

THE TOGETHER CONFERENCE 2026

13-14 June 2026



**Conference Programme
and Archive**

2026 conference archive

The Together Conference 2026 brought sign language interpreters, translators, educators, researchers and other professionals together online on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June 2026.

Under the theme Pick It Up, Pass It On, the conference explored what professionals learn from communities, colleagues, research and experience, and what knowledge, values and ways of working they choose to pass on.

The live programme was followed by an Extended Conference programme for Enhanced Access attendees. The wider conference also included poster contributions and support from professional and community partners.

Live conference programme

Saturday 13 June 2026

From Subpersonalities to Sign Production: The Inner Landscape of Interpreting

Keynote - Presentation | Ms Kate Shearer

Interpreting is cognitively, emotionally, and relationally demanding work, requiring constant self-regulation, boundary awareness, and attunement to others. This keynote will explore the inner world of interpreters through the lens of psychosynthesis, a psychological framework focused on self-awareness, integration, and conscious choice.

Kate will introduce the concept of subpersonalities: internal roles such as the helper, advocate, purist, or teacher, which often develop as coping strategies and can quietly shape professional behaviour. The session will examine how these internal parts influence how interpreters accept bookings, prepare for work, manage boundaries, and respond under pressure.

Participants will be introduced to practical tools from psychosynthesis, including grounding, disidentification, and part-mapping techniques. These approaches support interpreters to move away from automatic, reactive patterns and towards a more grounded, self-led presence that supports clarity, sustainability, and wellbeing in practice.

The interpreter's nook - a site for reflection, discussion, and development

Snapshot 1 - Presentation | Mrs Magnhild Roed Michalsen / Hilde Henrud

This session will introduce Tolkehjørnet ("The Interpreter's Nook"), a Norwegian interpreter-led initiative created to support shared reflection, discussion, and professional development. What began as a small, self-run reflection group has grown into a wider platform including a podcast, online publication, professional resources, and community events.

Magnhild and Hilde will share how the project developed, what motivated it, and how it has evolved in response to the needs of the interpreting community. They will reflect on the value of creating spaces where interpreters can openly discuss dilemmas, challenges, and practice-based learning beyond their immediate workplaces.

The session will explore both the opportunities and the challenges of sustaining volunteer-led initiatives and aims to offer practical inspiration for interpreters interested in building reflective, knowledge-sharing communities within smaller or dispersed professional contexts.

Interpreters as meaning-makers. Community interpreting through the lens of translanguaging.

Presentation 1 - Presentation | Dr Russell Aldersson

This session will explore interpreting as an act of meaning-making that can move beyond language alone. Using the concept of translanguaging,

Russell will examine how interpreters draw on a wider semiotic repertoire, including objects, images, gesture, space, and interaction, to support understanding.

Drawing on research, teaching, and interpreting experience, the session will challenge narrow views of interpreters as conduits and instead highlight practical strategies for working flexibly and creatively in real-world settings, particularly in healthcare and community contexts.

Participants will be encouraged to reflect on their own practice, share examples, and consider how adopting a translanguaging stance can support clarity, professionalism, and confidence in complex communicative situations.

What Signapse have learnt about Sign Language through our AI research.

Presentation 2 - Presentation | Dr Ben Saunders

Sign languages are rich, three-dimensional languages that rely on space, movement, facial expression, and simultaneity. This session will explore what happens when researchers attempt to generate sign language using AI and machine translation, and what these efforts reveal about the nature of signed languages.

Ben will share insights from Signapse's work, including where AI tools show promise and where they fall short, particularly around nuance, idiom, spatial grammar, and role shift. The session will present AI as one tool within a wider accessibility landscape, rather than a replacement for human interpreters and translators.

Attendees will leave with a clearer, critical understanding of how AI-generated sign language currently works, where caution is needed, and why Deaf community involvement remains essential in research, development, and ethical decision-making around technology and access.

From Skill to Self: Picking Up Confidence and Passing It On in Interpreting Practice

Presentation 3 - Presentation | Ms Nene Ekufu

Many professional challenges in interpreting and translation are not rooted in technical skill, but in confidence, identity, and internal pressure. This session will explore the inner dimension of practice and how self-trust and emotional resilience shape performance, wellbeing, and sustainability across career stages.

Drawing on lived experience as an interpreter, trainer, and coach, Nene will examine how self-doubt, imposter feelings, and burnout show up in everyday professional contexts, including assignments, assessments, supervision, and career progression.

The session will introduce reflective frameworks and practical tools that support grounded confidence and help practitioners consciously pass on healthier ways of working through mentoring, supervision, and peer support.

Starting with Equality, diversity and inclusion and how this fits within our profession.

Snapshot 2 - Presentation | Mrs Layne James Whittaker

This session will return to core questions about what equality, diversity, and inclusion mean for the interpreting profession and who equality diversity and inclusion (EDI) is for. It will emphasise that EDI affects everyone across their careers, identities, and life stages, rather than being limited to specific groups.

Layne will present findings from qualitative research exploring interpreters' experiences of EDI training, including what has been effective, where barriers exist, and how regulatory bodies, associations, and training providers might better embed EDI within professional learning.

The session will invite reflection on shared responsibility and practical action, considering how EDI can be meaningfully integrated into training, co-working, professional culture, and ongoing development.

Passing on perceptions of the impact of Domestic Violence on communication in Deaf-Hearing families and implications for Sign Language Interpreters

Presentation 4 - Presentation | Professor Jemina Napier

Deaf women experience domestic violence at significantly higher rates than hearing women, while also facing barriers to accessing information and support in sign language. This session will present findings from participatory research with deaf mothers and professionals working in domestic abuse contexts, including police and specialist advisors.

Jemina will explore how domestic violence affects communication within deaf-hearing families and what this means for sign language interpreters working in these settings. The session will address ethical complexity, safeguarding responsibilities, emotional labour, and the need for trauma-informed approaches to interpreting practice.

Participants will gain insight into research-informed recommendations co-created with stakeholders, with a focus on practical implications for interpreting provision, professional decision-making, and collaborative working to support safety and access for deaf survivors and their families.

Sunday 14 June 2026

What Did They Say? When it's OK not to know! Managing communication with Deaf people with dementia and their families

Keynote - Presentation | Dr Emma Ferguson-Coleman

BSL/English interpreters are often central to the diagnostic process and ongoing support of Deaf people living with dementia, yet this work can be complex, emotionally demanding, and poorly understood. This keynote will explore dementia from the perspective of Deaf BSL users and consider what this means for interpreters working alongside them and their families.

Drawing on over a decade of research with Deaf people living with dementia and their carers, Emma will highlight how cognitive changes can affect communication, connection, and interaction within shared spaces.

The session will explore moments of uncertainty, misunderstanding, and emotional load, and will consider why it is sometimes appropriate and ethical for interpreters to acknowledge not knowing.

