

The

shaw trust

Disability Power 100

2022

Celebrating Britain's most
influential disabled people
and organisations.

100



Agreed this would be all 100 influencers with orgs at the end





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Alternative formats

This publication is available as a printed Easy Read document by contacting PowerList@shaw-trust.org.uk.

It is also available as a digital PDF and Word document at www.disabilitypower100.co.uk.

Disclaimer

All reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that images have been appropriately credited and the profiles, supplied by those included, have been checked for accuracy. Where an influencer has used descriptors of their condition or impairment this has been respected within their text as much as possible, including individuals' preferred use of D/disability and D/deaf.



Welcome from Chris Luck, Shaw Trust Chief Executive

Welcome to the 2022 Shaw Trust Disability Power 100 List. This annual recognition of the most influential disabled people, nominated by the public and judged by an independent panel, celebrates the 100 role models, advocates, campaigners and change-makers across the UK; it is the only one of its kind. It is my great privilege to have Shaw Trust deliver and publish this amazing compendium of influencers.

Thank you to everyone who nominated someone. Year on year the number of nominations grows as awareness of the Disability Power 100 grows. This has allowed us to increase the number of categories to fully reflect the breadth of talent nominated, but our aim is that each year the judges' task becomes more difficult as the number of nominations continues to grow. I am grateful to our judging panel, this year chaired by Caroline Casey, founder of The Valuable 500. The majority of our judges are Disability Power 100 alumni and volunteer their time to read and qualify each entry. To do so they have willingly ceded their individual right to be included in this year's list. They are all role models in their own right and you can read more about them on page 6.

Thank you also to our sponsors, Lloyds Banking Group and Indeed, for helping us make this happen, and I am delighted to see that in their categories of Business and Finance and Digital, Media and Publishing, there are influencers from across their sectors. Long may this be the case.

This year we have worked harder to springboard off the Disability Power 100 to add to the debate about representation. We have shared in a parliamentary roundtable, hosted jointly with the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Disability and the Disability Policy Centre, as part of our public advocacy. There is more work to be done if recognition of the huge contribution that the more than one billion disabled people globally make to society is to directly improve equality and inclusion and work for those with disabilities.

We are a founder signatory to the Disability Employment Charter and as an organisation we want to see the disability employment gap close. We will play our part by ensuring our own employment practices are inclusive and by proactively supporting other organisations to become disability confident employers. Our Disability Equality Network and Neurodiversity Peer Group provide spaces for open discussion, ensuring the voices of those with lived experience are heard and acted upon. We are also delighted to have launched the Disability Power 100 Bursary Scheme in partnership with PurpleSpace. The scheme provides support and mentoring for individuals to set up their own disability peer networks in their organisations. Offering networking opportunities and group support to share best practice, the individuals are encouraged to start, incubate and develop positive internal networks promoting the power of diversity within their own organisations.

At Shaw Trust, we are committed to the Disability Power 100 List being, through recognition and celebration, a force for good that will challenge perceptions and remove the stigma associated with disability. By doing so we aim to reduce the stubbornly static disability employment gap. We want to help change society's perception of disability through the shining example of the Disability Power 100. We see the influencers of today as the role models for the talented leaders of tomorrow.



Chris Luck CB MBE MA MPhil CCMI FRSA
Group Chief Executive, Shaw Trust

Our Judging Panel

The Shaw Trust Disability Power 100 would not be possible without the support and time of our exceptional judging panel. Every year our judges are selected for the knowledge and experience they bring to the role. They have been responsible for many improvements to the lives of disabled people in the UK and around the world. It is fitting that they have now helped select and showcase more disabled people who are using their influence to improve the lives of other disabled people.

Caroline Casey, Chair of Judges

The Chair of the judging panel is 2021 number one and founder of the Valuable 500, Caroline Casey. Talking about the judging panel and process, Caroline says:

“Being one of the judges is a genuine honour because learning about all the individuals who are striving to put disability inclusion on the map and elevating our community’s presence is hugely exciting, moving, energising and hopeful. It is incredibly important to live the change we want to see happen and often that isn’t as easy as it looks. To constantly and consistently turn up and be yourself while driving change for others is often so much harder than it looks. I hope that everyone on this list, can just take a moment to know how much they and their work are appreciated. Huge heartfelt congratulations to every single one of you and thank you to the Shaw Trust for giving these game changers a moment to know how important both they and their work are. Keep trucking legends. Together we are an unstoppable force for change.”

Caroline is the businesswoman and activist behind The Valuable 500, the world’s largest CEO collective and business movement for disability inclusion. She launched the movement at the World Economic Forum’s Davos Summit in 2019 and since then has signed up 500 multinational organisations with a combined revenue of more than \$8 trillion, employing 20 million people worldwide to radically transform the business system.

Caroline sits on several diversity and inclusion boards including L’Oréal and Sky and is a much sought-after speaker. She has received an honorary doctorate as well as multiple awards and accolades for her work as a disability activist.

Jonathan Andrews

Jonathan Andrews is a solicitor who is changing the way disabled employees are recruited, represented and managed. Throughout his own recruitment and employment at international law firm Reed Smith, he has been completely open about his autism, introducing neurodiversity as a strength, and works towards a future where this openness is routine. In 2020, aged just 26, Jonathan was recognised by the Disability Power 100

Our Judging Panel

as the UK's fourth most influential disabled person. He has also been recognised as Junior Lawyer of the Year 2019, the Open University's youngest-ever Honorary Graduate in 2018, a Queen's Young Leader 2017 and European Campaigner of the Year 2016.

Seema Flower

Seema is an energetic, engaging and passionate visual awareness and disability expert. A strategic thinker, with strong leadership, consultancy and project management skills.

She is founder and managing director of Blind Ambition – a consultancy with a difference, aiming to create inclusivity. Seema has delivered training for leading organisations such as Facebook, Microsoft, Marks & Spencer, John Lewis, Kew Gardens, Saatchi and Saatchi, Arriva, Crown Estates and University College London.

Seema is an experienced professional, advocate and disability rights champion who has enthused many people to achieve their full ambition and potential through telling her own story.

Dr Hamied Haroon

Dr Hamied Haroon works as a research scientist at the University of Manchester where he gained his PhD in 2005 in biomedical magnetic resonance imaging. When Hamied became a member of staff he was shocked when all the support available to him as a disabled student suddenly disappeared.

He was involved in establishing the University's Disabled Staff Network in 2007 and was elected its first chair. The network's first proud success was to achieve a dedicated university support service for disabled staff.

Georgia Head

Georgia is currently studying for her master's in special educational needs and inclusion (SEN&I). She is also the South East Representative for the Whizz-Kidz, Kidz Board, a group of young wheelchair users passionate about raising awareness of the issues that affect everyday life.

Georgia is passionate about supporting other young disabled people to gain confidence and achieve great things in their life and better society. She believes everyone deserves and should have the opportunity to feel accepted and included and to access any opportunities they want to take up and pursue.

Our Judging Panel

Cherylee Houston

Cherylee has played Izzy Armstrong in Coronation Street for the last 12 years. She has had five seasons of her memoir-based plays on Radio 4. She is the co-founder of TripleC who run DANC, The Disabled Artists Networking Community with more than 1,300 disabled artists and allies. She won the Achievement of The Year Award at The Women in Film and Television Awards 2019 and more recently The Doubleday Award, from Manchester University's Centre for Patient Experience.

Cherylee started the #TakingTheDis hashtag to promote the different life experiences of disabled people. TripleC is dedicated to changing the way disabled people are included in and access the arts, ensuring the way we are reflected in the media impacts on the way we (disabled people) are treated in society.

Tom Hunt MP

Being diagnosed with dyslexia and dyspraxia from a young age, Tom has used his past experiences to help support children with special educational needs. This is most evident through his work on the Education Committee where he has focused on SEND provisions and SEND diagnosis for prisoners.

Alongside this Tom is the Chairman of the Backbench 1922 Committee on Home Affairs, a member of the Petitions Committee and an enthusiastic member of the Common Sense Group.

Tom Jamison

Tom has been editor of the UK's favourite disability lifestyle publication, Able Magazine, since 2013. He has also become a regular media commentator, doing interviews for BBC radio and television broadcasts, as well as independent and hospital radio programmes; also contributing to the i, Scottish Sunday Express, the Metro website and Travel Weekly. Tom has been a Shaw Trust Disability Power 100 Influencer for 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Tom is widely known and trusted in disability circles, he's worked specifically with disability organisations and events as well as other non-disability organisations, encouraging them to see disability as a necessary part of a diverse portfolio of interests and helping them understand that diversity and inclusion work best as an ongoing concept, rather than as a standalone project or initiative.

Dr Kush Kanodia

Kush is a disability rights and race equality champion, a multi-award winning social entrepreneur and a systems leader. Kush creates systemic change for the inclusion of disabled people, focusing on the intersection of disability

Our Judging Panel

with his portfolio. His portfolio includes health and wellbeing, technology and accessibility, sports and inclusion, and employment and entrepreneurship.

In 2021, Kush led the #NoWheelChairTax campaign to success. Transforming NHS England, by abolishing all disabled car parking charges from 206 NHS hospital trusts, helping 2.5 million disabled people with a Blue Badge to access critical healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Justin Levene

Justin is an international wheelchair athlete who hit headlines around the world when footage emerged of him dragging himself along Luton Airport floor. His campaign for independence and accessibility at the airport was described as a watershed moment for disability.

Justin is also a motivational speaker who trains and mentors other disabled athletes. For the past few years he has been working in Moldova to provide wheelchairs and other mobility equipment, as well as mentoring children in the country. Justin was featured in the top 10 of the Shaw Trust Disability Power 100 2019.

Diane Lightfoot

Diane is CEO of Business Disability Forum, a not-for-profit membership organisation that supports businesses to recruit and retain disabled employees and to serve disabled customers. Diane sits on a number of boards including the Government's Disability Expert Advisory Panel, Work Autism and the Institute of Coding's Diversity and Inclusion Board.

She is chair of the Disabled Students' Stakeholder Group and co-chair of the Disability Charities Consortium. She is also chair of the Challenging Behaviour Foundation.

Kamran Mallick

Kamran is a campaigner for equality and a dedicated advocate for the user-led disabled people's movement. He was CEO at Action on Disability for 13 years where he negotiated a purpose-built home for the organisation, created an inclusive youth service and bridged the divide between big businesses and young disabled adults by setting up supported internships with companies such as GSK and L'Oréal. Before that he worked for the spinal injury charity Aspire. In 2017, he became the CEO of Disability Rights UK (DR UK), the only UK wide disabled people's organisation.

Our Judging Panel

Sophie Morgan

Sophie Morgan is an award-winning disability advocate and one of the first physically disabled television presenters in the UK. In addition to fronting the 2016 and 2022 Paralympic Games live on Channel 4, she presents her own travel series, various consumer and current affairs documentaries including Dispatches, and is a regular panellist on Loose Women (ITV).

Her memoir, *Driving Forwards*, was published by Hachette in March 2022. Sophie is patron of Scope and spinal injury charity Back Up and is on the special advisory board of Human Rights Watch. She is the brand ambassador for Can Am.

Sarah Pugh

Sarah joined Whizz-Kidz in May 2021 as Chief Executive. Sarah joined Whizz-Kidz following six years as Chief Executive of Heart of Kent Hospice. Before this, she spent 15 years leading fundraising teams in charities including Breast Cancer Care, the National Autistic Society and RNID as well as four years in the commercial sector. Sarah is also a trustee of CoppaFeel! Sarah is passionate about ensuring young people continue to have a central voice in the development and work of Whizz-Kidz.

Stuart Robinson

After serving in the Royal Air Force for 14 years, Stuart sustained life changing injuries in Afghanistan. His career within the Armed Forces was over and a new career playing wheelchair rugby beckoned.

He captained the Great Britain wheelchair rugby team at the 2014, 2016 and 2017 Invictus Games winning a gold, silver and bronze medal. He then joined the Great Britain wheelchair rugby team for Paralympics GB and won a European gold medal in 2017 and 2019 and went on to win Paralympic Gold at the Tokyo 2020 games. Stuart also visits schools and other establishments communicating about the effect of teamwork, leadership and motivating others through the power of sport.

Mike Sharrock

Mike Sharrock is CEO of the British Paralympic Association, the UK's largest national disability sport charity. In his role, Mike leads the organisation that selects, funds and manages the British team that competes at the summer and winter Paralympic Games. Through the team's performance at the games, it aims to challenge perceptions of disability and bring about a sustainable change in society for disabled people.

