

Language Justice & Access

in the context of working with survivors of
gender-based violence and their families

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Ola
Hello
Como esta
Kamusta

Please join the Menti by scanning the QR code



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During our time together we will explore:



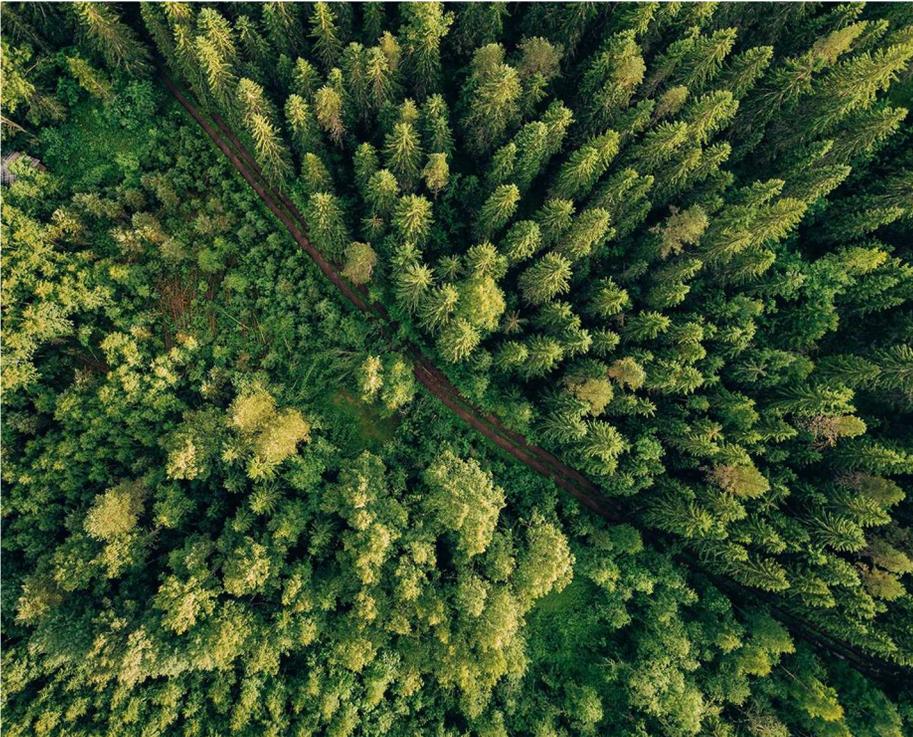
The difference between

language access: ensuring services are available in multiple languages &

language justice: upholding everyone's right to communicate in their preferred language



LANGUAGE ACCESS:



The term “language access” is usually used in this country to describe giving people access to information, services, etc. in a language other than English.

But there is a legal definition of language access and there are local, state and federal laws that require language access in some contexts. Legally, language access means providing Limited English Proficient (LEP) people with reasonable access to the same services as English-speaking individuals.



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LANGUAGE JUSTICE:



- The systematic fair treatment of people of all language communities and respect for everyone's fundamental language rights. There are multiple definitions of language justice, and the term continues to evolve.

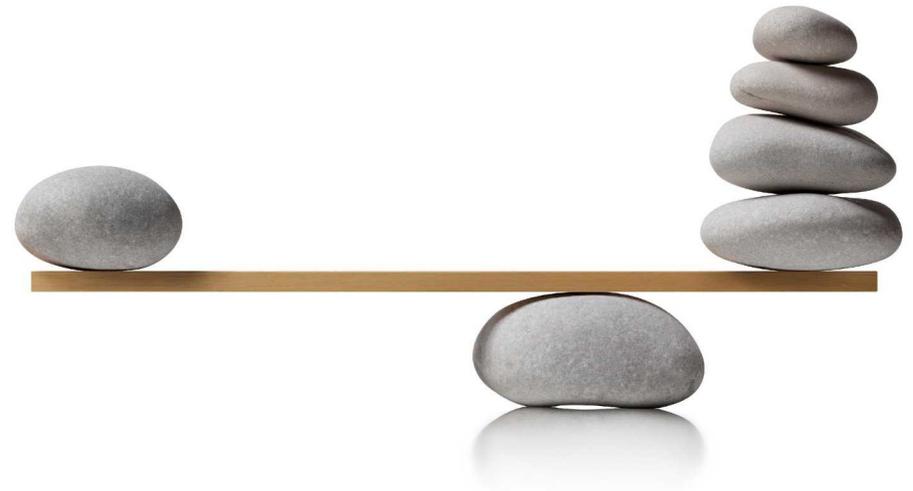
- Ana Paula Noguez Mercado, LL.M., MA

- [Antena Los Angeles](#)

LANGUAGE JUSTICE:

Language Justice is a key practice used in social justice movements in order to **create shared power, practice inclusion and dismantle traditional systems of oppression** that have traditionally disenfranchised non-English speakers.