Participants will be introduced to practical strategies for engagement, sustaining communication, and looking after themselves when working in this domain. The session aims to build confidence, awareness, and self-care skills for interpreters navigating assignments involving dementia.

Bridging Voices, Building Futures: Lessons from Rwanda's Interpreting Community

Snapshot 1 - Presentation | Mr MUSABYIMANA Joseph / Dr.Ndagijimana Ibrahim

This session will share lessons from the development of the sign language interpreting profession in Rwanda, with a focus on mentorship, peer support, and collective responsibility. Drawing on lived experience and professional leadership, Joseph will explore how knowledge and values are passed on within under-resourced contexts.

The session will highlight how interpreters, Deaf communities, and disability organisations in Rwanda have worked together to build resilient professional networks, particularly in sign language and tactile sign language interpreting. Case examples will illustrate how mentorship, advocacy, and collaboration can support both professional growth and community inclusion.

Attendees will be encouraged to reflect on how cultural context shapes professional development and how similar approaches might be adapted or applied within their own interpreting communities.

Embodying the Work: Intersectionality, Lived Experience, and Intention in Performance Interpreting

Presentation 1 - Presentation | Mr Adam Price / Jacqui Beckford

Performance interpreting sits at the intersection of language, embodiment, identity, and ethics. This session will explore performance interpreting as an intentional, creative, and ethically situated practice that requires more than technical skill alone.

Drawing on extensive experience in theatre, performance, and interpreter education, Adam and Jacqui will examine how lived experience, positionality, and embodiment shape interpreting choices on stage. Topics will include total embodiment, character development, ensemble awareness, and aligning interpretation with creative intent while maintaining access and clarity.

The session will also address intersectionality and responsibility, encouraging participants to reflect on how identity, culture, and personal history influence role selection, preparation, and ethical decision-making in performance contexts. Practical insights will be shared around preparation, collaboration, psychological safety, and sustainability in the performing arts.

Social Value in Action: What International Models Teach Us About Building Fair, Community-Led Interpreting Systems

Presentation 2 - Presentation | Jen Bird

Interpreting systems often struggle when access is treated as a transaction rather than a relationship. This session will share findings from international research exploring why some interpreting systems consistently deliver better outcomes for Deaf communities and interpreters alike.

Drawing on a Churchill Fellowship, Jen will examine models where Deaf people are central to decision-making, interpreters are supported as professionals, and social value is embedded throughout commissioning and service delivery. The session will contrast these approaches with systems driven by cost-based procurement and fragmented workflows.

Participants will gain insight into practical frameworks that support trust, transparency, and collaboration, and will be invited to consider how social value principles can strengthen local interpreting ecosystems and professional sustainability.

Passing it on as we're hitting our stride: New research challenging the oft-cited "20-Minute Rule"

Presentation 3 - Presentation | Dr Robyn Dean

The "20-minute rule" is widely accepted in interpreting practice, yet the empirical evidence behind it is limited. This session will present new research that challenges assumptions about cognitive fatigue and performance decline after twenty minutes of continuous interpreting.

Robyn will share findings from a controlled study involving professional interpreters, examining attention, processing speed, and cognitive flexibility before and after sustained interpreting tasks. Unexpected results suggest that task difficulty and moderate stress may, in some contexts, support rather than hinder performance.

The session will invite participants to reconsider rigid applications of the 20-minute rule and explore more context-responsive approaches to co-working, workload sharing, and professional judgement.

Three Interpreters Walk into the Fringe: Collaboration, Comedy, and CPD

Snapshot 2 - Presentation | Ms Catherine King / Donna Jewell / Katy Smillie-Wilcox

This session will reflect on a collaborative CPD experience that emerged from interpreting stand-up comedy at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Three interpreters, each at a different career stage, came together to share preparation, reflection, and problem-solving in a non-hierarchical learning space.

The presenters will explore how collaboration, trust, and open dialogue supported skill development, confidence, and professional connection. The session will challenge the idea that CPD must always be formal or one-directional and will highlight how shared learning can be both affirming and practically effective.

Attendees will gain insight into collaborative approaches to CPD and practical considerations for preparing and interpreting live comedy performances.

Let's Get AMPED and Revamp Growth For Novice Interpreters

Presentation 4 - Presentation | Ms. Jeanette Nicholson / Liz McClounie / James Etheridge

The transition from training to professional practice can be one of the most challenging stages in an interpreter's career. This panel will introduce a six-month, competency-based mentorship programme developed in Canada to support novice interpreters through structured learning, guided practice, and community engagement.

The presenters will outline the programme's design, including modular learning, mentor-led sessions, and a practicum focused on ethical decision-making and professional confidence. Reflections from participants will offer insight into the impact of mentorship on resilience, identity, and skill development.

The session will share practical ideas for bridging the gap between theory and practice and will invite discussion about how similar models might support early-career interpreters in other contexts.

Extended Conference

Artificial Intelligence and Interpreting: Tools, Risks and the Future of the Profession

Tom Mould | United Kingdom | Presenting language: English

Artificial Intelligence and Interpreting: Tools, Risks and the Future of the Profession

Artificial Intelligence is already changing the way many of us work, think, plan and communicate. Since the launch of ChatGPT in late 2022, AI tools have become increasingly visible across education, business, access services and everyday life. For sign language interpreters and translators, this raises important questions. Can AI support our practice? What are the risks? How do we use these tools safely and ethically? And, perhaps most importantly, what might AI mean for the future of our profession?

This session offers a practical introduction to AI and interpreting. It will begin by explaining what AI is, what tools are currently available, and how interpreters are already using them to support areas such as preparation, reflection, organisation and professional learning. The session will also consider the risks linked to AI use, including confidentiality, data protection, accuracy, bias, over-reliance and the need for professional judgement.

Alongside practical uses of AI, the session will examine recent developments in automated sign language interpreting technology. Rather than focusing on fear or hype, delegates will be encouraged to look carefully at what these systems can and cannot currently do, and what this means for the profession, Deaf communities, interpreting service users and professional accountability.

Delegates will leave with a clearer understanding of AI tools, how they may be used safely in professional practice, and the questions interpreters need to be asking as this technology continues to develop.

Secondary Traumatic Stress, Vicarious Trauma and Reflexivity in Interpreter Education

Anna Teitt

Dr. Sharon Grigsby Hill | USA | Presenting language: English

Interpreting can involve repeated exposure to distressing, sensitive or emotionally demanding content. Over time, this can affect practitioners in ways that are not always easy to name or recognise. Research has explored secondary traumatic stress and vicarious trauma in relation to ASL interpreters, but there remains a noticeable gap in the literature when it comes to interpreter educators and the ways these experiences may appear in teaching, mentoring and training contexts.