Prior to his current role, Mike was an executive coach, working with leaders from the world of business and sport to support a more conscious form of leadership. This followed a 30-year international business career with BP.

Our Judging Panel

Natasha Trotman

Natasha is an international equalities designer and researcher. Natasha seeks to reframe mainstream notions of equality, equity, diversity and inclusion through an intersectional design lens, spanning multi-modal interactions, place-shaping, investigative play, and policy design for varied audiences, participants and organisations.

Natasha has been selected as a 10×10 emerging Artist by the British Council, named on the Shaw Trust Disability Power 100 2019 and 2020 and nominated for a Genius Within Stereotype Buster award 2021 and 2022.

Jacqueline Winstanley

Jacqueline is best described as a global humanitarian and innovator, with a deeply held and proven conviction to increasing equality of access to life's opportunities through the creation of inclusive environments. She is a recognised international expert and consultant on inclusion and accessibility challenges.

A thought-leader in the reduction of global inequalities, Jacqueline's work is recognised as good practice in the UK and internationally. She continues to develop and implement frameworks and solutions for global cities and communities, especially within the workplace and access to services.



Art, Fashion and Design

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Disability Power 100



Samanta Bullock

SB Shop CEO, Bullock Inclusion Founder,
London Represents Co-owner.

Samanta Bullock is passionate about fashion. A model since the age of eight years old, she has fashion weeks like London Fashion Week, New York Fashion Week and International Dubai Fashion Week on her CV. Samanta is founder and owner of SB Shop, a brand with pillars based on inclusion and diversity, with fashion as a tool.

“Our work is more than breaking barriers, it’s normalising diversity and serving inclusivity as the main dish.”

🌐 londonrepresents.com
🐦 [SAMABULLOCK](https://twitter.com/SAMABULLOCK)
🌐 [samanta-bullock-b0403a12](https://www.linkedin.com/in/samanta-bullock-b0403a12)

Photo by Nigel R Glasgow

She is named on the Shaw Trust Disability Power 100 as one of the most influential disabled people in the UK.

In sport, she won a doubles silver medal representing Brazil in wheelchair tennis at the ParaPanAm Games. Samanta is also the founder of Bullock Inclusion, a community interest company (CIC) that creates social projects in fashion and sport. She is also one of the owners of London Represents, an ethical and diverse fashion show that promotes inclusion.

Ellie Goldstein



Model.

I'm a 20-year-old model with Down Syndrome. I have made history by being the first model with Down Syndrome to feature in huge campaigns with brands such as Gucci Beauty and Adidas. I have also appeared on the cover of Glamour, Elle, Mission and Euphoria. I have worked for many high street brands and also am an influencer. I've appeared in many TV and radio interviews as well as in articles for Vogue Italia, UK and many tabloids and magazines.

My other passion is dancing and performing. I have worked on commercials, TV, fashion campaigns and catwalks. I am based in London. I am also an advocate for disability and use my platform as a disabled model to act as a role model to other people with Down Syndrome and disabilities.

"I absolutely love my job. I love to be in front of the camera and show my confidence and personality to the world."

📷 [elliejg16_zebedeemodel](#)



Jamie
Hale

Artistic Director at CRIptic Arts and CEO at Pathfinders Neuromuscular Alliance.

Jamie is the founder and Artistic Director at CRIptic Arts, and an actor, director, poet and screenwriter.

They founded CRIptic Arts as a showcase of deaf and disabled performers for the Barbican in 2019. Since then, it has evolved into an artistic development organisation which commissions and develops new work, staging it at venues including the Barbican, and creates mentoring and development programmes, with mentors including Amy Trigg and Robert Softley Gale.

Jamie is currently running a year-round programme of workshops, drop-ins, performances, open-mic sessions and 1:1 support, leading two reports on access in theatre and developing the CRIptic Access Consultancy as part of their commitment to change the landscape of the arts.

Their creative work includes an original television series in development with Gaumont and Channel 4, with others optioned with companies including RED. Their first play, titled I Want To Live, was commissioned by Theatre

Royal Stratford East. They have had work commissioned and staged by Camden People’s Theatre, the Barbican (where their solo show, Not Dying, was staged), and the Lyric Hammersmith. They are currently redeveloping Not Dying, pushing the boundaries of creative access.

They were awarded one of three 2021-22 Jerwood Poetry Fellowships for poets becoming the “leading lights of British poetry”, and Director/ Theatre maker of the Year in the Evening Standard Future Theatre Fund Awards in 2020 for Not Dying.

In their policy career, they work as CEO at Pathfinders Neuromuscular Alliance and Chair of Lewisham Disabled People’s Commission, where they’re passionate about user-led projects and co-production.

-  jamierhale
-  jamierhale/
-  CRIpticArts

Kate Stanforth



Dancer, Model and Activist.

Kate Stanforth, 28, is a disabled dancer, model and activist. Whilst training in the hope of becoming a professional ballerina, she became severely unwell at the age of 14 and never fully recovered. Kate, now an ambulatory wheelchair user, dances and teaches from her wheelchair and is determined to make dance accessible to all. Kate has now travelled the world dancing, choreographed for TV and set up an inclusive dance academy. While her dance academy is relatively new at just over a year old, she has already hired three other disabled dance teachers and enabled over 100 students worldwide to dance who couldn't access conventional classes.

Kate won a Woman of The Year award in 2021 where her work in both the dance and charity sector were highlighted. She set up a charitable organisation, Project Parent, which has donated over 2,000 gift boxes to parents of children in hospital all over the UK. Raising over £20,000 for good causes, and volunteering over 3,000 hours, Kate has been at the forefront of campaigns to support disabled people and their carers.

Finally, Kate works as a model/influencer and has modelled for high profile brands such as Garnier, Starbucks, L'Oreal, Tu Sainsbury's and George Asda. As a passionate activist, she uses her profile to push for better disabled representation and increased opportunities across the sectors.

Kate is also known for her very handsome assistance dog, Spencer. A black Labrador-Retriever who has a love for carrots and deserves a mention!

"I believe that everyone should have the chance to dance."

 katestanforthacademyofdance.com

 [KateStanforth](https://twitter.com/KateStanforth)

 [katestanforth](https://www.linkedin.com/company/katestanforth)

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Shaw Trust Accessibility Services has over 30 years' experience promoting independence and inclusion around the world and online.

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Mike Adams OBE

Chief Executive.

Mike is currently CEO of Purple, a disability organisation intent on changing the disability conversation.

Purple provides products and services to both disabled people and businesses, including the award-winning Purple Tuesday which supports organisations to improve the disabled customer experience.

Mike started his career in higher education and was one of the key contributors in transforming an accessible curriculum alongside the more traditional physical environment. He was a huge advocate for disabled students and the transition into employment.

At the Disability Rights Commission Mike was responsible for strategic development and disability leadership as part of the Senior Management Team.

Academically Mike has an MBA and a number of honorary awards for his services to disability.

In 2012 he received an OBE for his services to disabled people.




Through Purple Tuesday Mike is increasingly working on a global stage to promote disability inclusion for everyone.

These approaches are gaining real traction and he recently presented at a UN Conference on Why Disability Matters.

Away from work Mike is kept busy with his five children, three (including twins) who are under three.

Mike believes the disability movement is at a pivotal moment in history and is determined, with a growing number of people, to change the disability conversation permanently.

“The disability conversation is moving. I am delighted to be a part of that movement. For disabled customers. Employees. And entrepreneurs. Developing the capacity and capability of business to deliver disability inclusion is key in ensuring the everyday lives of all disabled people are maximised.”

-  wearepurple.org.uk
-  [purple_mikeadams](https://www.instagram.com/purple_mikeadams)
-  [mike-adams-purple](https://www.linkedin.com/company/mike-adams-purple)

Elaine Boyd

FCCA



Director, Audit Quality and Appointments, Audit Scotland; Chair, ACCA Scotland Committee; and Trustee, Exceed Worldwide.

Elaine promotes inclusion in her work and the accountancy profession. As a qualified accountant, Elaine is active in the profession in her role as the Chair of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants' (ACCA) Scotland Committee and membership of the Financial Reporting Council's stakeholder insight group.

Elaine's career has focused on public sector finance, initially in the NHS and for the last 20 years at Audit Scotland, the public sector spending watchdog. She is currently the Director of Audit Quality and Appointments and is responsible for annual reporting of quality standards on more than £50 billion of annual spending.

She is a trustee of the charity Exceed Worldwide that supports people with disabilities living in poverty by providing free prosthetic and orthotic services in south and south-east Asia. Having an ankle foot orthosis herself, Elaine understands the positive impact provision of these services can have on wellbeing and mobility.

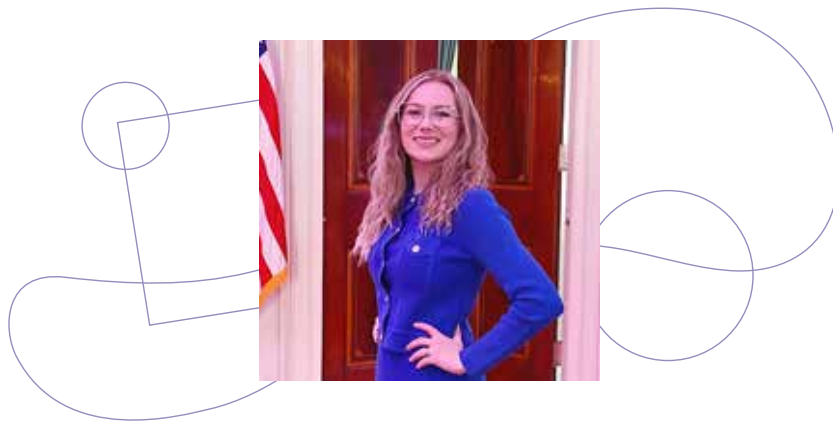
Inclusive and adaptive leisure activities are important to Elaine, and she thrives on finding solutions to barriers that could prevent her from participating in leisure activities due to cerebral palsy. Recently Elaine has taken up cycling and enjoys riding her adapted e-trike with the Callander Meanderers in the Trossachs. Skiing with Disability Snowsports UK is her other passion, and she is a member of the user group which provides views on future services.

Elaine's motto is "Don't be pushed by your problems. Be led by your dreams."

"Having disabled representation on boards is critical to ensure decision making is inclusive. The pandemic has created more opportunities to do this through virtual working opportunities. This should not however dilute the need to improve accessibility for all."

 elaineb59270675

 elaine-boyd-fcca-8765831b9



Keely Cat-Wells

Founder and President of C Talent at Whalar.

Keely is an entrepreneur and Disability activist, making social, systemic and economic change. As the founder and president of C Talent, Keely has been named a One Young World Entrepreneur of the Year 2022, Forbes 30 Under 30 Entertainment honouree, Diana Award winner, an AdWeek Young Influential, GBEA Young Entrepreneur of the Year and has been appointed as an advisory board member to Lady Gaga’s Born This Way Foundation.

Keely serves as a UNITE 2030 Youth Delegate, is a Forbes Contributor, Tory Burch Foundation fellow and has spoken as a Disability subject matter expert for organisations including LEGO, United Nations, Google, NBC, No Barriers USA (where she also serves as a board member), Cannes Film Festival, The Valuable 500 and Virgin among others.

Keely was chosen as a youth leader at the first Mental Health Youth Action Forum hosted by MTV in coordination with the Biden-Harris Administration and 18 leading mental health non-profits.

Keely founded her first company at a young age during her time in hospital, which developed into C Talent.

C Talent is an award-winning talent management company that represents high-profile Deaf and Disabled talent. C Talent has placed talent in thousands of projects with companies and brands such as Savage X Fenty, Disney, Google Pixel, Subaru, Nike and many more. C Talent represents a roster of artists who have a combined reach of over 50 million people!

C Talent received the 2021 Meaningful Business 100 Award and is an honouree of the Disability Specialist Award by RIDI.

C Talent serves as a founding member of #WeThe15.

C Talent was acquired by global creator company Whalar. This acquisition marks a significant investment and milestone for disability representation.

-  keelycatwells.com
-  KeelyCatWells
-  keelycatwells

Helen Cooke



CEO and Founder of MyPlus.

Helen Cooke is a leading expert in disability employment with a particular expertise in student recruitment. Her vision is to ensure that having a disability or long-term health condition doesn't prevent anyone from having the career that they want to have.

In 2006 Helen founded MyPlus, a consulting business focused on helping organisations realise the potential and possibilities of hiring and investing in disabled individuals. She then launched the MyPlus Recruiters' Club offering specialist training and interactive disability focused events for employers. MyPlus is a Valuable 500 Directory member and a government Disability Confident Leader.