The [American Bar Association](#) defines language justice as “**an evolving framework based on the notion of respecting every individual’s fundamental language rights—to be able to communicate, understand, and be understood in the language in which they prefer and feel most articulate and powerful.**”





LINGUICISM



Ideologies, structures and practices used to legitimate, effectuate, regulate and reproduce an unequal division of power and resources between groups defined on the basis of language (Skutnabb-Kangas, 2015)

[Antena Los Angeles](#)



LINGUISTIC RACISM



Discrimination based on accent, dialect or speech patterns.

In her book *Linguistic justice: Black Language, Literacy, Identity, and Pedagogy*, April Baker-Bell writes, “without analyzing language through the lens of race and racism, we ignore how linguistic violence and racial violence go hand in hand.”



HISTORICAL ROOTS OF LINGUISTIC TRAUMA



Photo by Bettmann/Contributor/Getty Images.

Christine Sims - Pueblo Languages



Language and Identity



Gloria Anzaldúa

“I am my language”

“Until I am free to write bilingually and to switch codes without having always to translate, while I still have to speak English or Spanish when I would rather speak Spanglish, and as long as I have to accommodate the English speakers rather than having them accommodate me, my tongue will be illegitimate.”

Language Access, Language Justice, and Sexual Violence:



- Information and services on sexual violence must be able to reach every member of the population.
- Survivors often worry they will not be believed- a feeling which is often heightened when they aren't able to directly effectively communicate their experience.
- Putting materials in only the English language when there is need among non-English speakers is a form of ethnocentrism- the act of centering one's own culture, country, or language as superior or most important.
- Perpetrators often benefit from the lack of access to services for LEP survivors, and even exploit this lack of access.

Discussion

- ❑ Are there any areas of opportunity or improvement for language justice and access in your work?
- ❑ How might linguicism affect your work as interpreter?



LANGUAGE JUSTICE = HEALING

Language is one component of culture and therefore may be a means to improve health among disenfranchised populations.



Resting Circle: NM Asian Family Center

We are inviting you!

A moment to land, to connect
with ourselves and those
around us



What is required?



Title VI requires that

- Recipients of federal assistance and federal agencies are required to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to their programs and activities by LEP persons.
- The starting point is an individualized assessment that balances several factors



Limited English Proficiency

People with **(LEP)** (non-dominant language speakers) do not speak English as their primary language and have a limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English





Developing an Effective Language Access Plan

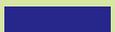
Implementing a language access plan is a proactive approach to assisting survivors who have limited English proficiency:

1. Reduces the language access obstacles for survivors and advocates.
 1. Makes access to programs much more efficient.
 1. Is the right thing to do.
 1. Is legally required of federal funded programs.
- 



PRESIDENTIAL ACTION

March 1, 2025



Designating English as the
Official Language of The United
States

[Implementation of Executive Order EO14224](#)