This session will introduce key literature on secondary traumatic stress and vicarious trauma, tracing relevant work from early discussions of ASL interpreters' experiences through to more recent publications. It will also consider related concepts such as trauma stewardship and moral injury, helping delegates to think about the emotional and ethical weight that interpreters and interpreter educators may carry in their work.

The presenters will then move into a discussion of reflexivity and autoethnography as research tools. Drawing on lived and professional experience, the session will consider how these ideas may help interpreter educators, interpreting students and working practitioners identify patterns in their own responses, relationships and professional decision-making.

By connecting existing research with reflective practice, this session invites delegates to consider how the profession can better recognise, discuss and research the emotional impact of interpreting work and interpreter education.

Sign Language AI: Trustworthy Roadmap or Accident Waiting to Happen?

Mark Aplin

Phillip Power | United Kingdom | Presenting language: BSL / English / IS

AI sign language technology is increasingly being presented as a solution for Deaf access. It is being promoted, funded and passed between organisations, often with bold claims about what it can offer. Yet many of these claims are being made without enough scrutiny, evidence or accountability. For Deaf communities, interpreters and translators, this raises serious questions about safety, trust and professional responsibility.

This session challenges the idea that AI sign language technology should be accepted simply because it is new, fast or widely promoted. Using the image of an untested car being put on the road before it has passed proper safety checks, the session asks what happens when Deaf people are expected to take the risks while others make the decisions.

The presentation will explore the difference between using AI to support human translation and using AI to replace qualified professionals. It will examine the importance of evidence, standards, Deaf leadership, qualified oversight and named accountability when technology is used in relation to sign language access.

Delegates will be encouraged to question misinformation, recognise unsafe or unethical claims, and consider what responsible use of AI might look like in this area. The session will make a clear case for scrutiny, professional standards and Deaf-led decision-making before AI sign language systems are treated as trusted access solutions.

Cultural Competency in Interpreting and Translation: Recognising Bias, Building Awareness and Passing It On

Mrs Ayesha Gavin | United Kingdom | Presenting language: BSL / English

Cultural competency is central to effective interpreting and translation. It is not only about knowing that cultural differences exist, but about understanding how those differences shape language, meaning, behaviour, expectations and relationships. For interpreters and translators, this awareness is essential if we are to work accurately, respectfully and with a clear understanding of the people and communities we serve.

This session will introduce the concept of cultural competency and consider why it matters in interpreting and translation practice. It will explore the links between cultural awareness, bias, Deaf and hearing perspectives, and the ways interpreters make decisions in real time. Delegates will be invited to reflect on their own experiences, assumptions and professional habits, including how bias may appear in their work and whether it can ever serve a useful purpose when recognised and handled carefully.

The session will also consider the impact of cultural incompetence on Deaf people, interpreters and translators, including how misunderstandings, assumptions or unchecked bias can affect trust and access. Through discussion, examples and an informal quiz, delegates will have the chance to think about how cultural competency can be developed and shared within the profession.

A key part of the session will focus on how to recognise cultural incompetence and how to raise concerns with colleagues or clients in a way that is respectful, clear and focused on learning. Delegates will leave with a stronger understanding of cultural competency, practical tools for identifying bias, and ideas for passing this learning on through their own practice.

Poster contributions

Pick Up Powerful Interpreting: Build Your Skills in 5 Steps - and Pass It On!

Sharon Neumann Solow | United States

This poster explores five practical skill areas that interpreters can develop to strengthen the quality, accuracy, confidence, and effectiveness of their work. Based on Sharon Neumann Solow's book *Powerful Interpreting: Build Your Skills in 5 Steps*, the poster brings together insights gathered across more than six decades of interpreting, teaching, mentoring, and professional practice.

The work focuses on five interconnected areas of interpreter development: deepening processing time, strengthening memory skills, maximising cohesion, improving organisation and spatial structuring, and developing professional confidence. Rather than presenting these as abstract theories, the poster examines how these skills can be applied directly within real interpreting situations to support clearer decision-making, stronger language production, and more sustainable professional practice.

Alongside practical strategies and examples, the poster reflects on the wider responsibility interpreters carry within their work and the importance of mentorship, collegial support, and professional growth across all career stages. In keeping with the conference theme *Pick It Up, Pass It On*, the work highlights the value of sharing knowledge across generations of interpreters and continuing the cycle of learning, reflection, and professional development within the field.

Visitors exploring this poster will be encouraged to think critically about their own interpreting habits, identify areas for development, and consider how practical skill-building can support both immediate improvement and long-term professional growth.

Key areas explored include:

- Deepening processing and cognitive management skills
- Developing stronger memory and cohesion strategies
- Improving organisation and spatial structuring within signed languages
- Building professional confidence and reflective practice
- Mentorship, professional responsibility, and passing knowledge on to others

Delivering Justice: Challenges for Sign Language Interpreters in Police VRS Calls in Greece

Rozalia Founta

Dr Robert Skinner | Greece

This joint poster explores the experiences of Greek Sign Language interpreters working within Video Relay Service (VRS) police calls in Greece, focusing on the ethical, procedural, and professional challenges that emerge in high-pressure, video-mediated legal settings.

Drawing on collaborative research conducted with interpreters working through Greece's state-funded VRS system, the poster examines how practitioners navigate institutional uncertainty, technological limitations, role negotiation, and decision-making in situations where formal guidance and regulatory structures remain limited. Particular attention is given to the concept of professional autonomy and the extent to which interpreters are required to make complex decisions independently, often without sufficient institutional support or clear procedural frameworks.

The poster also considers the wider implications of remote interpreting within justice settings, including access to communication, procedural fairness, interpreter wellbeing, and professional accountability. By placing the Greek experience alongside wider international discussions on legal interpreting and video-mediated practice, the work contributes to ongoing conversations around professional standards, training needs, and sustainable working conditions within VRS environments.

Visitors exploring this poster will gain insight into the realities of police-related VRS interpreting and the practical and ethical tensions interpreters may encounter when working in under-regulated contexts.

The research highlights the importance of reflective practice, institutional collaboration, and practitioner-informed guidance in supporting interpreters working within complex legal environments.

Key areas explored include:

- Ethical and procedural challenges within police VRS calls
- Professional autonomy and decision-making under pressure
- Strategies for negotiating role boundaries and advocating for appropriate access
- The importance of practitioner-informed guidance, training, and institutional support
- Interpreter wellbeing and professional sustainability in remote legal settings

Learning by doing and through Deaf feedback: a guided tour interpreting internship

Gabriella Ardita | Italy

This poster explores how professional competence in sign language interpreting develops through interaction, collaboration, and reflective practice within real-world environments. Focusing on a guided tour interpreting internship embedded within a university-level Italian Sign Language (LIS)-Italian interpreting and translation programme, the work examines how trainees, professional interpreters, and Deaf participants collectively shaped the learning experience.