Wishing to motivate and raise aspirations of young disabled individuals Helen launched www.myplusstudentsclub.com, providing them with the support, advice and confidence to find work opportunities, and connect them with employers via the website and through industry focused careers events. The website won 'Best Innovation in Online Recruitment' at the 2021 National Online Recruitment Awards.

MyPlus also works with universities to provide them with expert resources to support their disabled students as they transition from education into employment.

Helen was a commissioner for the UK Centre for Social Justice's Disability Commission in 2020 and is listed on Cranfield University's School of Management Women to Watch for 2021.

Helen's unique approach comes from her expertise in HR and graduate recruitment, having previously worked for Marks & Spencer and Mars, combined with her first-hand experience of living with a disability; Helen is a wheelchair user as a result of a childhood spinal injury.

Beyond MyPlus, Helen works extensively with disabled individuals through the Back Up Trust, an organisation which supports people with spinal cord injuries where she is a trustee and runs their popular Back Up to Work courses.

-  [myplusvoice](#)
-  [myplusconsulting.com](#)
-  [myplusstudentsclub.com](#)



Steve Dering

Operations Director at Direct Access Consultancy Limited.

Profoundly deaf since birth, Steve is the Operations Director for international award-winning accessibility consultancy Direct Access. Since joining Direct Access in 2017, Steve has developed innovative partnerships with local organisations and communities around the world to share British expertise and best practices in accessibility and inclusion. Direct Access has a diverse portfolio of clients covering multiple industry sectors with specialisms in transportation, education and tourism.

-  directaccessgp.co.uk
-  [DirectAccessGp](#)
-  [stevedering](#)

Steve is also undertaking a ground-breaking PhD research programme with the University of Glasgow into accessible urban spaces in a post-pandemic world. The research is designed to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on accessibility of urban spaces for D/deaf and disabled people. It is considering the implications of restrictions and emerging government guidance that disrupts established accessibility guidance and thinking on accessible environments.

Dr Nancy Doyle



Founder/Chief Research Officer at Genius Within CIC/ Centre for Neurodiversity Research at Work.




Dr Nancy Doyle is a chartered psychologist in organisational and occupational psychology, and the founder and owner of Genius Within CIC, a social enterprise dedicated to facilitating neurodiversity inclusion through consultancy, talent assessment, workshops and coaching for businesses. Nancy works with customers in finance, technology and defence towards a future where all neurominorities are able to maximise their potential and work to their strengths.

Work is such an important part of society and identity, and with the challenges the world faces we need the full range of human capability focused and included.

Nancy co-created and featured in both series of the award-winning BBC Two programme *Employable Me*, where she supported a group of extraordinary job seekers to unlock their own unique talents and abilities in order to secure employment. Nancy is a Forbes columnist and international speaker on the topic of Neurodiversity at work.

Nancy is a research fellow with Birkbeck, University of London having completed her doctoral research at City, University of London. Nancy advises NGOs, international and national civil servants and political groups on how to improve disability inclusion. In 2019, she was recognised by the British Psychological Society with an award for her contribution to Policy Impact in Occupational Psychology.

“We all lose when human potential is squandered.”

 NancyDoylePsych
 nancy-doyle-phd-0887767
 forbes.com/sites/drnancydoyle



Mark
Esho MBE

Entrepreneur.

Mark Esho graduated from De Montfort University in 1994 after obtaining an MBA in Business Administration. Though a master's degree is a notable achievement for most people, for Mark this marked the culmination of years of hard work, battling against the many obstacles that got in his way.

When Mark was five years old, he went from a happy, carefree child to becoming paralysed overnight. He had contracted the poliovirus, which by that point should have been eradicated from the UK. He was initially given a 10% chance of survival but not only did he survive - he thrived.

Mark has overcome what others might perceive as insurmountable obstacles to become the man he is today. His positive, can-do mindset has meant that not only did he finish his studies and graduate from De Montfort, but he went on to become the founder of several successful businesses - Easy Internet Services, a digital marketing agency; Easy Internet Solutions, a web hosting company; Dreme, a property investment company; and, in 2019, Access Rating, a Community Interest Company (CIC). In February

2022, Mark launched The Circle Foundation, a brand new project supporting disabled entrepreneurs wanting to start up in business.

In 2018 Mark's autobiography, *I Can. I Will.* became a number one bestseller on Amazon. He was highly commended in the IoD Director of the Year (SME) 2016 awards, in 2019 winner of the IoD Director of the Year (East Midlands) and East Midlands Leadership Awards Winner. Mark was honoured by the Queen in 2022 with an MBE for services to business.

He now spends his time running his foundation and public speaking at events.

“Having the right attitude and mindset is the key to achieving the impossible.”

 easy-internet.co.uk

 [mark_esho](https://www.instagram.com/mark_esho)

 [markesho](https://www.linkedin.com/in/markesho)

Maria Grazia Zedda



Senior Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Manager for the workforce at High Speed Two Ltd.

Maria is originally from Italy but has lived in the UK for over 30 years and lives in London with her husband and two daughters. Maria considers herself a disabled person and is severely deaf, and uses captioning, lipreading and other adjustments to communicate with others. She is an award-winning motivational speaker on disability, diversity and inclusion, and author of a novel on disability and intersectional inclusion published in 2022 in Italy.

She's currently the Senior Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Manager for the workforce at High Speed Two Ltd (HS2). She led HS2 to be the first organisation to achieve Platinum Status on Clear Assured EDI Accreditation in 2019. This year Maria and EDI stakeholders at HS2 crafted and launched the organisation's Accessibility Strategy, which is unique in construction and engineering industries. Maria advises on strategic planning and delivering EDI goals, developing internal and external partnerships, training frontline staff, senior managers and executives, and speaking at large events.

Maria also manages HS2's reverse mentoring programme and works closely with human resources teams to ensure that the organisation recruits and retains their people inclusively through best practice.

Maria is a qualified disability access advisor with 15 years' experience in accessibility and design of the built environment, train stations and train design. Maria delivers equality analysis and impact assessments of policies, procedures, programmes and data.

Maria is currently learning British Sign Language (BSL) as her third language. Maria's aspiration is to help destigmatise "disability".

"Diversity is a matter of fact, it's what we are, what we do, but inclusion is what makes a difference. It makes a difference because when people feel included and safe, then they're able to do their best work. Diversity per se doesn't really matter; what really matters is a sense of belonging."

 mariagraziazedda



Matt Hampson OBE

Matt Hampson Foundation Founder.

Since his accident in 2005 during an England Under 21 rugby training session, Matt has battled hard to live as normal a life as possible. Paralysed from the neck down and breathing via a ventilator, Matt didn't lament what he'd lost, but instead decided to focus on the things he could still do and get busy living. He established the Matt Hampson Foundation in 2011 to help others like him who have suffered similar catastrophic injuries through sport to receive the support they need to rebuild their lives.

Matt delivers inspirational talks to young people in schools, universities and businesses around the country. He is also heavily involved with running the Foundation's Get Busy Living Centre which provides expert physiotherapy, specialist personal training, mentorship, advice and support to others that have suffered life-changing injuries.

Matt's book, Engage, describes the circumstances surrounding his accident and subsequent rehabilitation. It received critical acclaim and won a sports book of the year award.

Matt was awarded an OBE in the Queen's 2021 New Year Honours List for his incredible achievements.

If anyone epitomises the Foundation's ethos of 'Get Busy Living' it is Matt Hampson.

"Get Busy Living comes from the film Shawshank Redemption. After my injury it really resonated with me. Was I going to give up and be miserable or was I going to focus on what I could still do and enjoy my life regardless? I chose the latter."

 matthampsonfoundation.org

 [Hambofoundation](#)

 [matthampsonfoundation](#)

Natalie
Hiller



Accountant and Co-Chair of Disability Awareness Network at PwC.

As volunteer national Co-Chair of PwC's Disability Awareness Network (DAWN) and a chartered accountant in the firm's deals practice, Natalie's driving passion is challenging the perception that disabled people cannot succeed in accountancy.

Leading a community of more than 700 members, Natalie works closely with PwC's inclusion team to champion disability inclusion. In January 2022, Natalie recorded a video resource for use in a pilot workshop for a 600-person business unit. Natalie used her lived experience to talk passionately about how her mobility and dexterity disability affects her, and strengths associated with disability. Natalie's contribution is influencing PwC's approach to awareness-raising via story-sharing.

Natalie also draws on her individual experience for community events. She was a panellist during an event on Disability Allyship in September 2021. Natalie was a question facilitator at PwC's Digital Accessibility event, held with Microsoft for IDPD 2021.

Natalie has been able to leverage her inclusion on the 2021 Disability Power 100 to reach new audiences with her message about changing perceptions. She featured in an article by the Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales (ICAEW) in November 2021. Passionate about encouraging disabled students to join accountancy, Natalie was included in the ICAEW's Global Student Recruitment campaign, and the annual publication of her alma mater, Van Mildert College, Durham University.

Natalie is also making strides in her professional work, recently gaining the ICAEW Certificate in Insolvency. In this and as DAWN leader, Natalie is role modelling success as a disabled person in accountancy.

 natalie-hiller



Steve Ingham CBE

Chief Executive Officer at PageGroup.

Steve Ingham CBE serves as Chief Executive Officer of PageGroup, having joined Michael Page in 1987 as a consultant with Michael Page Marketing and Sales, working his way up through the business. Steve was appointed CEO in April 2006.

As CEO, Steve oversees a global business with a headcount of almost 8,500 employees across 37 countries. As a worldwide leader in specialist recruitment with a current market capitalisation approaching £2 billion, Steve understands what it is to create opportunity for people, regardless of location or background.

Since becoming a wheelchair user after a near-fatal skiing accident in March 2019, Steve’s perspective on how he can unlock hidden talent, enabling employers to nurture diverse organisations built on an inclusive, winning mindset, has changed. He has since campaigned for greater inclusivity for disabled people in the workforce and advocates for the introduction of mandatory workforce reporting requirements on company disability strategies. Steve joined the Institute of Directors as a commissioner earlier this year

for their commission on The Future of Inclusive Business: Harnessing Diverse Talent for Success. Steve is also chairman of the Corporate Development Board for Back Up Trust charity and was recently awarded a CBE for his services to business and people with disabilities.

Thanks to his efforts, PageGroup is recognised as an award-winning worldwide leader in specialist recruitment by clients and candidates, employees, media partners and more.

-  [steve-ingham-1aa5a86b](#)
-  [page.com](#)
-  [pagegroupceo](#)

Julian
John



Managing Director and Founder at Delsion Ltd.

Delsion is a multi-award-winning equality, diversity and inclusion consultancy that supports organisations to put equality, diversity and inclusion at the heart of their business.

Combining over 20 years of senior level human resources experience with lived experiences of the barriers people can face to be included, Delsion was founded by Julian John to offer a leading-edge approach to driving the culture and people change that makes truly inclusive workplaces.

Julian is listed in the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development's D&I Powerlist, as one of the most influential disabled business leaders in the UK and has been awarded the Institute of Directors Director of the Year for Inclusivity. Delsion made Swansea the first Disability Confident City in the UK and is the first accredited Disability Owned Business Enterprise outside of the US.

“The opportunity for us all, every day, is to seek and support an equitable world where the barriers that disabled people face are eliminated. For me and the work I do, that’s through engaging and educating the business world to ensure that every organisation is positive about potential and where Wales and the UK becomes the leading nation for the inclusion of disabled people in the workplace.”

 delsion.co.uk

 [Jules_John](https://twitter.com/Jules_John)

 [company/delsion-diversity/about](https://www.linkedin.com/company/delsion-diversity/about)



Martyn Sibley

Co-founder Purple Goat and Disability Horizons.

Martyn works at the intersection of business, technology and leadership to drive change for a fully inclusive world. Starting one of the first lived experience blogs in 2009, he's created high quality content, built online communities and started multiple businesses.

Growing up with a physical disability, he's faced many personal challenges, and successfully chased down many dreams! His mantra is 'everything is possible'!

After gaining a degree in economics and a master's in marketing, Martyn started his career at a charity for disability rights. Following his love of blogging and social media, he quickly became a disabled influencer.

He's a published author – Everything is Possible is his travel memoir – an international speaker, media spokesperson, appeared in the LinkedIn TV advert in 2021, and has published many blogs, vlogs and podcasts. In particular, he livestreamed The Daily Sib for four straight months in the first months of the pandemic, interviewing a wide range of disabled people and disability allies.

