

Being A Member of the Boston Interpreters Collective

Ways to participate:

- Volunteer for interpreting assignments
- Teach English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) at our parent and community language classes
- Participate in a language exchange
- Train youth interpreters with LIPS or our Boston Latin Academy Youth Interpreters Club
- Offer workshop of a skill you have to other members
- Organize or attend a social event or fundraising opportunity for the BIC
- Create multilingual spaces in your work place/social movement space
- Take on a coordinator role
- Come to monthly meetings
- Join on-line discussions

General Expectations of BIC members:

- You will attend at least 5 monthly member meetings per year.
- You will participate in online discussions
- You will dedicate yourself to at least 5 assignments (interpreting/workshops/language classes) per year.
- You will keep your personal information updated with the collective including if you are unable to be an active member for a time (vacation, breaks, etc.)
- You agree to donate between 2-20% of any stipend earned on BIC assignment back to the collective
- You will share your thoughts, ideas and skills with the collective.
- You are dedicated to expanding your knowledge of and fighting for immigrant rights, multilingual justice, collective organizing, popular education, and creating one world where many worlds fit.

Expectations of BIC interpreters

- You will ask for a brief moment at the beginning of each meeting/event to explain who you are and why you are there.

Example: "This will be a bilingual message. My name is _____ and this is my partner _____. We are members of the Boston Interpreters Collective. We are here today so that everyone has equal access to communication, to be able to speak the language of their hearts and dreams. I will be interpreting everything that is said in the room. If there is something you do not want everyone to hear, I suggest you do not say it. Everything said in this room will remain confidential. If you are not completely bilingual, please use the equipment provided. If there is a problem with your equipment, please raise your hand and we will help you. We ask everyone to speak slowly, clearly and one at a time. We may make these hand signs which mean slow down (demonstrate) or speak up (demonstrate). We ask you to help the speaker to see these hand signs. Thank you so much for your commitment to multilingual justice."

- When interpreting, speak in the first person. Instead of "he says...." You say "I"
- Honor the confidentiality of all communications.

- Honor the word of all communications (do not paraphrase or summarize if possible).
- Be clear about when you need speaker to speak up, slow down or stop (including this in the orientation is helpful).
- Make sure the communication is established between the parties and not between *you* and the parties. Interpreting in a social justice context is about providing the communication necessary for each person to speak in their own voice, not for you to speak for them.
- Be clear with about your role as interpreter or interpreter/advocate. If you will be stepping in and becoming involved as an advocate or stepping out of your role as straight interpreter, be clear with all parties before and during those moments. The parties have a right to refuse your role as interpreter in those situations.
- Be fluent in both the source and target language and sensitive to cultural differences.
- When doing simultaneous interpreting, you will have a partner and switch every 15 minutes.
- You will communicate with event organizers to help them understand how to create a multilingual space.