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[Welfare and Rehabilitation]



On June 18, 2005 **France** issued a stamp marking the *30th Anniversary of the Law of June 30, 1975, affirming and granting the fundamental rights of persons with handicaps.*

The 0, 53 Euro stamp shows a hand holding a walking person and the words “*Loi Pour les Personnes Handicapees*”.

On February 12, 2005 France introduced far-reaching reforms in legislation for equal rights and opportunities, participation, and citizenship for disabled persons. Law No 2005-105 regarding Equality of Rights and Chances, Participation and Citizenship of Disabled Persons.

According to article 2, disabled persons have a right to solidarity from the national community as a whole, to the fundamental rights granted to everybody and in particular the right to fully exercise their citizenship, are guaranteed access to institutions that are open to the population at large and integration into the mainstream environment for school, work and daily life.

Transportation – The law specifies that transportation, places open to the public, premises for conducting professional, training or educational activity must allow guide dogs leading blind persons to enter and exempt these animals from obligation to be muzzled if they have been properly trained by a centre.

Deaf

The French Deaf Community will remember 12 February 2005 as truly a historic date for the French Deaf Community because after 125 years of oppression, the consequences of the Milan conference have finally been put to an end through the symbolic recognition of the French Sign Language (LSF).