Disability Horizons was the first disability magazine to utilise online content and social media. Created alongside his friend Srin Madipalli, it's given a voice to disabled people like never before.

Accomable, also co-founded with Srin, disrupted the accessible accommodation industry and was acquired by Airbnb in 2017.

Most recently, in partnership with the Goat agency, Martyn started the already award-winning Purple Goat agency. In just two years, they're working with multinational companies and the best disabled content creators. Giving representation to disabled people in advertising like never before.

“Disabled people still face too many barriers in the world. But with community, great disabled leaders (particularly in the Disability Power 100) and technology at our fingertips, positive change is still inevitable.”

- 🌐 martynsibley.com
- in [martyn-sibley-1227b411](https://www.linkedin.com/company/martyn-sibley-1227b411)
- 🐦 [martynsibley](https://twitter.com/martynsibley)

Charlotte Valeur



Chair, Institute of Neurodiversity.

Charlotte has been a director of eight public companies, including three appointments as chair. In addition, Charlotte has board experience with a range of unlisted companies including international engineering firm Laing O'Rourke, BT Pension Fund and as the National Chair of Institute of Directors UK.

Charlotte is a corporate governance expert and a keen advocate for equality and diversity in the boardroom, underpinning this advocacy with action by founding Board Apprentice in 2013. She is also a professor in governance and leadership at the University of Strathclyde.

A lifelong human rights advocate, Charlotte is driven to play her part in creating an inclusive society; being diagnosed as autistic at 52, she began advocating around Neurodiversity equality and inclusion, working at the intersection of government, industry and the third sector, as well as public speaking. She founded the global Institute of Neurodiversity in 2021.

“I have had a successful career because of being autistic, not despite of it!”

 ioneurodiversity.org

 [kcvaleur](https://twitter.com/kcvaleur)

 [company/impact-of-neurodiversity-ion](https://www.linkedin.com/company/impact-of-neurodiversity-ion)



Jacqui Wallis

CEO, Genius Within CIC.

With over 22 years in board level roles, Jacqui is a highly experienced leader, injecting strength, purpose, focus and energy into her work. Couple that with her motivation, innovative thinking style and desire to change the world, she is a tour-de-force in the inclusion space.

As CEO of awarding-winning social enterprise Genius Within, Jacqui's role is to shape and grow the organisation's inclusion work for the benefit of all within the ND community. In 2022, Genius Within was recognised with a Queen's Award for promoting opportunities.




Jacqui is passionate that neurominorities are not overlooked, and as a Dyslexic and Dyspraxic woman, she personally knows the common barriers that prevent inclusion from becoming a reality, having masked her own condition for most of her professional life.

As an advocate of equity within our society, she understands the positive impact that comes when every individual is empowered to be at their

best. As celebrating those successes is central to her values, Jacqui has injected her trademark energy into the annual Celebrating Neurodiversity Awards. In 2022, the event was live streamed directly from the London Stock Exchange, reaching a combined global audience of nearly 300,000.

Her belief that changing the environment, not the individual, drives her work forward in championing systemic change, where intersectional challenges can be addressed.

Jacqui's comments and contributions are regularly published, and she uses her platform to promote further understanding, and importantly acceptance, of all cognitive differences and their positive contribution to our society as a whole.

-  geniuswithin.org
-  [geniuswithinCIC](https://twitter.com/geniuswithinCIC)
-  [GeniusWithinCIC](https://www.facebook.com/GeniusWithinCIC)

Joshua Wintersgill



Founder and Director, Able Move Ltd.

Joshua Wintersgill is the Founder and Director of Able Move Ltd. In August 2017, an innovative idea was created by Josh's difficulties in accessing air travel as a wheelchair user. In September 2018, Joshua won the UK Disabled Entrepreneurs Award run by the founder of easyJet, Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou, and Leonard Cheshire. Following the awards, Josh and Sir Stelios then negotiated an investment and brand licence deal into the easy family of brands. In 2019, Josh also won Great British Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

Josh graduated in 2015 from the University West of England (UWE) with a 1st Class Honours degree in Information Technology Management for Business. Josh also received an Honorary Master's degree in Technology from UWE, awarded for his contribution to inclusivity for students and the wider public.

Josh advocates for greater disability inclusion across the travel industry, mainly the aviation industry, through his roles in global, national and regional advisory groups.

Josh is also an ambassador for Leonard Cheshire and Spinal Muscular Atrophy and a trustee for Disabled Living. Josh recently spoke at the United Nations in New York at the Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability, on economic empowerment of entrepreneurship and employment for those with disabilities.

Aside from the entrepreneurial and advocating world, Josh is currently training to become a Paralympian and is part of the Great British shooting talent and development pathway programme, with his eyes firmly set on the LA 2028 Olympic Games.

-  ablemove.co.uk
-  [ableMoveUK](https://twitter.com/ableMoveUK)
-  [company/ablemoveuk](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ablemoveuk)



Elisabeth Wooller

Known as Beth Wooller at Sainsbury's, Strategic Sourcing Manager and Chair of EnAble, Sainsbury's Disability Network.

Beth is a passionate disability advocate and leader in the retail sector. She started her career as a management consultant at Deloitte, having graduated from Cambridge University. She is now a strategic sourcing manager at Sainsbury's and Chair of EnAble, the company's first ever disability network which she founded in 2020.

Beth was born with a moderate-severe hearing impairment. She is dedicated to using her personal experience and successes to demonstrate what people with disabilities can achieve. She focuses on raising awareness, increasing confidence and simplifying workplace processes to better support people with disabilities.

Beth has extensive experience championing disability. This includes presenting her story and insight to employers across the UK, at 10 Downing Street, the DWP and the Houses of Parliament, sharing how reasonable adjustments can empower and support disabled people. She has participated in panel debates at disability forums and employment

conferences, helping businesses to see accessibility challenges from a disabled person's perspective to provide a truly inclusive customer experience. Beth is also a 'reverse mentor' and expert sounding board for senior leaders on disability at Sainsbury's.

Beth has featured on local and national media promoting hidden disability awareness and highlighting the challenges of COVID-19 face coverings for those with hearing loss. She is a presenter volunteer for the National Deaf Children's Society.

Beth is currently writing a book based on her positive, practical coaching model which supports readers to navigate workplace challenges and thrive.

 [elisabethwooller](#)

Community Action Individual Influencers

The

shaw trust

Disability Power 100



Ben Andrews

Managing Director and Author.

Ben Andrews is a disabled entrepreneur, activist, and author. For the last 13 years, since the age of 17, Ben has committed himself to working towards a more inclusive world for disabled people, driven by his own personal, lived experience of disability.



This has seen Ben set up his own community interest company, Beyond Empower, to help places #DoItDifferently to support healthy, active lives for disabled people. Beyond Empower has worked with a range of organisations including the NHS, local authorities, leisure, sport, design and infrastructure to create accessible, inclusive communities in which disabled people have the opportunity, and knowledgeable support in place, to lead healthy, active lifestyles.

Ben has a keen interest in this space and regularly posts videos, blogs, and other content to campaign to raise awareness on topics and issues relating to disabled people through his @BenAndrewsINC channels.

Having worked with adults on access and inclusion for some time, Ben now wants to better engage children to think in more accessible and inclusive

ways. He hopes to achieve this through his upcoming series of picture books, Better Places, set for release in late 2022, to help children think about how places can be made better for disabled people. Published by Tiny Tree Children's Books, Better Places will offer a fun, light-hearted and interactive insight into the barriers disabled people face with the opportunity for the reader to put them right. Ben hopes Better Places will inspire the young minds of today to create a more aware, accessible and inclusive tomorrow.

"I'm extremely lucky to be able to wake-up each day and contribute something positive towards making the world a more accessible and inclusive place for disabled people. Thanks to Shaw Trust for acknowledging my work and helping amplify its reach through my inclusion on the Disability Power 100."

-  beyondempower.co.uk
-  [BenAndrewsINC](https://twitter.com/BenAndrewsINC)
-  [ben-andrews-742565b9](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ben-andrews-742565b9)

Martin Austin MBE



Managing Director, Nimbus Disability.

Martin is Managing Director and Founder of Nimbus Disability, a social enterprise consultancy service leading a range of industries by providing practical and tangible support in meeting and exceeding legal obligations toward disabled people.

Nimbus offers a range of services including The Access Card, which is a current recipient of the Queen's Award for Enterprise in the Innovation Category. The internationally recognised Access Card is the only scheme of its type in the world offering a universal and consistent way for disabled people to evidence and communicate their rights to providers quickly and discreetly – including through a range of digital integrations such as ticketing.

A believer in the power of sport for disabled people, Martin plays in and coaches wheelchair basketball squads, including the gold-winning University of Nottingham wheelchair basketball team, and has also represented Great Britain in Para Ice Hockey – the Paralympic version of Ice Hockey.

This passion for the impact of sport led to Martin being a founding member, and Chair of, The Richard Whitehead Foundation which provides sports equipment, opportunities and monitoring to disabled people.

Martin was named in the New Year Honours List 2020 as an MBE for services to Accessibility in the Tourism and Entertainment Sectors.

“I have a genuine and absolute devotion to the social model of disability and this created the foundations for everything that I, Nimbus and The Access Card stand for.”

 nimbusdisability.com

 [martin-austin-mbe-26b87823](https://www.linkedin.com/in/martin-austin-mbe-26b87823)

 accesscard.org.uk



Joanne Austin

Co-chair Ability Employee Resource Group, HSBC UK.

Joanne Austin works at HSBC as a compliance assurance manager. Jo is a passionate advocate for disability inclusion and has been the driving force behind tangible change that has benefited a number of disabled and neurodiverse people within the organisation.

Jo's passion for inclusion is driven by her own personal experience and being a carer for her son and son's girlfriend. Jo has epilepsy, her son is neurodiverse and his girlfriend is a full-time wheelchair user. Jo's drive for inclusivity has been a lifelong endeavour. She was told that both her son and his girlfriend would not be employable but, defying all odds and down to Jo's sheer tenacity, they are both now in full time employment.

She has brought this passion into the workplace. She is the Co-Chair for HSBC UK's Ability network. This group represents 3,000 staff who are either themselves disabled, neurodiverse, carers, parents or line managers to disabled and neurodiverse individuals.

Jo has championed change in the virtual workplace to cater for the needs of individuals who have epilepsy. As a result, the bank has made all its screen savers for 250,000 employees across 40 countries fully accessible. Jo is also collaborating with Zoom to ensure that safeguards are built to ensure that video and other content can be shared without triggering an individual's epilepsy.

"I am driven by my passion to build a better future for those with disabilities. There is nothing more rewarding than helping others and seeing them meet their full potential."

 [joanne-austin-a0a1065a](#)

Vidyamala Burch OBE



Co-Founder, The Breathworks Foundation.

Vidyamala Burch OBE is a mindfulness teacher, author and founder of mindfulness organisation Breathworks. Vidyamala began teaching mindfulness for managing pain and illness following spinal injuries that left her with partial paraplegia. She began to explore mindfulness to manage her condition and she found the results to be life changing.

In 2004, she developed the world's first mindfulness-based pain management (MBPM) programme which is now taught globally by Breathworks and has reached more than 100,000 people. Through her work, Vidyamala passes on the tools for living well with disability, pain, illness and stress that have helped her reclaim a full and rich life. Vidyamala is passionate about making mindfulness accessible to everyone: Breathworks is a charitable foundation that provides bursaries and scholarships to those who are financially limited.

Over the COVID-19 pandemic, Vidyamala and Breathworks created a free toolkit of mindfulness resources for key workers and those suffering with stress and anxiety which has been used by tens of thousands of people

globally. In conjunction with UCL she also created mindfulness resources for people living with Long COVID-19 that is available through an NHS app.

Vidyamala is an award-winning author of three books in 17 languages, and an honorary member of the British Pain Society in recognition of her contribution to the field of pain management. She has also been on the Shaw Trust Disability Power 100 List every year since 2019.

In the June 2022 Jubilee Birthday Honours List Vidyamala was awarded an OBE for her services to wellbeing and pain management.

🌐 vidyamala-burch.com
 in [vidyamala-burch](https://www.linkedin.com/company/vidyamala-burch)
 f [vidyamalaburch](https://www.facebook.com/vidyamalaburch)



Lee Ellery

Web Accessibility Assessor at Shaw Trust.

