

EOC STAFF CAN SIGN.

Members of staff at the Equal Opportunity Commission are leading the fight against discrimination from the front. Staff enrolled and completed an introductory sign language course in an effort to communicate more effectively with persons who are deaf and promote inclusivity.

More than half of the Commission's staff signed up for the five-week virtual interactive course. Staff learned to communicate with a person who is deaf using sign language and to better understand the deaf community and its culture.

The last day of the course coincided with Zero Discrimination Day, which is observed by all members of the United Nations on March 1.

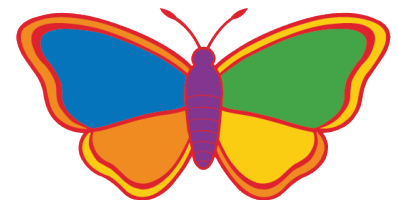
The staff worked diligently but also had fun. Ria Sewdass, one of the staff members who signed up for the course said, "It was a really good experience. I especially enjoyed interacting with persons from the deaf community."

Staff members can now confidently use sign language to sign the alphabet, days of the week, months of the year, shapes, counting to 30, describe some leisure activities and distinguish the different features of people. Additionally, the signs for colours and identify certain family members were covered. Most importantly, we can initiate a conversation using sign language by asking and responding to basic introductory questions such as what is your name, how you are and what is your number.

The course was facilitated by Ms. Yordanna Garcia-Blackman from the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD).



LEGAL OFFICER LORELEI WONG SIGNS DURING THE INTERACTIVE, VIRTUAL COURSE



#ZERODISCRIMINATIONDAY

CHEERS FOR OUR CHAIRMAN!

A column by our Chairman, Mr. H. R. Ian Roach was published in the Newsday newspaper today. Get your copy and share with a friend.

Here is an excerpt from the column: The Equal Opportunity Commission joins all other United Nations Members in observing Zero Discrimination Day today (Monday 1 March).

The title of the day begs the question, can discrimination really be eliminated? There is a quote that I find particularly relevant that would perhaps answer this question. Bernice King, daughter of Martin Luther King Jr. said, "seek out your brothers and sisters of other cultures and join together in building alliances to put an end to all forms of racial discrimination, bigotry, and prejudice. There are people of good will of all races, religions,



CHAIRMAN OF THE EOC,
MR. H.R. IAN ROACH

and nations who will join you in common quest for the betterment of society."

FRAME US UP!

We created and uploaded a frame on Facebook for Zero Discrimination Day. You can temporarily add this frame to your profile photo on Zero Discrimination Day on Monday 1 March. Join the movement to end discrimination and promote equality by raising awareness via your profile photo.

- Step 1: Open Facebook on your profile page
- Step 2: Click the camera icon on your photo
- Step 3: Select "Add Frame" option
- Step 4: Search: EOC Zero Discrimination Day
- Step 5: Select: Use as profile photo
- Step 6: Share with friends!