The internship involved interpreting across a range of dynamic and visually complex settings, including archaeological sites, museums, churches, and exhibitions. Through ethnographic observation of the preparation process, the live internship experience, and follow-up reflective discussions, the poster highlights how interpreting decisions were influenced by environmental factors, audience needs, positioning, visibility, movement, and interaction with Deaf participants.

Particular attention is given to the role of Deaf community feedback within interpreter learning. The poster explores how Deaf participants contributed directly to trainee development through comments, corrections, and alternative suggestions related to iconicity, lexical choices, deictic strategies, and communication preferences. In doing so, the work challenges ideas of learning as a one-way transfer of knowledge from educator to trainee and instead presents professional competence as something co-constructed through shared interaction and lived experience.

The poster also reflects on tensions between classroom-based expectations and the realities of situated interpreting practice. Trainees encountered situations where standard teaching approaches, such as fixed forward-facing positioning, needed to be adapted within highly visual and physically dynamic environments.

Visitors exploring this poster will be encouraged to reflect on the relationship between theory and practice, the value of Deaf-led feedback, and the importance of flexibility and collaboration within interpreter education and professional development.

Key areas explored include:

- Integrating Deaf community feedback into interpreter learning
- Adapting interpreting strategies within dynamic real-world contexts
- Bridging the gap between academic training and professional practice
- Collaborative reflection between trainees, practitioners, and Deaf participants
- Developing flexible and context-sensitive interpreting approaches

Pick it up, break it down, pass it on: making research accessible for interpreters

Dr. Aurélia NGG | France

This poster explores The 20-20, a monthly newsletter created to make academic research and professional knowledge more accessible, relevant, and usable for sign language interpreters working in everyday practice.

Built around the idea of “Pick It Up, Pass It On”, the poster examines how research, practical tools, and shared professional experiences can be translated into formats that encourage reflection, discussion, and collective learning across the interpreting community. It considers the ongoing gap between academic research and professional practice, asking why valuable insights so often remain inaccessible to the practitioners who could benefit from them most.

Drawing on examples from The 20-20 newsletter, the poster highlights approaches to breaking down complex research into clear, practical takeaways that interpreters can apply directly to their work. Topics explored through the newsletter have included emotional labour in interpreting, International Sign strategies, gaze behaviour, interpreter wellbeing, and professional confidence.

Alongside the practical side of knowledge-sharing, the poster also reflects on the importance of community within the profession. It explores how peer exchange, openness, and collective reflection can help reduce professional isolation and support more connected and sustainable professional growth.

Visitors exploring this poster will gain insight into methods for translating research into accessible professional learning, as well as ideas for sharing knowledge in ways that encourage engagement, reflection, and peer support.

Key areas explored include:

- Making academic research more accessible for practitioners
- Translating theory into practical interpreting strategies
- Peer-led professional development and shared learning
- Building professional connection and community through knowledge-sharing
- Encouraging reflective and collective approaches to professional growth

To remove, refer or reflect: Real life strategies for handling multiple source texts.

Mrs Deborah Cox | United Kingdom

This poster explores the challenges sign language mediators face when working with multiple simultaneous sources of information in live televised sport, focusing specifically on British Sign Language access for football broadcasts.

Using examples drawn from televised FA Disability Cup matches broadcast on BT Sport, the research examines how Deaf translators and hearing interpreters manage the demands of conveying both spoken commentary and live visual action to Deaf audiences. In this fast-paced environment, viewers rely on a combination of visual information from the match itself alongside interpreted or translated commentary, creating unique challenges around timing, attention, coherence, and accessibility.

The poster investigates the strategies sign language mediators use to balance these competing sources of information, including when they choose to relay commentary directly, when they encourage viewers to engage with the on-screen action independently, and how they use visually motivated language, gesture, spatial referencing, and constructed action to support understanding. It also considers how interpreters and translators adapt their approaches depending on the pace, tension, and importance of events unfolding during the match.

By examining the work of both Deaf translators and hearing interpreters within this specialised setting, the poster contributes to wider discussions around multimodal interpreting, translation strategies, accessibility, and the evolving role of sign language mediation within live broadcast environments.

Visitors exploring this poster will gain insight into the complex decision-making processes involved in sports translation and interpreting, as well as the innovative strategies practitioners use to create accessible and engaging viewing experiences for Deaf audiences.

Key areas explored include:

Managing multiple simultaneous source texts in live broadcast settings

The role of visual attention and audience focus within sports interpreting

Strategies for combining commentary and live visual action coherently

The use of showing, spatial referencing, and gesture in sign language mediation

The evolving role of Deaf translators and hearing interpreters within televised sport

In it for the long haul? Building a long-term career.

Miss Helen Fuller | United Kingdom

This poster explores what contributes to longevity within the sign language interpreting profession and asks why some interpreters remain in the field for decades while others choose to leave. Drawing on the experiences of long-standing practitioners, the work considers the realities of sustaining a career in interpreting over the long term, both professionally and personally.

Through research and reflections gathered from experienced interpreters, the poster examines themes including motivation, resilience, career satisfaction, professional identity, and wellbeing. It also considers the physical and psychological demands of interpreting work, alongside the strategies interpreters develop to manage pressure, avoid burnout, and remain engaged in the profession across different stages of their career.

Visitors exploring this poster will gain insight into the experiences of interpreters who have remained in the field for more than twenty years and the lessons that can be passed on to newer practitioners. The poster encourages reflection on career sustainability, professional support, and what is needed to maintain a healthy and realistic long-term relationship with interpreting work.

Key areas explored include:

- Maintaining motivation across a long career
- Managing physical wellbeing and reducing injury risk
- Supporting psychological wellbeing and avoiding burnout
- Career planning and professional sustainability

Making the Most of Your Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Liz Smith | United Kingdom

This poster encourages interpreters and translators to think more critically and purposefully about Continuing Professional Development (CPD), moving beyond viewing it simply as a professional requirement and instead recognising it as an ongoing part of reflective and ethical practice.

Through practical guidance and reflective prompts, the poster explores how CPD can support interpreters to strengthen professional judgement, build confidence, develop skills, and improve the quality of service provided to Deaf and deafblind communities. It highlights the importance of connecting learning directly to practice, encouraging professionals to reflect on areas of uncertainty, apply new knowledge in real-world settings, and evaluate the impact of that learning over time.

The poster also emphasises the collective nature of professional development. Alongside individual learning, it considers the role of conferences, mentoring, supervision, research engagement, and professional discussion in strengthening the profession as a whole. In keeping with the conference theme Pick It Up, Pass It On, the work reflects on how knowledge and experience can be shared across the interpreting and translation community to support long-term professional growth.

Visitors exploring this poster will be encouraged to reflect on their own approach to CPD and consider how meaningful reflective practice can lead to lasting changes in professional practice.