My name is Lee Ellery and I have Cerebral Palsy which affects all four limbs. I live at home in Swansea with my mum and dad. I am also visually impaired but none of this stops me doing what I enjoy. I use speech software which converts my voice into text on screen which in turn enables me to work successfully and lets me enjoy the freedom of the internet.

Outside of my work with Shaw Trust I am an independent disability campaigner helping individuals and organisations to raise awareness of the issues that affect disabled people. I am able to provide support to run campaigns and help ensure disabled people's voices are heard. I am a confident person and I like nothing better than to speak in a public arena on disability matters as I am not afraid in the slightest of challenging professionals on things that affect people with disabilities.

I am proud of the work I have achieved over the years with a variety of organisations. I am currently working voluntarily on a Disability Action Plan for Wales with the Welsh Government. I also work voluntarily for Co-production Network

Wales. I deliver Disability Awareness Training to students in Swansea University. I am an ambassador for Therapy for Swansea Kids.

I love music and musical theatre and concerts and go as often as I can. I also enjoy family days when my brother Craig and my two nieces Sienna and Olivia come over to spend time with us.

“My message to other people living with disabilities is to be yourself and know that whatever the obstacle, you can always achieve your dreams, as being different is what makes you stand out from the crowd.”

 lee.ellery.549

Dr Cor Hutton BCAC



Founder of Finding Your Feet, Public Speaker and Campaigner.




In 2013, Cor Hutton's irritating cough turned out to be pneumonia, rapidly turning into sepsis and she was given a 5% chance of survival. Doctors were forced to amputate both her hands and her legs. Within four months of losing her limbs, she defied doctors with her progress when she walked a mile through Glasgow on prosthetic legs to raise awareness of the charity she had set up to help other amputees: Finding Your Feet. The charity has changed – and even saved – the lives of many amputees and their families. More than £2,000,000 has been raised to support Finding Your Feet so far.

Cor has carried the Commonwealth Games baton, received the Freedom of Renfrewshire, been given the Points of Light award by Prime Minister David Cameron and is regularly included in Inspirational Women of the Year awards. She was the first female amputee to summit Ben Nevis, complete the London Triathlon in 2017 and became the first female quadruple amputee to climb Kilimanjaro in 2018. She has spoken at events across the UK and appeared on national TV

including The One Show and Good Morning Britain. Cor also has a monthly column in The Sunday Post.

In 2019, Cor became the first Scot to receive a double hand transplant. She campaigns to raise awareness of the need for organ, tissue and limb donors, to spot the signs of sepsis and prevention methods to reduce the need for amputation. She is improving perceptions of disabilities and removing the stigma of being 'different'. Her greatest achievement to date is raising her son, Rory.

“Despite feeling at rock bottom, useless and worthless, with help from friends and family, I managed to claim back a positive life, accepting every opportunity and challenge put my way. My role is to encourage, support and inform others in the same situation, with Finding Your Feet, whilst changing perceptions and conditions for amputees, even preventing amputations, where possible.”

 cor.scot
 CorHutton
 dr_cor_hutton



Beth Kume-Holland

CEO of Patchwork Hub.

Beth Kume-Holland is a consultant, speaker and advisor working to create a more inclusive world of work. She is the founder and CEO of Patchwork Hub, a social enterprise and talent platform connecting those facing barriers within the conventional way of working with inclusive employers through their jobs board, recruitment programmes, training and consultancy.




Patchwork Hub works with companies and partners of every size and at any point in their understanding of disability inclusion, from FTSE 100 companies and Disability Confident Leaders to companies just starting out on their disability inclusion journeys, to collaborations with charities such as The Prince's Trust, and many more.

Beth started Patchwork Hub while a Kennedy Scholar at Harvard University. Her disappointing experience as a disabled graduate led to greater involvement in disability advocacy work. From both her own lived experience and listening to the experiences of others, she realised how many millions were excluded from employment because of needless barriers in the way we work.

Beth has since become an internationally recognised champion and changemaker for disability inclusion, inclusive leadership and accessibility in business. She has worked with business leaders, policymakers and changemakers globally to push for change on issues around work and disability.

Patchwork Hub's work has been recognised through a range of awards such as Business Disability Forum's Highly Commended SME award, while Beth herself has achieved recognition through prizes such as Innovate UK's Young Innovator Award.

Living with complex and chronic health conditions including fibromyalgia, Beth graduated Oxford University with First Class Honours, Harvard University and has previously been employed as a pre-doctoral research fellow at Oxford University, as an analyst at Citi and as audience and market insights lead of a national disability charity.

-  bethkh.com
-  [bethkumeholland](https://twitter.com/bethkumeholland)
-  [beth-kume-holland](https://www.linkedin.com/in/beth-kume-holland)

Ciara Lawrence



Mencap Engagement Lead.

Ciara Lawrence works for the UK learning disability charity Mencap as Engagement Lead and she has a learning disability. Ciara has worked for Mencap for 21 years.

She is passionate about seeing people with a learning disability being positively portrayed in the media and has presented at conferences at Channel 4 and ITV and was recently interviewed about her career on GB News. She is also passionate about making sure the voices of people with a learning disability and their families are heard through Mencap's work. Ciara is a trustee board member for a learning disability charity called the Sunnybank Trust.

In 2019, Ciara had her first ever cervical smear test and made a video about her experience. Because of this, Ciara is now an ambassador for Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust and she is a Get Lippy campaign ambassador for the gynae cancer awareness charity The Eve Appeal.

Last year Ciara started her own online podcast called Ciara's Pink Sparkle Podcast on Spotify. Ciara interviews lots of different guests for

her podcast like celebrities, journalists and campaigners to help change perceptions and awareness of people with a learning disability. She has interviewed BBC Radio 2 DJ Jo Whitley, Channel 4 news presenter Krishnan Guru-Murthy, Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, former Paralympian Anne Wafula-Strike, Disability campaigner Mik Scarlet, singer Chesney Hawkes, Emmerdale actress Samantha Giles, U2's The Edge and GB News breakfast presenter Stephen Dixon.

In her personal life, Ciara got married nine years ago to her husband, Mark. In any spare time she has, she likes singing and spending time with her family.

"I am passionate about people with a learning disability and passionate about changing perceptions."

 ciarale01

 ciaraann.evans

 ciara-lawrence-b3413292



Vicci Livingstone-Thompson

CEO of Inclusion Gloucestershire.

Vicci is a charity founder and CEO of user-led organisation Inclusion Gloucestershire, working to ensure that people facing disabling barriers are valued, respected and included every day and in every way.




At birth, Vicci’s parents were told that she wouldn’t survive, and if she did, she would be severely disabled. What they weren’t told was that she would juggle brain surgery with getting straight As in her teens, set up a charity aged 22, and be a successful CEO of a leading disability organisation by the age of 27.

Upon graduating, Vicci experienced barriers and misconceptions whilst unsuccessfully job hunting. So she created her own opportunities, securing funding to set up a user-led organisation for physically disabled people. The charity grew and merged with a learning disability user-led organisation to form Inclusion Gloucestershire. It now employs over 60 incredible staff (half of whom are disabled), working alongside disabled people to empower, deliver services and provide a strong voice.

Inclusion Gloucestershire works across the south west, delivering community-based opportunities, training, quality checking, advocacy and influencing policy and decision makers at a local and national level.

Vicci brings a value-based leadership style to a high performing, inclusive team that is making a real difference. She has achieved sustainability and considerable organisational growth amidst challenging external circumstances, including funding cuts and a global pandemic. She delivers training and speeches about inclusion, appearing on ITV News to discuss the benefits of diversity in business, and regularly contributes to campaigns, articles and interviews.

“I was named Victoria in the hope that I would be victorious and survive. But I didn’t just survive, I thrived, and it is my mission to ensure that all people facing disabling barriers have the opportunity to thrive too!”

-  [vicci-livingstone-thompson-4075b051](https://www.linkedin.com/company/vicci-livingstone-thompson-4075b051)
-  [inclusiongloucestershire.co.uk](https://www.inclusiongloucestershire.co.uk)
-  [InclusionGlos](https://twitter.com/InclusionGlos)

Samantha Renke



Actress, Presenter, Speaker, Writer and Disability Rights Campaigner.

Samantha Renke is an actress, presenter, speaker, writer and disability rights campaigner. Her credits include Morning Live (BBC One), Sunday Morning Live (BBC One), Rip Off Britain (BBC One), Loose Women (ITV), Good Morning Britain (ITV), Jeremy Vine on 5 (Channel 5), The Disability Paradox (BBC Four), Front Row (BBC Radio 4) and Word Of Mouth (Radio 4). She has also been interviewed on ITV News, Channel 4 News, Channel 5 News, Sky News and Radio 5 Live.

Samantha is a columnist for the Metro and has written for The Huffington Post and PosAbility magazine. She also featured in the highly successful series of adverts for Maltesers based on real-life experiences of disabled people and has collaborated with brands such as Amazon Prime Video.

She has spoken at events for organisations such as the National Education Union, Houses of Parliament, and the British Red Cross and is the disability lead for Paramount (formerly VIACOM).

Samantha is an ambassador for Scope and patron of Head2Head Theatre. She has been recognised in Shaw Trust's Disability Power 100 since 2018, was nominated as Campaigner of the Year in the 2019 European Diversity Awards and Celebrity of the Year in the 2020 National Diversity Awards.

She is a guest speaker in this year's Happy Place Festival and her debut book, You Are The Best Thing Since Sliced Bread, was published in July by Penguin Books under its Happy Place Books imprint, which is curated by Fearn Cotton.




 samantharenkeofficial.com
 [samantharenke](https://twitter.com/samantharenke)
 [samantharenke](https://in.linkedin.com/in/samantharenke)

Photo by Nicky Johnston



Kiera Roche

Founder and CEO, LimbPower.

Kiera Roche became an amputee in 2001. As an active person Kiera wanted to resume her normal life as soon as possible but found many barriers to achieving this. There was a lack of support services once a patient left the rehabilitation service and a lack of access to suitable exercises, physical activity, sports and suitable equipment for the everyday amputee and people with limb differences. Over the last 21 years, Kiera has worked tirelessly to uncover gaps in access and delivery and then worked with her incredible charity team and partner organisations to fill these gaps through campaigning, research, video and traditional paper resources and through programmes and events.

Some of the highlights have included:

- Supporting thousands of children, young people and adults with limb difference through the rehabilitation process and into PE, exercise and sport.
- LimbPower becoming a National Disability Sports Organisation in 2014 recognised by Sport England and the Activity Alliance.
- Administering the Children’s Prosthetic Fund on behalf of

the Department of Health. Over 550 children have received activity limbs for school PE and community activity.

- Campaigning with Otto Bock to give patients access to microprocessor knees through the NHS.
- Supporting the creation of the Amputee Moving Medicine Module.
- Working with Starworks on children’s research to get the latest technology to the patient.
- Creating the Residual Limb and Phantom Limb Pain Community with the online research community Stuff that Works.
- Creating the reVAMP 12-week fitness and nutrition programme with Paralympian and personal trainer Jack Evers.
- Working with the Youth Sport Trust to create resources for school PE.

“Start the changes you want to see happen and encourage other people to join you, this is how one small step becomes a movement.”

- limbpower.com
- [kieraroche](https://twitter.com/kieraroche)
- [kiera-roche](https://www.linkedin.com/company/kiera-roche)

Cristina Serrão



Lived Experience Ambassador.

Cristina Serrão joined the NHS in 2018 as London's first musculoskeletal patient director based at University College London Hospitals. Since early 2020, she has been the Lived Experience Ambassador in the national experience of care team, in the experience, participation and equalities division of NHS England.




She nationally champions both the promotion of co-production and the active involvement of people using health and care services and their carers in all aspects of the planning, design, and delivery of care. Cristina has a strong passion for justice and health inequalities to be faced head on and believes we should treat the whole person, supporting their physical, mental health and social care needs.

On a personal level, she is a strong believer in supported self-management of both physical and mental health, because of her own multiple chronic health conditions and disabilities. She is now also an unpaid carer while having a carer herself. Cristina spent most of the last two years shielding due to being in the highly vulnerable to COVID-19 list.

While shielding, DJ #LadyLXA emerged on www.lemonade.radio, a not-for-profit online radio station which Cristina founded. At night DJ #LadyLXA can be found discussing difficult topics on air around physical and mental health, including her triggered PTSD.

Internationally she is a member of the Global Patient Family Advisory Board (GPFAB) at The Beryl Institute (www.theberylinstitute.org) and is also a member of the Health Improvement Alliance Europe (HIAE) Equity Workgroup at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (www.ihl.org).

“Where there is a will, there is a way.
When there is a way – there is Cristina!”




