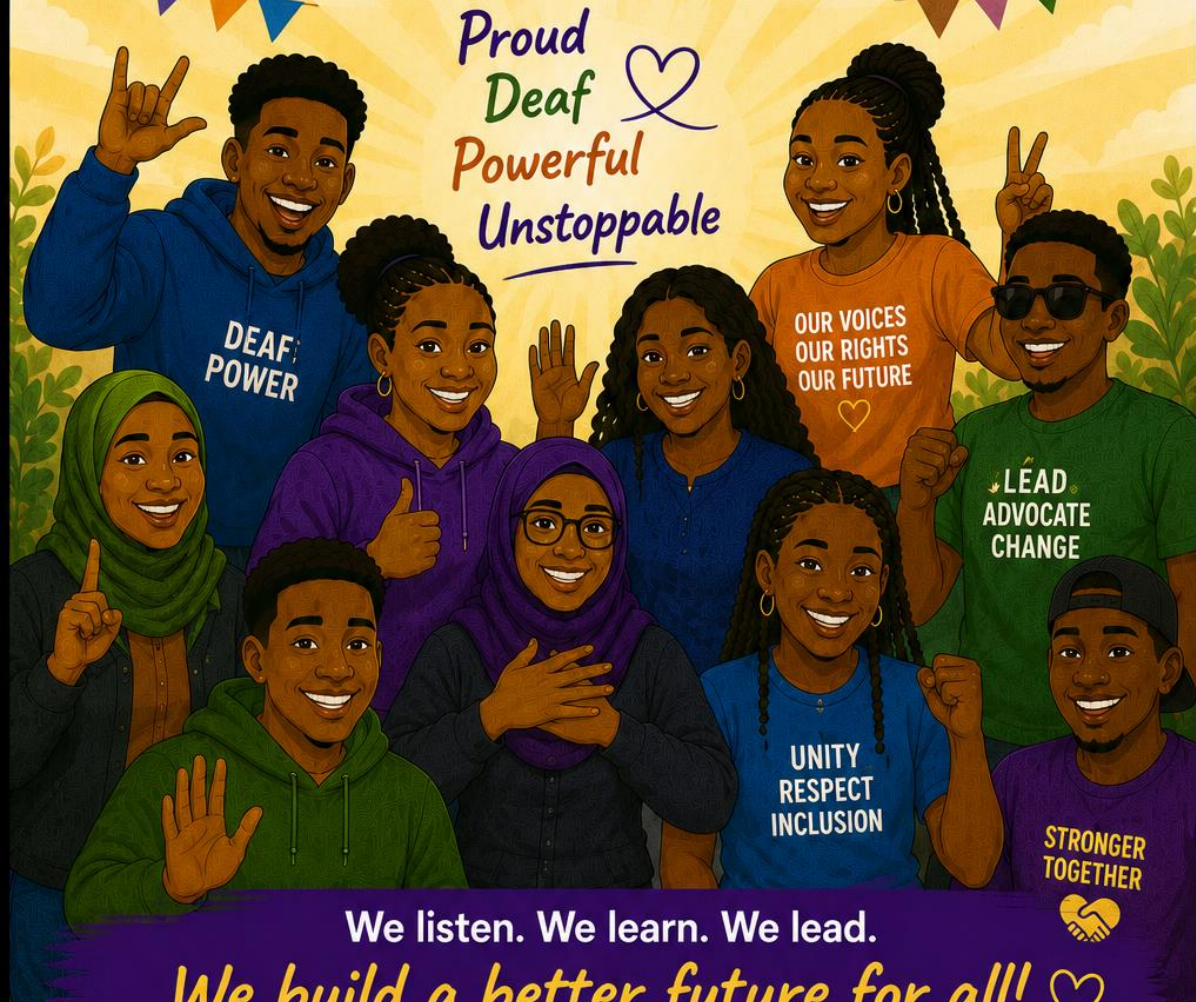


“Reflection is not the end.
It is the beginning of greater impact.”



TOGETHER, WE CAN!

Our voices. Our rights. Our future.
We are Deaf youth. We are leaders. We create change!



We listen. We learn. We lead.
We build a better future for all!

We commit to:



Respect everyone



Include everyone



Stand for justice



Speak up for change



Build strong communities

Different countries.
One mission.
One future.
One powerful movement!



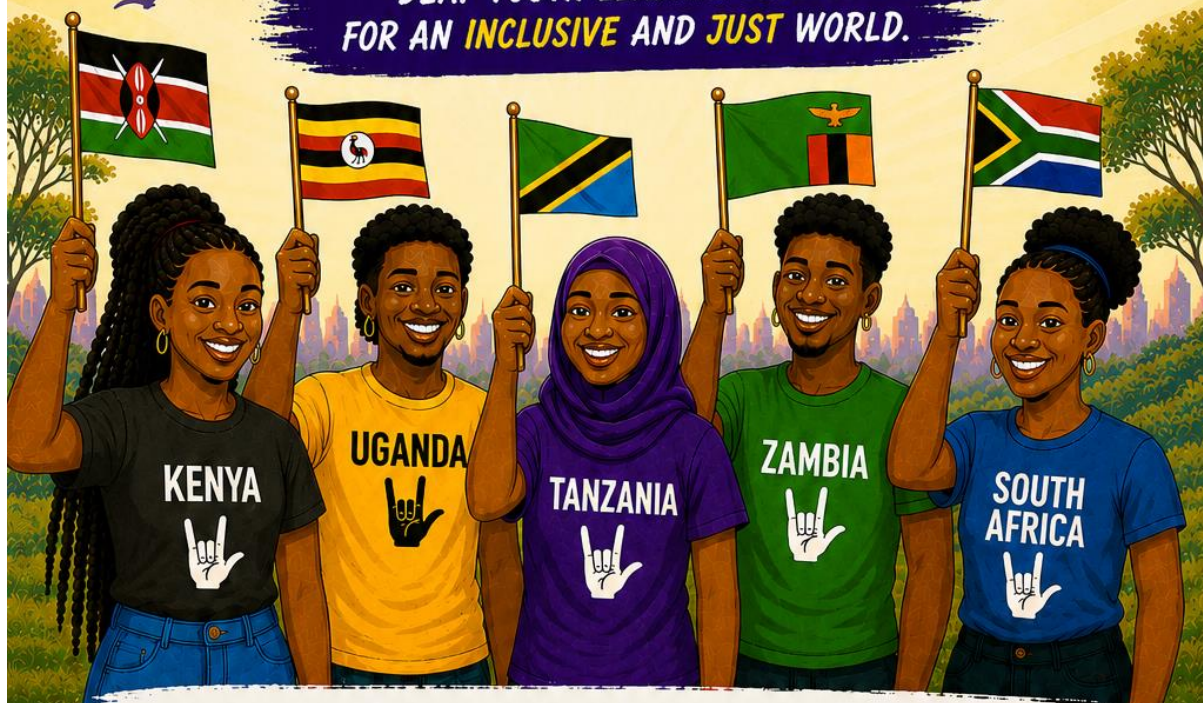
We are the present. We are the future.
Together, we rise!



OUR VOICES. OUR RIGHTS. OUR FUTURE.



DEAF YOUTH LEADING CHANGE
FOR AN **INCLUSIVE** AND **JUST** WORLD.



ONE VOICE. ONE MISSION. ONE FUTURE.
Stronger together. Unstoppable together. ♥



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