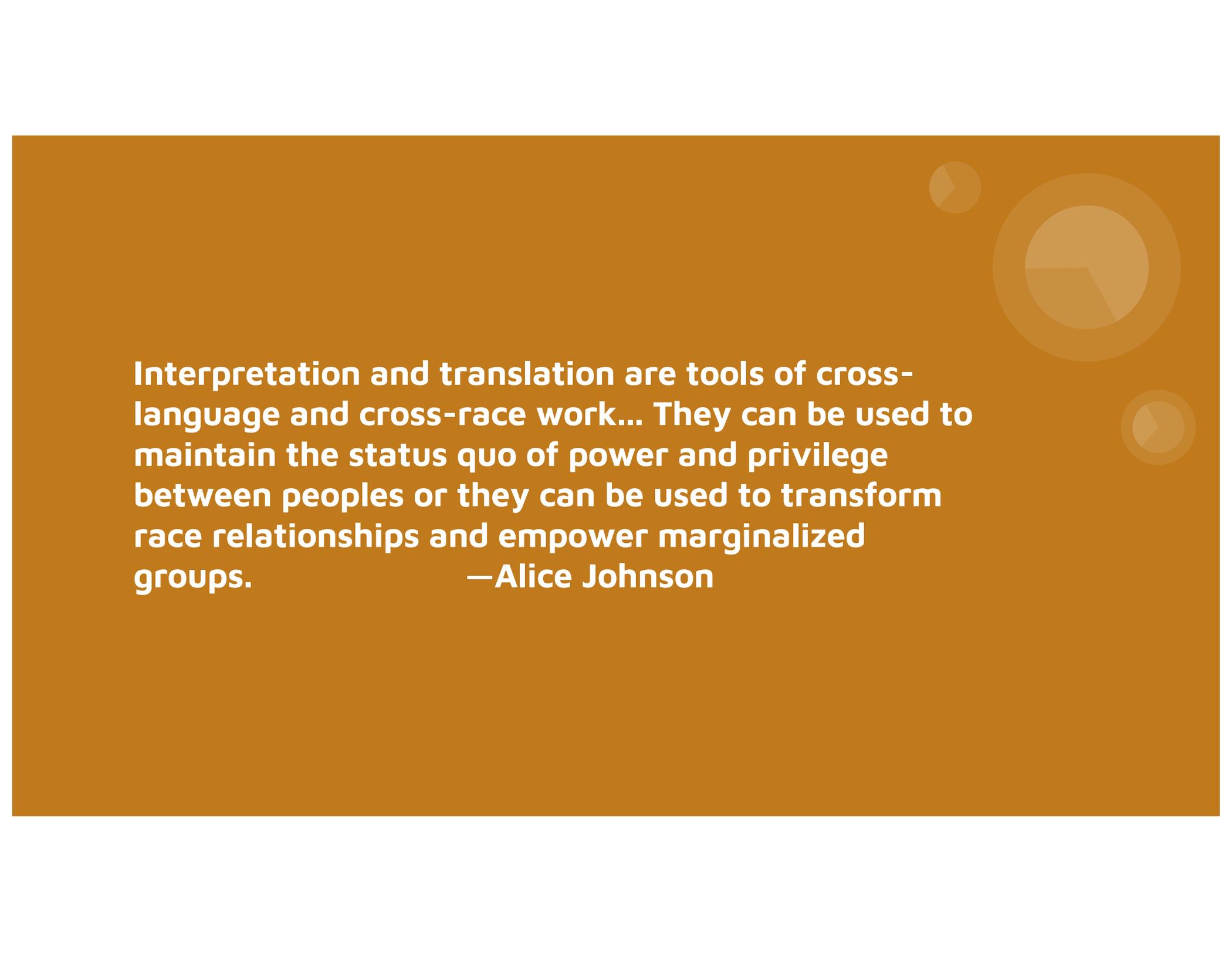
Serving Individuals Who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf-Blind and Do Not Use American Sign Language

1. Develop program guidelines to comply with the stipulations of the **Americans with Disabilities Act**.
2. Utilize national and or local resources to educate agency staff.
3. Identify who serves deaf and hard of hearing victims in your area.
4. Determine the language interpretation needs of victims who are deaf, deaf-blind or hard of hearing.
 - a. Do not assume they understand or use American Sign Language (ASL).
 - b. Identify what communication methods they use, including if they use ASL, a foreign sign language, home signing, tactile signing, and/or Computer Assisted Realtime Transcription. Lip reading and passing notes are not acceptable communication methods.
 - c. Do not assume a high or low level of English fluency.
 - d. Do not assume a high or low level of literacy in their native language and/or English.
5. Establish procedures to obtain relay interpretation if needed – a sign language interpreter and a spoken language interpreter.
6. Develop procedures to obtain other assistive technologies, such as Computer Assisted Realtime Transcription (CART) for the deaf, deaf-blind and/or hard of hearing individual.
7. Learn to work with sign and spoken language interpreters, and how relay interpretation and assistive technologies work.

Source: [Language Hub - Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence Website](#)

**Meaningful
Access:
What does this
mean to you?**



The background is a solid orange color. In the upper right quadrant, there are several decorative elements: a small circle with a white arrow pointing right, a larger circle with a white arrow pointing right, and another small circle with a white arrow pointing right. The text is centered on the left side of the slide.

Interpretation and translation are tools of cross-language and cross-race work... They can be used to maintain the status quo of power and privilege between peoples or they can be used to transform race relationships and empower marginalized groups.

—Alice Johnson

Resources

<https://highlandercom.com/>

<https://antenaantena.org/language-justice/>

[Language Access and Language Justice Course sponsored by Futures Without Violence:](#)

[The Importance of Language Access | National Sexual Violence Resource Center \(NSVRC\)](#)

[Lessons on Access and Justice blog](#)

[Strategies for Supporting Bicultural and Bilingual Staff \(pcar.org\)](#)

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence, LANGUAGE HUB <https://api-gbv.org/language-hub/>

[The language of Justice](#), educational video: <https://youtu.be/eehK2Rx4WHo>

Link to webinar: [Language Connections: Tips to Create, Maintain, and Present Non-English Digital Content](#)

NM Judiciary, Administrative Office of the Courts [Language Access Plan](#)

NM Courts LEP plan for relevant data: [Language Access Plans | Language Access Services \(nmcourts.gov\)](#).

[Interpreter Language Services | Patients & Visitors | UNM Health System | Albuquerque, New Mexico](#)

[The Four Roles of the Interpreter | Kiskeya Translations, Interpretations, & Support Services](#)