 [cristina-serrao](#)
 [acserrao76](#)
 [acserrao76](#)



Claire Walters

Chief Executive of Bus Users UK and Disability and Access Ambassador for the Bus Industry.

Claire Walters joined Bus Users UK as Chief Executive in 2012. A champion of social inclusion, Claire has transformed Bus Users into a leading voice for accessible transport. Under her leadership, Bus Users is now a registered charity, an approved alternative dispute resolution body for bus and coach passengers, the nominated body for complaints under passenger rights in Bus and Coach Regulation, and a founding member of the Sustainable Transport Alliance. As a leader in her field, Claire has recently become disability and access ambassador for the bus industry.

-  bususers.org
-  [BusUsersUK](https://twitter.com/BusUsersUK)
-  [BusUsersUK](https://facebook.com/BusUsersUK)

“Buses, more than any other form of transport, reduce social inequality, exclusion and isolation and nobody should be left behind. We need to work with disabled people to understand and overcome barriers to travel because improving transport for some, improves transport for all.”

Mark Webb



Shadow Board Member, Reflect.

Mark Webb is a public speaker and campaigner for all things disability and diversity. He is a shadow board member at Reflect, the UK's only not-for-profit influencer talent management agency. Until recently and medical retirement, he was Head of Communications at Shift.ms, the worldwide social network for people impacted by Multiple Sclerosis.

He is disability lead at the PRCA – the biggest body for PR practitioners – where he runs a podcast called 'Disability@TheTable'. He also curates the 'TEDxKingston' line-up. He is a regular on TV news, and last year appeared in the We Are Undefeatable TV ad.

Mark previously held senior comms roles at Dixons Retail plc, David Lloyd Leisure, The Walt Disney Co and Disneyland Paris.

He's a self-confessed social media floozy. He plays Wheelchair Rugby. Really badly.

"I have led a blessed and rich life. Just half of it with a pesky disability."

 onemanandhiscatheters.com

 [mark-webb-42b9124](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mark-webb-42b9124)

 [MarkWebb_](https://twitter.com/MarkWebb_)

Community Action Groups and Organisations

The

shaw trust

Disability Power 100

AccessAble



Access Guides Publisher.

AccessAble takes the risk out of going out, giving you the detailed information you need to work out if a place is going to be accessible to you. Our detailed access guides tell you all about a venue's access. They are 100% facts, figures and photographs.

Everyone's accessibility needs are different, which is why having detailed, accurate information is so important.

We've worked with over 1,500 groups of disabled people over the last 20 years to establish a survey methodology and content approach to capture the information disabled people say is important when deciding whether or not to try somewhere new. We involve thousands of people each year in developing our service.

We send our trained surveyors to rigorously survey every single place in person. Surveyors aren't there to rate a venue or say if they think access is 'good' or 'bad', they are there to collect the facts people have told us are important. We've surveyed tens of thousands of venues across the UK and Ireland, including shops, pubs, restaurants, cinemas, theatres,

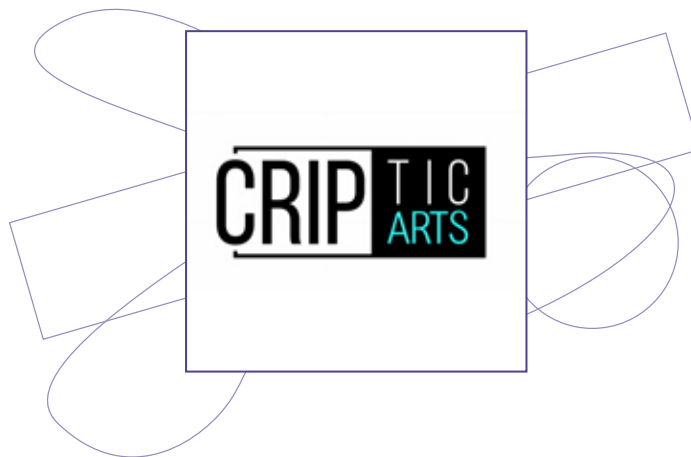
railway stations, hotels, colleges, universities, hospitals and more.

Keeping your accessibility guides up to date is a big job, and we use an ISO9001 quality approved process to do that. Last year we called 75,000 venues to review the information and sent surveyors back to update places that had made changes.

Check out the facts, and explore the details, before you leave home or on the move using our website and app.

Visit www.AccessAble.co.uk or download the AccessAble App from the Apple Store or Google Play Store.

-  AccessAble.co.uk
-  [AccessAbleUK](https://twitter.com/AccessAbleUK)
-  [company/accessableuki](https://www.linkedin.com/company/accessableuki)



CRIPtic Arts

Artistic Development and Support Hub.

CRIPtic Arts was founded by Jamie Hale in 2019 as a showcase of deaf/disabled artists at the Barbican. Jamie recognised that the arts would never be accessible for them if they didn't build and then pass accessible opportunities forward.

The work created is exceptional, designed by teams of deaf and disabled creatives exploring new possibilities of creative access from captioning to BSL translation, and has resulted in a second high-profile showcase at the Barbican.

Deaf and disabled people in the arts face enormous discrimination, marginalisation, and underemployment. As a disabled-led organisation, CRIPtic Arts is changing the industry by cultivating opportunities for artists at all points in their career – whether they want advice on their first work or are a high-profile creative. The organisation also creates work by only contracting deaf and disabled people – unless completely unavoidable – and finding ways of supporting people into bigger opportunities.

In two years, CRIPtic Arts has become one of the leading disability arts organisations in the UK. Its work is built in direct response to the needs of the community it serves and is characterised by a boundless determination to create opportunities, build communities and dismantle barriers to access.

The organisation carries out research into the barriers deaf and disabled people face in the arts. Then leads campaigns to overcome these. This is complemented by CRIPtic Arts training and development programmes, which include community workshops for isolated people and a ten-month development programme.

“Deaf and disabled people face constant marginalisation within the arts world. CRIPtic counters that, with our work to change the industry, develop creatives, and produce world-class work – because we have got what it takes to do that.”

-  cripticarts.org
-  [cripticarts](https://twitter.com/cripticarts)
-  [CRIPticArts](https://www.facebook.com/CRIPticArts)

Disabled Students UK



Disabled Persons Organisation.

Founded in 2020, Disabled Students UK (DSUK) has quickly become the largest disabled student-led organisation in the UK, with students from over 60 universities. The organisation empowers students to share their insight into accessibility with the goal of driving policy change.




DSUK has built a reputation as an evidence-based organisation. Their 2020 report, which warned the sector about the impact of the pandemic on disabled students, was mentioned in parliament and they are regularly approached for consultation by MPs and bodies such as UCAS. They have been invited to speak for the All-party Parliamentary Group for Disability, Westminster Higher Education Forum and most recently delivered the keynote for the 2022 Advance HE EDI conference.

Their most recent report brings together the voices of over 300 disabled students and presents key accessibility lessons from the pandemic. The report has been hailed as “a model for how we should produce policy reports” by Nick Hillman, Director of HEPI, and as “both seminal and a potential game changer in its review of UK HE inclusive

provision” by Suanne Gibson, Associate Professor of Inclusive Education at the University of Plymouth.

DSUK has a collaborative approach to change and offers consulting and training to universities and students’ unions, disseminating disabled students’ insight. They have worked with institutions such as the University of Oxford and organisations such as the National Union of Students. Their vision is a truly accessible higher education experience, ensuring disabled people equal access to education and the associated societal and self-development opportunities.

“As an organisation run entirely by current and former disabled students, we owe our success to our incredible community of lived experience experts.”

-  disabledstudents.co.uk
-  [ChangeDisabled](#)
-  [DisabledStudentsUK](#)



Happy Smiles Training CIC

Social Enterprise.

Happy Smiles Training CIC is a disabled persons-led social enterprise, made up of more than 90% disabled people with over 60% of their full-time employees disabled people.

They empower disabled people to create positive social change, by delivering inclusive training and projects to schools, community groups and businesses, using their lived experiences. They have positively impacted over 5,000 people, with 100% of audiences recommending their work.

They have been supported by national disabled and non-disabled leaders such as Mike Adams OBE: “An absolutely brilliant organisation helping to change the disability conversation”, and by Lisa Nandy MP as: “A fantastic local organisation led by disabled people.”

Their impact has been recognised by multiple national awards including:

- We Stand Together Awards 2022 – Winners
- Digital Leaders Impact Awards 2022 – Winners
- Great British Entrepreneur Awards 2021 – Finalists
- National Learning Disabilities and Autism Awards 2022 – Finalists
- Inclusion on the Learning Disabilities and Autism Leaders List 2021




-  happysmilestraining.co.uk
-  [happysmilescic](https://twitter.com/happysmilescic)
-  [happysmilestrainingcic](https://facebook.com/happysmilestrainingcic)

Photo by Digital Impact Awards

The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme



Non-Visible Disability Campaign.

The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower was created in 2016 when Gatwick airport realised that while they could recognise and support passengers with visible disabilities, what about passengers whose disabilities are not visible? The answer was a Sunflower, on a green background, usually worn in the form of a lanyard and designed to discreetly indicate that the wearer's disability is not visible. People choose to wear the Sunflower to indicate to others that the wearer may need some additional support, patience or understanding.

The Sunflower has rapidly grown to be the globally recognised symbol for invisible disabilities. It is worn by millions of people around the world and supported by thousands of businesses and organisations, both large and small, to support their customers and colleagues alike who choose to wear the Sunflower.

It has been launched locally in the UK, Ireland, Belgium, Denmark, The Netherlands, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Arab Emirates. It is recognised across a broad range of sectors – ranging from retail, financial services, travel and tourism including over 150

global airports, over 450 universities, schools and colleges, all of the UK railway network, supermarkets, leisure facilities, healthcare, emergency services, museums and theatres and over 350 charities. Basically, anywhere people meet, shop, learn, work or travel, the Sunflower has a presence.

Their aim is simply to improve everyday experiences for people with invisible disabilities. In short, to make the invisible, visible.

“Passionate about raising awareness of non-visible disabilities and the Sunflower on a global level.”

-  hdsunflower.com
-  [sunflwrlanyards](https://twitter.com/sunflwrlanyards)
-  [hiddendisabilitiessunflower](https://facebook.com/hiddendisabilitiessunflower)



Able Magazine/ Impact Publishing Ltd

Impact Publishing Ltd produces the UK’s favourite disability lifestyle publication, Able Magazine.

The publication has presented answers and solutions and has been read with real purpose for 28 years; in which time we’ve developed a trusted voice. We continue to reach approximately one million disabled people a year, not least because they experience difficulty finding the range of disability specific features and advice we offer elsewhere.

Impact Publishing is a Disability Confident Leader organisation. Our editor, Tom Jamison, is a disabled person and Disability Power 100 alumnus. Tom hand picks and coaches, often younger, disabled writers, some of whom have become Disability Power 100 Influencers, and the company has a tradition of hiring disabled staff in all departments.




The company is often invited to put forward panellists, moderators and judges such as for the National Diversity Awards, Creative Diversity Network, Remap and independent living exhibition, Naidex, where we are disability media partners, award judges and advisors. We were selected to produce the Special Olympics Great Britain National Games programme

for our skills in celebrating learning (intellectual) disabled athletes. Similarly, we also worked with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles to produce a brochure detailing their models specifically for disabled customers – an industry first.

As the country builds back better, we’re pushing disabled people themselves, as well as organisations, to understand the powerful implications of viewing disability differently and more positively.

Impact Publishing works with businesses and organisations, helping them to understand that diverse inclusion works best as an ongoing concept, rather than as a standalone project or initiative.

“We are proud to be the UK’s leading disability lifestyle magazine.”

-  ablemagazine.co.uk
-  [ablemag](https://twitter.com/ablemag)
-  [AbleMagazine](https://www.facebook.com/AbleMagazine)

Represent @ Co-op



Colleague Disability Network.

Represent is Co-op's colleague disability network, chaired by Natalie Clegg, Gareth Smith and Katy Brown.

Dedicated to creating accepting and inclusive workplaces, Co-op's Represent network was created by and for colleagues in the disability community. Founded in 2020, the network was established after a group of disabled colleagues decided to meet up for coffee and share their experiences. It's now grown to include more than 550 people and influences the way in which Co-op considers disability inclusion, from the support centre right through to food stores and operational activities.

At the forefront of Represent is the disability community, with colleague-led support groups and peer-to-peer mentoring, the community is thriving. Represent is committed to building safe spaces for colleagues to share experiences, ask for support and working together to shape the future of disability at Co-op.