Key areas explored include:

- Reflective approaches to CPD and professional growth
- Moving beyond attendance-based CPD
- Applying learning directly to interpreting and translation practice
- The role of shared learning within the profession
- Building sustainable habits for ongoing professional development

Presenters



Kate Shearer

Presenter - Saturday | United Kingdom

Kate Shearer has spent her career working in roles centred on communication. She began in the corporate sector before moving into executive recruitment and coaching within the charity sector, where her work brought her into close contact with the Deaf community. After returning to study, she qualified as a British Sign Language Interpreter in 2010.

Kate later completed an MA in Psychosynthesis alongside further coaching accreditation. Her work draws on a holistic psychological framework that focuses on self-awareness, internal roles, and how people regulate themselves under pressure. This has become particularly relevant to her work with interpreters, given the cognitive, emotional, and relational demands of the profession.

She currently works as both a Senior Practitioner interpreter and a coach, supporting colleagues, private clients, and young people. Across these roles, Kate is especially interested in how people make sense of their experiences, manage role boundaries, and sustain themselves in complex professional environments.



Magnhild Røed Michalsen

Presenter - Saturday | Norway

Magnhild Røed Michalsen has worked as a sign language interpreter since 2002 and spent around 18 years in full-time interpreting practice. She now works at Oslo Metropolitan University, where she teaches on the Bachelor programme for sign language interpreters.

She holds a Master's degree in Academic and Professional Communication and is currently a PhD candidate researching the use of haptics in training settings involving Deafblind participants. Alongside her academic work, Magnhild continues to interpret on a freelance basis and also works as an interpreter for NRK, Norway's national broadcaster.

Magnhild is a co-founder of Tolkehjørnet, a platform developed to encourage shared learning, reflection, and discussion across the interpreter community.



Hilde Henrud

Presenter - Saturday | Norway

Hilde Henrud is a full-time sign language interpreter with experience across a wide range of interpreting contexts. She has been working professionally since 2014 and is based in Vestfold, where she works within the public interpreter service.

She holds a Master of Science in Disability and Society from NTNU and brings a strong interest in reflective practice and professional learning. Alongside her interpreting work, Hilde is a co-founder of Tolkehjørnet, a professional website established in 2023 to support shared reflection, discussion, and development within the interpreting profession.



Professor Jemina Napier

Presenter - Saturday | Scotland, UK

Jemina Napier is Professor of Intercultural Communication at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. Since joining the university in 2013, she has held several senior academic leadership roles, including Associate Principal for Research Culture and People, Director of Research for the School of Social Sciences, Director of the Centre for Translation and Interpreting Studies in Scotland, and Head of the Department of Languages and Intercultural Studies.

Before this, Jemina worked at Macquarie University in Sydney, where she established postgraduate programmes in Auslan-English Interpreting and later led the Centre for Translation and Interpreting Research. She is currently seconded part-time to the Scottish Graduate School of Social Science as Associate Director for Supervisor Engagement.

Jemina has practised as a sign language interpreter since 1989, working between English and BSL, Auslan, and International Sign. She has authored and co-authored numerous books and over 150 publications, with research interests spanning interpreting pedagogy, intercultural mediation, and language access in sensitive contexts, including safeguarding and work with Deaf survivors of domestic abuse.



Dr Ben Saunders

Presenter - Saturday | United Kingdom

Dr Ben Saunders is Co-Founder and Chief Scientist at Signapse, a UK-based company developing photo-realistic sign language translation using artificial intelligence.

He completed his PhD in Artificial Intelligence at the University of Surrey's Centre for Vision, Speech and Signal Processing, following earlier degrees from the London School of Economics and Queen Mary University of London. His doctoral and postdoctoral research has focused on AI-generated sign language production, translating spoken or written input into continuous, human-like signed output in both British and American Sign Language.

Under Ben's technical leadership, Signapse launched in 2022 to support access to information in settings where human interpreters are not available, such as transport environments. Alongside technical development, Ben places strong emphasis on ethical design, advocating for Deaf-led involvement and for AI to support, rather than replace, human interpreters and translators.



Nene Ekufu

Presenter - Saturday | United Kingdom

Nene Ekufu is a speaker, trainer, coach, and NRCPD-registered British Sign Language interpreter with over a decade of professional experience. Her work focuses on supporting interpreters, translators, and language professionals to build confidence, steadiness, and clarity in their professional practice.

Her journey into interpreting began with a desire to communicate with a Deaf community member. Growing up with dyslexia, Nene experienced self-doubt early on, which later shaped her interest in the internal challenges many interpreters face, including confidence, identity, and performance pressure.

Nene combines practical interpreting experience with coaching and brain-based approaches. She is also a Dual Elite Neuroencoding Specialist and a certified Law of Attraction coach, supporting professionals to manage emotional load alongside technical skill development.



Layne Whittaker

Presenter - Saturday | United Kingdom

Layne James Whittaker is a qualified Registered Sign Language Interpreter (RSLI) with over 22 years' involvement in the Deaf community. She has worked as a freelance interpreter for the past 10 years across a range of professional settings.

Alongside her interpreting work, Layne has a strong interest in psychology. She holds an undergraduate degree and an MSc in Occupational Psychology, with a focus on equality, diversity, and inclusion within the interpreting profession. Her work is informed by an understanding of how inclusion, identity, and professional culture intersect in everyday practice.



Dr Russell Aldersson

Presenter - Saturday | United Kingdom

Dr Russell Aldersson works as both a BSL-English interpreter and a teacher. His interpreting practice is primarily community-based and includes work with the BSL999 service. He also supports registered trainee sign language interpreters as a senior practitioner and practice assessor.

As a qualified teacher, Russell delivers English language courses for Deaf adults at the City Literary Institute and provides academic and language support to Deaf students in higher education through the Disabled Students' Allowance. He also delivers short CPD sessions for interpreters in both BSL and English, focusing on English grammar, structure, and language awareness.

Russell completed his Doctorate in Education in 2021, examining the role of BSL in the teaching of English through a translinguaging lens. He is known for sharing practical, assignment-based strategies with trainees, particularly in complex real-world settings such as medical and clinical environments.



Dr Emma Ferguson-Coleman

Presenter - Sunday | United Kingdom

Dr Emma Ferguson-Coleman is a Deaf British Sign Language user and researcher specialising in dementia and ageing within Deaf communities. She has worked with Deaf BSL users living with dementia and their carers since 2010, with a focus on access to culturally appropriate support following diagnosis.

Emma completed her PhD in 2016, examining Deaf community knowledge of dementia and associated symptoms. Her research was the first globally to include direct interviews with Deaf people living with dementia and their close family members. The findings highlighted both the resilience of Deaf people facing cognitive change and the significant barriers they continue to experience when accessing healthcare and community-based support, within both mainstream services and Deaf-led spaces.

