

Abstract

Language Justice: an evolving framework for fundamental language rights and equal access

In the US, language rights stems from Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 13166 which created affirmative obligations on state entities to ensure interpretation and translation for individuals with a limited proficiency in English. While these rights have been in existence for over twenty years, they have often been overlooked in civil rights discourse. Now, as the immigrant population continues to expand with not only a growing number but diversity of immigrants, language rights advocates are reexamining language access under an evolving framework of language justice.

Bio:

Anisa Rahim is a public interest lawyer, writer and photographer. For more than a decade, she has worked in the area of language rights, engaging in advocacy with the New Jersey court system and other government agencies, and is a longstanding member of the National Language Access Advocates Network (N-LAAN) which works to eradicate language discrimination. Her passion for this area of civil rights law stems from her own background as a member of an Indian linguistic minority which she explores in her creative work. See more at anisarahim.com.