Since its inception, the Represent network has also focused on improving disability inclusion in all areas, from the accessibility of technology to

improving standards and practices across the organisation. Represent has worked collaboratively with Co-op's inclusion team to make sure changes are informed by real people's needs and experiences too.

The community has also built a disability inclusion strategy for Co-op, created by disabled people, and focusing on removing barriers and creating meaningful change. The impact of this reaches beyond Co-op colleagues and is felt by customers too. By amplifying disabled people's voices to bring about change, Represent is putting inclusion at the heart of everything they do, making sure that people are heard.

"I'm proud to lead Co-op's Represent network for disabled colleagues. We celebrate differences, break down barriers, and educate others. We are changemakers."

 [Coop.co.uk](https://www.coop.co.uk)
 [CoopRepresent](https://twitter.com/CoopRepresent)



Start Change CIC

Social Change Organisation.

Start Change advances equality and diversity within BAME communities, specifically issues of intersectionality, by the delivery of an accessible and holistic platform providing help, information, signposting, support, mentoring and advocacy to address race, diversity, disability, poverty, inclusion and lack of opportunity.

Our mission is to promote and increase social change across our society. We exist to empower vulnerable individuals and communities to gain the right tools and attitudes to fulfil their dreams and to contribute to having a socially fair and sustainable society. Start Change supports BAME communities and disabled people to address the sources of the inequality they face through the lens of intersectionality at grassroots, regional and national levels.

We have an extensive UK-wide network, that has been cultivated and nurtured over many decades. The organisation's Executive Director, Julie Jaye Charles (former Chief Executive of ENC), whose personal work and many achievements span well over 30 years, leads an organisation which has something special and unique.

We have been fortunate to be able to be a part of many past initiatives and specialist programmes aimed towards BAME communities and disabled people to empower them, believe in themselves and become active members of their community.

-  startchange.co.uk
-  [startchangeuk](https://www.facebook.com/startchangeuk)
-  [channel/UCKSE-mFc9Bv6TVDJVWijHAW](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKSE-mFc9Bv6TVDJVWijHAW)

Whizz-Kidz, Kidz Board



Kidz Board is a group of young wheelchair users aged 16–25.

Representing regions of the UK, we meet up in person several times per year and online to make sure the voices of young people nationally are at the heart of every decision Whizz-Kidz makes.

We are passionate about challenging perceptions and raising awareness of issues that affect young wheelchair users every day, such as our manifesto topics: Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusion, Education, Employment and Travel.

As a group we want to focus on making sure society doesn't revert back to the new normal but instead works on creating a better, more accessible and inclusive, new now.

To do this we consult with key businesses, industry leaders, charities and community groups to campaign, raise awareness, undertake access audits and focus groups, highlight areas for improvement and collaborate on projects to influence solutions.

We also join advisory boards in a variety of sectors to ensure representation. “Nothing about us, without us.”

“The disabled experience is one regarded with pity, ridicule or neglect, those who do so neglecting the euphoria inherent to disabled joy. Disabled joy being distinct from all of its counterparts in that it comes from having not only survived a world built to destroy us but knowing that our mere existence is its largest threat. Of all the things this joy has given to me, I am most touched by the Board I have the honour to lead. Each member, past and present, is somebody I cherish, somebody I admire and somebody with whom I wish to be recognised.”
Penny, Chair Whizz-Kidz, Kidz Board

 whizz-kidz.org.uk/kidz/kidz-board

 WhizzKidz

 Whizzkidz



Channel 4 Beijing 2022 Winter Paralympics Presenting Team

Ade Adepitan MBE

Ade Adepitan MBE is a wheelchair basketball Paralympian, who won four medals during his Paralympics sporting career. He is now a well-known TV personality, presenting the Paralympic Games for Channel 4 and co-hosting Children in Need. He presented the daily highlights show, Today in Beijing. Ade first appeared as a Paralympics pundit in 2008 in Beijing.

Billy Monger

British racing car driver Billy Monger joined the presenting line-up as an on-screen reporter. This was Billy's Paralympics reporting debut. Billy is an established pundit and presenter for Channel 4's Formula 1 coverage. Last year's Channel 4 documentary Billy Monger: Changing Gears saw Billy dive into the world of what it takes to be an elite athlete.

Ed Jackson

Former professional rugby player Ed Jackson is an adventurer, charity founder, broadcaster, speaker, author, brand ambassador and mentor. Last year, Ed launched his debut podcast, It's Good to Walk, and published his autobiography, Lucky. He has become a regular rugby reporter for Channel 4, presenting the European Champions Cup rugby highlights, and hosting his own highlights show, The Big Tackle. 2022 was the second time Ed presented at the Paralympics, following his debut in Tokyo.

Lauren Steadman MBE

Lauren is a Paralympic athlete who has competed in four games, in both swimming and para triathlon. Lauren competed at both the 2008 Summer Paralympics in Beijing and the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London as a swimmer, before switching to the para triathlon for the 2016 games in Rio where she won a silver medal. At the Tokyo Paralympics, she achieved her 16-year-long sporting ambition by picking up a gold medal in para triathlon.

Channel 4 Beijing 2022 Winter Paralympics Presenting Team Continued



Ellie Robinson MBE

Eleanor “Ellie” Robinson MBE became a Paralympic champion in her debut season in 2016. She claimed a gold medal in the S6 50m butterfly and a bronze in the S6 100m freestyle during the Rio Paralympics. She retired last year after the Tokyo Paralympics and joined the presenting team as an on-screen reporter.

Sean Rose

Sean is a double winter Paralympian and a skiing and water-skiing champion. In 2013 Sean retired from competitive skiing as Britain’s most successful alpine ski racer ever and has pivoted his career to become an inspirational motivational speaker and TV presenter. He joined the presenting team as a pundit.

Arthur Williams

Arthur is a former Royal Marine. He was given his first presenting break by Channel 4 in 2012, and Arthur received rave reviews for his presentation of Channel 4’s London 2012 Paralympic Games as well as being named by BAFTA as a Break Through Brit and nominated for a Grierson award for best documentary presenter for Channel 4’s *The Plane That Saved Britain*. Arthur has also presented and authored a number of leading documentaries on his expertise of military history, travel and aviation.



Education

The

shaw trust

Disability Power 100

Dr Becky Alexis-Martin



Lecturer.

Dr Becky Alexis-Martin is an academic, journalist, and photographer. Her work explores the histories, lives and wellbeing of those communities affected by nuclear weapons, with a focus upon the wellbeing of women and indigenous communities. Among other topics, she has written on the social consequences of thyroidectomies to female Chernobyl liquidators, the experiences of reconstructive facial surgery among female Hiroshima bombing survivors, and the health experiences and challenges of the daughters of British nuclear test veterans and Kiritimati islander communities.


She is the author of *Disarming Doomsday: The Human Impact of Nuclear Weapons Since Hiroshima*, which won the L H M Ling Outstanding First Book Prize and was shortlisted for the Bread and Roses Award. She is an activist for the human rights of contemporary nuclear-affected communities, and an education patron for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Becky lives with several very rare hereditary health conditions including Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome and Carvajal

Syndrome. In the last few years she has survived and completely recovered from a stroke and has successfully undergone multiple life-saving heart surgeries. She talks and writes about the experience of living with her conditions and having a subcutaneous internal defibrillator (S-ICD) on social media to help non-disabled people understand the complexities of living with multiple hidden disabilities, and to support other young people with hereditary heart, joint, and mobility conditions.

“As an academic, it is my honour and privilege to share the health experiences of people who have been affected by nuclear weapons. I feel as though my own lived experience of disability and rare genetic disease means that I can offer great empathy, kinship and understanding to the communities that I work with. I share my day-to-day life on Twitter to empower others with disabilities and to demonstrate that when appropriate support is provided then disabled people can be unstoppable!”

 nucleargeography.com

 [MysteriousDrBex](https://twitter.com/MysteriousDrBex)



Dr Camila Devis-Rozental

Principal Academic in socio-emotional intelligence and service excellence.

I am an author and an academic with over 20 years' experience in education. As a principal academic at Bournemouth University I work with the head of service excellence embedding a positive organisational culture.




I developed a passion for humanising education, and positivity for wellbeing through my lived experience as an immigrant from Colombia, and as a mature student who became disabled in 2005 with a movement disorder, nerve damage and fibromyalgia. This life-changing experience made me a wheelchair user having a profound effect on the way I view the world.

It enabled me to find collateral beauty in pain and to embrace my new reality with resilience, and with a dream to make a positive impact in the world through education. With this in mind, I completed my doctorate in socio-emotional intelligence, a term I coined, and I became an advocate for inclusion and belonging in education.

I love what I do, and my work has been recognised worldwide through various awards and grants for my commitment to education and

widening participation. As part of my widening participation role I developed an online toolkit reaching thousands of Bournemouth University students. Additionally, I am currently leading on a project supporting academics to embed humanising principles within their practice and writing a book on student wellbeing.

I am the wellness expert advisor for the Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust which reaches 22 schools and over 4,000 children, as well as an Equality and Diversity adviser for various organisations within education.

-  staffprofiles.bournemouth.ac.uk/display/cdevisrozentala
-  [CamilaDR17](#)
- [#ChangingTheWorldWithASmile](#)
-  [dr-camila-devis-rozentala-she-her-471b5471](#)

Grant Logan



Founder and CEO, Ability Today.




Grant Logan is an award-winning entrepreneur and founder of digital platform Ability Today, a Community Interest Company formerly known as Disability Today. Grant says of the brand rename: "I felt this was the time to focus on what we can do, and not what we can't!" Becoming disabled 19 years ago after a road accident, he started on a new journey, which led to setting up an online social network for wheelchair users called The Wheel Life, this was before Facebook existed. (Dis) Ability Today originally was created from the frustrations he heard from his peers, not knowing what was going on within the disabled world. Grant's mission was to connect disabled people with news and information that is not always accessible.

In 2020, Grant launched the Academy for Disabled Journalists (ADJ) in partnership with the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) after the success of the Roving Reporter Programme run for volunteers, and now has 50+ students studying for a qualification in journalism. The ADJ is a unique and accessible initiative, empowering today's students to become the journalists of tomorrow. Grant is passionate about inspiring

the next generation and is a strong advocate for inclusion. COVID-19 has created a new world of working from home, Grant's mission is to provide new skills and training for our community to thrive from this, levelling the playing field and creating new pathways to employment.

Now in its third year the Academy is creating accessible courses in other areas such as bookkeeping and SEO training to give more opportunities to disabled people.

"Becoming disabled in my 30s I realised the massive disparity between those living without disability and their expectations of what's achievable, compared to someone living with disability and the glass ceiling that's been forced upon them. Ability Today is driven by my desire to help disabled people gain the same opportunities that most people take for granted."

-  AbilityToday.com
-  grant-logan-ability-today
-  AbilityToday



Stuart Myers

Inspirational Speaker, World At Your Feet Solutions.

I was born on 12 February 1982. Unexpectedly, I was born without arms and the story began right there in the hospital delivery room in Middlesbrough. I try to use my experiences to show others what is possible in life.


Over the past seven years, I have delivered inspirational speeches to audiences of over 300,000 people all over the UK. When I deliver my talks, I explore my life so far in a light-hearted, humorous, thought-provoking and inspirational style. I aim to promote the message that no matter what your situation is, you can achieve your goals.

Through my work, I interact with the audience, and not only invite questions, but challenge audiences to think about their life choices in a whole new way.

In addition to my public speaking business, I also work as a tribunal panel member within three different jurisdictions: special educational needs and disabilities, mental health and social security and child support. I am also a self-employed financial adviser.

Away from work, I am married to my wife Steph and we have two children, Sophie and Daniel.

“Have a go, at everything, you’ll never regret trying something new.”

 worldatyourfeet.org.uk

 [StuMyersWAYFS](https://twitter.com/StuMyersWAYFS)

 [stuart-myers-a54aa358](https://www.linkedin.com/in/stuart-myers-a54aa358)

Sara Rotenberg



Academic Researcher.

Sara Rotenberg is a DPhil Student in the Nuffield Department of Primary Health Care studying how to improve healthcare for people with disabilities through better health worker training. Before coming to Oxford, Sara's research was based in India focusing on improving the accessibility of the Mumbai Metro for people with disabilities, irrigation governance reform, and developing a collapsible, transportable stool for people with disabilities.