She is currently a lecturer in dementia and ageing at the Geller Institute of Ageing and Memory, University of West London, where she teaches postgraduate students on the Dementia Studies programme. Her work

continues to inform practice at the intersection of healthcare, interpreting, and Deaf access.



Joseph Musabyimana

Presenter - Sunday | Rwanda

Joseph Musabyimana is Executive Director of the Rwanda Organization of Persons with Deaf-Blindness (ROPDB) and Chairperson of the Rwanda National Union of Sign Language Interpreters (RNUSLI). His work sits at the intersection of disability rights, community advocacy, and professional interpreting.

Joseph has extensive experience in community organising and national advocacy, leading work that promotes the legal recognition, inclusion, and empowerment of persons with deaf-blindness in Rwanda. Alongside this, he has played a central role in strengthening the interpreting profession through mentorship networks, peer collaboration, and advocacy for high-quality training in both Rwandan Sign Language and tactile sign language.

His leadership draws on lived experience, professional practice, and community knowledge, with a strong emphasis on sharing learning across generations of interpreters and advocates. Joseph regularly contributes to regional and international discussions on human rights, professional standards, and inclusive access.



Dr Ibrahim Ndagijimana

Presenter - Sunday | Rwanda

Dr Ibrahim Ndagijimana is a researcher, lecturer, governance specialist, and consultant with more than twenty years of experience working across governance, community development, peacebuilding, and public sector capacity development in Rwanda.

He currently serves as an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Rwanda within the Centre for Genocide and Conflict Studies (CGCS) and is undertaking his second PhD programme in Peace, Security and Conflict Studies through a collaboration between the University of Rwanda and the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. His academic background also includes advanced study in Public Administration and Management, Governance and Decentralisation, Local Governance Studies, and Peace, Security and Conflict Studies.

Throughout his career, Dr Ndagijimana has worked across local government, central government institutions, and both local and international non-governmental organisations. His work has focused particularly on governance, decentralisation, citizen participation, community development, conflict transformation, public financial management, and organisational performance through capacity development.

Alongside his academic and consultancy work, Dr Ndagijimana has extensive experience designing and facilitating training programmes, participatory assessments, and stakeholder engagement initiatives. He has supported government institutions, civil society organisations, and community-based programmes through technical guidance, research, and policy development work focused on democratic governance, accountability, and public participation.

Dr Ndagijimana has also contributed to academic and professional literature through published research articles, books, and book chapters connected to governance, peacebuilding, leadership, and conflict studies.



Adam Price

Presenter - Sunday | United Kingdom

Adam Price is a registered British Sign Language interpreter and a Child of Deaf Adults (CODA), with a professional background in musical theatre. He began his career as an actor at the age of 20, working across regional, London, and international productions.

Adam qualified as a registered interpreter in 2019 and has since worked across a range of interpreting domains. His lifelong connection to the Deaf community, combined with his experience in performance, strongly informs his interpreting practice, particularly in creative and live performance settings.

His work brings together embodiment, precision, and ethical awareness, shaped by long-term engagement with theatre, rehearsal processes, and collaborative creative environments.



Jacqui Beckford

Presenter - Sunday | United Kingdom

Jacqui Beckford is a Registered British Sign Language interpreter with over 30 years' experience working across theatre, broadcast, mental health, and community settings.

Her work in theatre began in the early 1990s through Graeae Theatre Company, where she progressed from workshop training to national touring productions as an integrated interpreter and performer. This marked the start of her long-standing practice in performance interpreting and led to her Equity membership. Jacqui's background in contemporary dance, supported by an ILEA scholarship in Laban-based training, has strongly influenced her embodied and performance-led approach.

Between 2003 and 2006, Jacqui worked as an in-vision interpreter for the BBC, covering BBC News 24 and a range of other programmes. She continued working in television broadcast, including a period at Sky News, until 2014. Alongside performance and broadcast work, she has extensive experience in mental health settings and works confidently across a wide range of interpreting domains.

In 2023, Jacqui ran a pilot course in BSL interpreting for performance at Rose Bruford College, reflecting her ongoing commitment to developing practice within the arts. She has been an active member of Clapham Deaf Club since the age of 12 and has undertaken voluntary work within the Deaf community throughout her career.



Jen Bird

Presenter - Sunday | United Kingdom

Jen Bird is a British Sign Language/English interpreter with nearly twenty years' experience and co-founder of Signalise, a Deaf- and interpreter-led social enterprise delivering interpreting and communication support through a co-operative, community-focused model.

Her work explores the relationship between access, technology, and social value, with a strong commitment to systems that genuinely work for Deaf people and the professionals who support them. Through Signalise, Jen has helped reframe traditional agency models by centring Deaf voices and shared ownership in service design and delivery.

Jen has a particular interest in technology for good and how digital tools can support, rather than replace, human relationships in access provision. This informed her Churchill Fellowship, during which she examined interpreting and accessibility systems internationally to understand what enables sustainable, community-led practice.

Beyond interpreting, Jen engages with social enterprise, public procurement reform, and alternative service models grounded in collaboration, transparency, and shared responsibility.



Dr Robyn Dean

Presenter - Sunday | USA

Dr Robyn K. Dean, CI/CT, PhD, is a nationally certified signed language interpreter with over thirty years' experience, with a particular focus on healthcare interpreting. She is widely recognised for her scholarship on interpreter decision-making, ethics, and professional reasoning within community interpreting contexts.

Robyn's work has had a significant influence on how interpreters understand and articulate the moment-to-moment decisions they make in practice. Through her research and writing, she has contributed to the development of theoretical and pedagogical frameworks that support interpreters to move beyond rule-based approaches towards more reflective, context-responsive practice. She has authored over twenty publications, many of which are used internationally in interpreter education and professional development.

Robyn is currently an Associate Professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York, where she serves as lead instructor on the postgraduate degree in healthcare interpretation. In this role, she is deeply involved in interpreter education, curriculum design, and mentoring, with a strong emphasis on preparing interpreters to work ethically and effectively in complex, high-stakes environments.

Alongside her academic work, Robyn remains closely connected to professional practice and continues to engage with interpreters across career stages through teaching, research, and professional dialogue. Her work consistently bridges research, education, and real-world interpreting, supporting the ongoing development of the profession.



Catherine King

Presenter - Sunday | United Kingdom

Catherine King is a Glasgow-based BSL/English interpreter specialising in performance interpreting. She began her career in further education before working in social services and tertiary education, later spending ten years as an interpreter trainer and academic interpreter.

Catherine is widely recognised for her work as a stand-up comedy interpreter and has toured with comedians including Frankie Boyle and Sarah Millican. She was the first interpreter in the UK, and second worldwide, to be filmed live for inclusion on a DVD, and has appeared on Adam Hills' Happyism (2013) and Clown Heart (2017).

