

DEAF PLACE: WORK

The Present

Nowadays, employability is arguably better for deaf people, as a far wider range of jobs appear to be open to them. However, it is evident from research that deaf and hard of hearing people generally experience more unemployment, are often underemployed and have lower incomes than the hearing population (RNID, 2006; Winn, 2007; The Papworth Trust, 2014; The Scottish Government, 2015). It is interesting to note that rather than struggle in hearing work-environments many Deaf people want to find employment within the Deaf community/industry or become self-employed; many of them as Sign Language Teachers (Barnes, 2017).

“Now, Deaf people have better jobs today. My son is Deaf, he has a really good high level job, and has worked his way up. I couldn’t do that when I was working, I was stuck at the bottom. So, things are better.

(Ian Smith)



*Paul M. Flechter – Deaf Priest
Photo by himself*



*Mark Wheatley – Executive Director of European Union of the Deaf
Photos & Images by EUD*

“Now there are better jobs, because Sign Language has been taught for some time and has started to spread. I wouldn’t know what other jobs there are as I retired 12 years ago. In terms of the future, I wish the best for them.”

(Maureen Jackson)

“Well, my first job I was a painter. If someone needed some work done, they’d get in touch and then I’d go with someone during the day or evening, whenever they were available, to discuss what they needed. I’d then go by myself and start working. Conversation while on the job was fine, customers would use different gestures for tea and biscuits. Importantly conversation was always about work and the job, it was very rarely a general conversation.

(David Bamber)

Now things have changed, I can see many Deaf people doing very well in their working lives; some are CEOs, some are slowly working their way up within a company and some own their own business like SignLive. These are all good role models for young Deaf people to look up to.

(Ricci Collins)

