



Presentation Title: The Human Right to a Family Language

Keynote Presenter: Dr. Joseph J. Murray, Professor in Deaf Studies, Gallaudet University

Abstract:

Families with deaf children are very quickly confronted with the need to address a unique issue: the languages the families and the deaf child will use. The right to language is a forgotten human right, one overlooked in the presumption that all children have unfettered access to language. Unfortunately this is not always true for deaf children. This keynote will present the human rights case for the right to language for deaf children and their families, highlighting examples of family-centered language acquisition from around the world. This keynote will also discuss international best practices in inclusive education for deaf children. Such best practices ensure deaf children's' educational environment promotes their maximal social and academic development, as per international human rights conventions.