She is a founding partner of Creative Licht, a Creative Scotland-funded project supporting interpreters and performance professionals through workshops and shared exploration. Catherine is currently in the final stages of her PhD at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and the University of St Andrews, researching the hybrid nature of performance interpreting practice.



Donna Jewell

Presenter - Sunday | United Kingdom

Donna Jewell is a BSL/English interpreter and Director of Just Sign Ltd, based in the Central Belt of Scotland. She has extensive experience across a wide range of settings and primarily identifies as a community interpreter, valuing the adaptability and person-centred nature of this work.

Alongside community interpreting, Donna has developed a strong reputation in legal settings and is widely recognised as a specialist legal interpreter. Her work includes courts, tribunals, police interviews, solicitor consultations, and other high-stakes justice environments.

Donna also undertakes theatre and performance-related interpreting, including pantomime and work at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. She has a strong interest in professional standards, interpreter wellbeing, and reflective practice, and is committed to supervision, peer support, and ongoing professional development.



Katy Smillie-Wilcox

Presenter - Sunday | United Kingdom

Katy Smillie-Wilcox is a Scottish BSL/English interpreter currently based in North Carolina, USA. She began interpreting in 2012, initially training as a regulated trainee before qualifying fully.

Katy specialises in educational interpreting, working with both Deaf teachers and Deaf students, and has experience across psychology settings, the arts, remote interpreting, and performance interpreting. Her performance work spans a wide range of contexts, including music festivals, drag cabaret, stand-up comedy, and scripted performances.

In 2025, Katy completed a Diploma in Integrative Supervision of Individuals and Groups. She brings a flexible, responsive approach to supervision and is keen to support interpreters through reflective practice. Katy is currently developing her American Sign Language skills to engage more fully with local Deaf and interpreting communities.



Jeanette Nicholson

Presenter - Sunday | Canada

Jeanette Nicholson graduated from Trent University with an Honours BA and completed the ASL-English Interpreter Program at George Brown College. She later earned an MSc in ASL-English Interpreting with a concentration in Interpreter Pedagogy from the University of North Florida.

She is Manager of Professional Practice and Education at ASign Inc., where she also works as a staff interpreter and mentor. Jeanette holds the Certificate of Interpretation (COI) from the Canadian Association of Sign Language Interpreters and has extensive experience in interpreter education and mentorship.



Liz McClounie

Presenter - Sunday | Canada

Liz McClounie holds a BA in Politics from Queen's University and graduated from George Brown College's ASL-English Interpreting Program in 2005. She has over twenty years' experience in the interpreting profession, with a strong focus on mentorship and professional development.

Liz is currently a staff interpreter, Communities of Practice Specialist, and Lead of Asign's Mentorship Program. She designs and delivers structured learning pathways that support skill development, ethical decision-making, and sustainable professional practice across Canada.



James Etheridge

Presenter - Sunday | Canada

James Etheridge is a Deaf Interpreter and Deaf Educator with over a decade of experience teaching American Sign Language and interpreting. He holds a BSc in Business Administration and a Master's in Sign Language Education from Gallaudet University.

James currently works at Asign Inc., where his work focuses on curriculum design, mentorship, and applied interpreting practice. He brings a Deaf-centred perspective to interpreter education and is recognised for his contributions to inclusive communication and professional development.



Tom Mould

Presenter - Extended | United Kingdom

Tom Mould is a BSL/English interpreter based in the UK with over 15 years of experience across a range of community and professional settings. He holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Sign Language Interpreting and Translation from the University of Central Lancashire and is currently completing an MSc in Advancing Practice in Interpreting at Queen Margaret University.

Alongside his interpreting work, Tom has contributed to the profession through involvement with ASLI and NUBSLI, as well as delivering CPD sessions and presenting at international conferences.

His recent work has focused on the role of artificial intelligence in interpreting, exploring how technology can be used responsibly to support both interpreters and Deaf communities.



Anna Teitt

Presenter - Extended | USA

Anna N. Teitt is an ASL interpreter based in the United States with experience across educational, community, and event-based settings. She holds National Interpreter Certification and currently works in post-secondary education, alongside freelance interpreting for large public events.

Anna has worked across K-12, higher education, theatre, medical, and business environments, and has supported the development of newer interpreters through mentoring and teaching.

She holds both a bachelor's degree in ASL/English Interpreting and a master's degree in Interpreting Studies and Communication Equity. She is currently completing her PhD in Interpreter Education at the University of Tennessee.

Her research focuses on secondary traumatic stress, vicarious trauma, and moral injury in interpreting, particularly within educational settings, with an emphasis on supporting interpreter wellbeing.



Dr. Sharon Grigsby Hill

Presenter - Extended | USA

Dr Sharon Grigsby Hill is an ASL/English interpreter with nearly 30 years of professional experience, working across mental health, legal, educational, and performance settings. She holds advanced BEI and medical interpreting certifications.

She previously served as Programme Director for the ASL Interpreting programme at the University of Houston, where she led the development of the state's first undergraduate interpreter training degree. She is currently an Assistant Professor in Deaf Studies at the University of Tennessee.

Her doctoral research, completed at the University of Birmingham, examines the impact of African American Vernacular English on ASL/English interpretation. Her work explores language attitudes, bias, and perception within interpreting practice.

Sharon remains actively involved in professional service, mentoring, and community work, supporting interpreters to engage in reflective and socially informed practice.



Mark Aplin

Presenter - Extended | United Kingdom

Signly is a Deaf-led organisation founded in 2017 with a focus on making sign language accessible across digital and physical spaces. The organisation works with a large network of Deaf translators to deliver high-quality sign language content across a range of sectors.

Alongside this, Signly has been developing sign language AI, with a focus on how technology can support, rather than replace, human expertise. Their work recognises the importance of Deaf leadership in shaping how AI is designed, applied, and understood within the field of accessibility.

By combining human knowledge with technological development, Signly continues to contribute to new approaches in access, communication, and inclusion.



Phillip Power

Presenter - Extended | United Kingdom

Signly is a Deaf-led organisation founded in 2017 with a focus on making sign language accessible across digital and physical spaces. The organisation works with a large network of Deaf translators to deliver high-quality sign language content across a range of sectors.

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By combining human knowledge with technological development, Signly continues to contribute to new approaches in access, communication, and inclusion.



Ayesha Gavin

Presenter - Extended | United Kingdom

Ayesha Gavin is a Deaf Registered Sign Language Translator and experienced BSL teacher, with over 20 years of work in education and translation. She has run her own business for over 15 years, supporting learners and professionals across a range of settings.

Based in East Lancashire, Ayesha has worked across sectors including education, public services, and higher education, supporting BSL/English translation at degree level.

With a background in the arts and a strong connection to the Deaf community, Ayesha brings a thoughtful and practical approach to her work, with a focus on access, language development, and supporting others in their learning.

Partners and charity partner

CONVO

Headline Partner

Convo is a Deaf-led organisation focused on improving access to communication through technology and interpreting services. For over 16 years, Convo has developed solutions that allow Deaf people to connect when they choose, without delay or unnecessary barriers. Their work now spans multiple countries, supported by a large network of interpreters and partner organisations.

Their approach brings together technology, interpreting expertise, and user-centred design to support communication across a range of settings. This includes on-demand interpreting, planned support, and accessible solutions in public and workplace environments.

Convo's work is grounded in Deaf-led insight and a clear focus on making communication straightforward and reliable. Their systems are designed to support real-time access while reflecting the lived experiences of Deaf users.

Convo are supporting The Together Conference as it reflects the importance of shared knowledge and collective progress within the profession. The theme "Pick It Up, Pass It On" aligns closely with their approach to building access through community, experience, and collaboration.

Signly

Lead Partner

Signly supports organisations to make their digital and printed content accessible to sign language users. Their Sign Language as a Service model allows sign language translations to be added quickly and effectively across a range of platforms.

Through Signly Studio, they offer a structured workflow that supports efficient translation and delivery, helping organisations improve access for Deaf audiences.

Signly supports The Together Conference because it brings professionals together to share knowledge and reflect on practice. The conference provides space to explore how technology and interpreting can work together to improve access and inclusion.

Heritage Interpreting

Lead Partner

Heritage Interpreting is a US-based language services provider offering interpreting, translation, captioning, and media accessibility services across a wide range of settings. Their work includes sign languages, spoken languages, and accessibility services such as captioning and audio description.

They provide flexible support across in-person, remote, and telephone-based services, working in sectors including healthcare, education, legal, government, and business.

Heritage Interpreting places a strong emphasis on accessibility and community, with Deaf professionals involved across their work. Their approach is shaped by a commitment to clear communication and respectful practice.

Heritage Interpreting are supporting The Together Conference as it brings together interpreters from different countries and backgrounds to share knowledge and strengthen the profession. This reflects their own commitment to improving access and supporting communication across communities.

Deaf Student Solutions

Lead Partner

Deaf Student Solutions works to support Deaf people in education and beyond, helping individuals access opportunities and progress in their chosen paths. Their work is centred on collaboration, openness, and shared learning. They support students, professionals, and organisations to improve access and outcomes for Deaf individuals.

Deaf Student Solutions are supporting The Together Conference as it provides an opportunity for professionals to come together, share ideas, and strengthen practice across the field. The focus on collaboration reflects their own approach to supporting the Deaf community.

Asign Inc.

Lead Partner

Asign is a Canadian provider of sign language interpreting and accessibility services, supporting organisations to improve communication access for Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals.

With over 25 years of experience, they offer a range of services including Video Remote Interpreting, on-demand access, in-person interpreting, and sign language translation for digital content. Their work supports both planned and real-time communication across a variety of settings.

Asign combines practical service delivery with a strong connection to the Deaf community and the interpreting profession. Their work focuses on supporting organisations to meet accessibility requirements while improving everyday communication experiences.

Asign are supporting The Together Conference as it creates space for shared learning and professional discussion. This aligns with their commitment to ongoing development and collaboration within the field.

Interpreting Tax Limited

Priority Partner

Interpreting Tax is a specialist accountancy service supporting interpreters, translators, and other communication professionals across the UK, as well as Deaf clients.

The service focuses on providing clear and accessible financial guidance, tailored to the needs of freelance practitioners and company directors working in the sector. Interpreting Tax is supporting The Together Conference as it recognises the value of bringing professionals together and supporting the wider interpreting community.

The Ohio Chapter of Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf (OCRID)

Professional Partner

The Ohio Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf works to promote good practice within the profession of visual language interpreting. Their work focuses on building relationships with practitioners and the Deaf community, while supporting equality, professionalism, and high standards.

Through professional development and accredited learning opportunities, OCRID supports interpreters to develop their skills and maintain strong, ethical practice.

OCRID are supporting The Together Conference as it provides an opportunity to invest in professional development and strengthen interpreting practice across different contexts. This reflects their commitment to improving standards and supporting interpreters at all stages of their careers.

Signalise Co-op

Community Partner

Signalise is a Deaf-led co-operative providing interpreting and communication services across a range of settings, including health, education, legal, and public services. They offer a wide range of services, including BSL interpreting, VRS, VRI, Deafblind interpreting, translation, and speech-to-text support. Their work combines practical service delivery with systems designed to improve reliability and access.

As a co-operative, Signalise brings together Deaf people, interpreters, and staff in decision-making, ensuring services are shaped by the communities they serve. Their approach focuses on improving access while maintaining quality and accountability.

Signalise are supporting The Together Conference as it reflects the importance of collaboration and shared learning. The conference provides a space to connect practice, experience, and community in a way that supports better services overall.

Interpreters of Colour Network

Community Partner

The Interpreters of Colour Network works to address underrepresentation within the profession and to support interpreters of colour through community, guidance, and shared experience.

Their work focuses on challenging assumptions around race, ethnicity, and culture, while supporting research and discussion that reflects the realities of the profession today.

IOCN provides a space for interpreters of colour to connect, develop, and contribute to ongoing conversations within the field.

They are supporting The Together Conference as it brings together a wide range of voices and experiences, creating opportunities for shared learning and open discussion. This aligns with their focus on supporting, educating, and recognising interpreters across the profession.

Queens University Belfast

Community Partner

The Centre for Translation and Interpreting (CTI) at Queen's University Belfast offers specialist postgraduate programmes in both translation and interpreting, with pathways in spoken and signed languages. CTI supports emerging professionals with hands-on training, access to cutting-edge technology, and a vibrant research culture. Whether you're early in your career or pursuing further academic study, CTI provides a strong foundation for those committed to advancing standards in language access and intercultural communication.

Our sign language interpreting programme truly reflects the spirit of togetherness, bringing together a diverse cohort of Deaf and hearing students, ISL/English and BSL/English users, and both experienced and aspiring interpreters. Partnering with The Together Conference opens up valuable opportunities for our students to connect with a wider professional network, learn alongside peers, and contribute to the growth of the interpreting profession in Northern Ireland.

Deaf Cancer Support

Nominated Charity Partner

The Deaf Cancer Support Project provides information and support to Deaf people affected by cancer, ensuring access to clear communication and appropriate support throughout their care.

Their work includes providing information in BSL, offering one-to-one support, and helping ensure interpreting provision is in place for healthcare appointments. They also provide emotional and practical support to individuals and families.

Their focus is on ensuring Deaf people have equal access to information and feel supported in making decisions about their care.

They are supporting The Together Conference as it brings together professionals who play a key role in access to healthcare and other essential services. This reflects their commitment to working alongside interpreters to support Deaf people effectively.

Pick It Up, Pass It On

The Together Conference 2026