A passionate advocate for disability inclusion in development and health equity, she has worked on health and development policy with the World Health Organization, World Bank, the Missing Billion Initiative and Clinton Health Access Initiative. During the pandemic, she has worked on improving access to vaccinations for people with disabilities and served as a Senior Policy Advisor to Health Canada's COVID-19 Testing and Screening Advisory Panel.

After starting her undergraduate studies in Singapore, Sara graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Georgetown University with a BS in Global Health. While at Georgetown, she was awarded the Outstanding Student Award for the School of Nursing and Health Studies and named the school's first Rhodes Scholar.

 SaraRotenberg

Entertainment

The

shaw trust

Disability Power 100

Genevieve Barr



Screenwriter / Actor.

Genevieve is a prize-winning screenwriter and actor. Her TV single, *Then Barbara Met Alan*, marking the passing of the Disability Discrimination Act (which she co-wrote with BAFTA winner Jack Thorne) aired on BBC Two in March 2022 to rave reviews and will land on Netflix later this year.

As an actor, Genevieve is known for her roles in BBC's *The Silence*, BAFTA winning series *The Fades* and Channel 4's *The Accident*. In 2021, she co-founded the lobbying group, *Underlying Health Condition*, with Jack Thorne.

“It’s an honour to be among such awesome and influential people who have worked hard to make an impact in the work they do.”



Cerrie Burnell

Author, Actor, Activist. Disability ambassador for the BBC.

Cerrie Burnell is an author, actor and activist, best known for work on CBeebies, a role which has earned her critical recognition and a devoted fan base. She has broken down barriers, challenged stereotypes and overcome discrimination to become one of the most visible disabled presenters on kids' TV. Alongside this Cerrie has worked closely with a number of charitable organisations linked to childhood and diversity, which she is passionate about.




Cerrie trained at Manchester Metropolitan School of Acting, her credits prior to CBeebies include Grange Hill where she played the role of Miss Green, Eastenders, The Bill, Comedy Lab, Holby City and many plays including Winged: a fairytale, which she wrote and starred in.

Cerrie is the author of 12 children's books including Snowflakes, which she adapted for the stage with Oxford Playhouse in 2016 and the Harper series, which was a world book day title in 2016. Her one woman show the Magical Playroom premiered at the Edinburgh fringe in 2013.

Cerrie has been listed by The Observer as one of the top 10 children's presenters of all time. She is a patron of Polka Theatre, London and The Story Museum in Oxford. She has been an author in residence at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and BookTrust. In 2017, Cerrie was awarded an honorary degree for services to media from The Open University. She became the BBC's first ambassador for disability in June 2021.

"The most radiant and rebellious thing you can do is fall in love with your body."

"Every child deserves to have their lives represented by the power and beauty of story."

-  [cerrieburnell](#)
-  [cerrie.burnell](#)
-  [cerrie-burnell-b463a0173](#)

Tommy Jessop



Actor, Campaigner, Public Speaker.

Tommy Jessop is an internationally recognized, multi award-winning film and television actor who has changed the way people look at life with Down Syndrome.

Tommy was the first actor with Down Syndrome to play the lead in a primetime TV drama, BAFTA nominated *Coming Down the Mountain*, the first to play Hamlet in the original language on mainstream stages, featured in the international Emmy-nominated BBC documentary *Growing Up Downs*, the first to become a full voting member of BAFTA and the first to present a BAFTA. In 2021 he received an honorary Doctor of Arts degree from the University of Winchester for services to the arts.

Television roles include *Line of Duty* (over 13 million viewers in the UK alone), *Casualty*, *Holby City*, *Monroe*, *Doctors*, roles on BBC Radio 4 including *The Archers* and *The Climb*. Tommy's best actor awards include playing a boxer, a thief, a murderer in short films shown in the UK, US and Europe.

In 2021 Tommy created podcasts for *LAD Bible* and *Spotlight* and was featured several times in the *Guardian*,

the *Mail*, *Mirror*, *OK magazine*, and other mainstream media and became an ambassador to Mencap and the NDSPG.

Tommy's campaign for the Down Syndrome Act included a video message sent to every member of parliament, speeches outside parliament, inside the House of Lords and at a reception at the US Embassy, and interviews including on *ITV news*, *Good Morning Britain*, *GB News*, *Times Radio*, *BBC Radio 4 Today*, *BBC Breakfast*, the *Times*, the *Express*.

Tommy has made the invisible visible.

"People living with Down Syndrome need other people to realise that everyone has a gift inside them. I just need to help them dig that skill out and see what each person truly is capable of."

 tommy-jessop.com

 [tommyjessop](https://twitter.com/tommyjessop)

 [tommy_jessop](https://www.instagram.com/tommy_jessop)

Photo by Sophia Spring



Chris Packham

Naturalist, Broadcaster, Author, Photographer.

Chris Packham is a naturalist, author, photographer and broadcaster. He is a biophilic and fascinated with living things. Initially trained as a camera man, he followed a path to on screen presenting.

He is a presenter of BBC's BAFTA award-winning Springwatch, Autumnwatch and Winterwatch series and uses his passion for the natural world to try and inspire and inform. He has been awarded the Dilys Breese BTO Medal for his outstanding work in promoting science to new audiences and was voted Conservation Hero of the Year in the Birders' Choice Awards organised by Birdwatch magazine during lockdown when he started daily broadcasting of the Self Isolating Bird Club. In May 2019 he was awarded a CBE by Buckingham Palace.

He is also a punk rocker, Autistic person using his voice to fight wildlife injustices wherever he sees them.

“Some people say being Autistic is a superpower – I say it's a gift but sometimes when you open it you didn't get what you wanted.”

“Shout above the noise. If you want people to listen to you – you HAVE to shout above the noise.”



-  chrispackham.co.uk
-  [chrisgpackham](https://twitter.com/chrisgpackham)
-  [ChrisGPackham](https://www.facebook.com/ChrisGPackham)

Photo by Jo Charlesworth

Lee Ridley



Comedian and Writer.

Lee is the first stand-up comedian to use a communication aid. He made his first stand-up appearance in February 2012 and took his first ever solo show to the Edinburgh Fringe in 2013.

Lee won Britain's Got Talent in 2018 and the BBC New Comedy Award in 2014. His other credits include Christmas Comedy Club with Lost Voice Guy (ITV), The Royal Variety Performance (ITV), Britain's Got Talent: The Champions (ITV), America's Got Talent: The Champions (NBC), Comic Relief (BBC One), Live at the Apollo (BBC Two), The Last Leg (Channel 4), Comedians Giving Lectures (Dave), Question Team (Dave), Jerk (BBC Three) and The Now Show (BBC Radio 4).

Lee has co-written three series of Ability (BBC Radio 4) which he also stars in. They were shortlisted for Best Radio Comedy in the 2019 Writers' Guild Awards and Best Scripted Comedy in the 2019 BBC Audio Drama Awards. A fourth series has just been commissioned.

Lee was named Ent24's Hardest Working Comedian of the Year in 2019 and his book, I'm Only In It For The Parking, has been published in hardback and paperback by Transworld.

Lee is an ambassador for the charity Scope and is also a patron of Smile For Life, Find A Voice, Communication Matters and The Sequel Trust.

 lostvoiceguy.com

 [lostvoiceguy](https://twitter.com/lostvoiceguy)

 [LostVoiceGuy](https://www.facebook.com/LostVoiceGuy)

Photo by Steve Ullathorne



Lady MJ Warrior

Vocalist. Super Rapper. Educational Entertainer. Advocate.

Lady MJ Warrior is a multi-genre music artist and advocate for invisible disabilities. She creates educational entertainment and original music for the largest corporations in the UK. Lady MJ Warrior has worked for the NHS celebrating diversity. Also, she has been featured on MTV and BBC.

Lady MJ Warrior is a traumatic brain injury survivor and she is incredibly self-motivated. She trained herself out of a wheelchair, utilising boxing and sports.

‘Head Injury Heroes’ is a charitable cause founded by Lady MJ Warrior. Involving interviews with medical experts, supporting patient care and rehabilitation. She encourages individuals to find their inner strength and warrior wisdom. Affirming music is medicine for the soul.

Lady MJ Warrior has written powerful disquisitions for doctors, which describe her ongoing healing journey and methods to assist patients with invisible disabilities. She has created thought-provoking, educational talks about mental health and appeared in features in disability magazines.

As a classically trained, soprano vocalist and versatile rapper, she writes lyrics on an array of topics. It has been a profound honour for her to perform hundreds of shows to thousands of people.

Lady MJ Warrior is a highly ambitious creative facilitator. She has successfully organised charitable music events, such as family-oriented events, alongside being part of accomplished concerts and large festivals.

In addition to receiving award nominations for Best Female Vocalist & MC, she has performed at historical music venues throughout the UK and California; to raise awareness for human rights and equality.

“My musical healing mission is to represent multi-talented, female artists with invisible disabilities. Music is my calling to awaken souls to their greatness!”

- 🌐 ladymjwarriorqueen.wixsite.com/ladymjwarrior
- 📷 [ladymjwarrior](#)
- 📺 [ladymjwarrior](#)




Photo by Gregory Mason

Briony May Williams



TV Presenter.

Briony was the first visibly disabled baker on the Great British Bake Off.

 [brionymaybakes](#)
 [brionymaybakes](#)
 [brionymaybakes](#)

Briony is one of the presenters of *Escape To The Country* (BBC One) and *Food Unwrapped* (Channel 4). Her other credits include *Would I Lie To You?* (BBC One), *Celebrity Mastermind* (BBC One), *House of Games* (BBC Two), *The Last Leg* (Channel 4), *The Great Christmas Bake Off* (Channel 4), *The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice* (Channel 4), *Steph's Packed Lunch* (Channel 4), *Loose Women* (ITV), *Lorraine* (ITV), *Ainsley's Food We Love* (ITV) and *The Jeremy Vine Show* (BBC Radio 2). Briony is an ambassador for *Reach* and *Bristol Mind*.

“I’m incredibly proud to be a part of the disabled community who have welcomed me into their fold since appearing on *Bake Off*. I’ve been given an amazing platform where I can reach those with similar disabilities, especially children.”



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Indeed's mission is to help all people get jobs.

We're working to remove barriers to employment with technology, with the goal of helping 30 million people facing barriers get hired worldwide.

In partnering with Shaw Trust, Indeed has found an organisation and team just as dedicated and committed to our mission of helping people get jobs.





Mani Djazmi

Presenter, BBC World Service.

Mani Djazmi has presented the World Football programme on BBC World Service since 2018. He has covered two World Cups and several Asian, African and South American cups. He once persuaded a female coach in Iran to let him become the first male journalist to attend a training session of a women's team by pointing out that he couldn't see any of them.

"I've been a journalist for 20 years, entirely through my own doing, and totally blind for much longer, for which I cannot take any credit."

 [BBC_Mani](#)

Jessica Kellgren-Fozard



Content Creator.

Jessica Kellgren-Fozard is a British content creator who shares her experiences as a disabled and chronically ill lesbian in a fun, uplifting and educational way. Jessica is an advocate for both the Disability and LGBTQ+ communities, often making videos with her wife Claudia.

Jessica and Claudia are mothers to their delightful one-year-old son, Rupert.

Jessica shares her daily experiences as a deaf person living with genetic disorders, Hereditary Neuropathy with Liability to Pressure Palsies (HNPP) and Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome.

“I want to let younger queer or disabled people know that their future isn’t just about ‘coping’, it’s also about having fun.”




 jessicaoutofthecloset.co.uk
 [JessicaOOTC](#)
 [JessicaOutOfTheCloset](#)

Photo by Kitty Wheeler-Shaw



Carrie-Ann Lightley

Head of Marketing at AccessAble, leading accessible travel writer and speaker.

Carrie-Ann Lightley leads the marketing team at AccessAble, the UK's largest provider of access information, and is one of the UK's leading accessible travel bloggers.

Through her blog www.CarrieAnnLightley.com she aims to encourage and inspire disabled people to travel, explore and discover new places. She started blogging in 2010, and has written accommodation reviews, city guides, collections of expert travel tips and personal posts about her life and work.

Carrie-Ann has responsibility for the management and development of the AccessAble brand. This includes the creation of inspirational, SEO relevant content and developing collaborative partnerships to increase the reach of our service.

In addition, Carrie-Ann has established the highly successful AccessAble Ambassadors (previously AccessAble Champions) network of freelance disabled content creators, which has grown to 30 members in 2022. Members of the network have worked on award-winning projects,

with client feedback stating: "The success of this project depended on finding people who could tell their stories with intelligence, humour, charm, and courage, and every one of you delivered."

Carrie-Ann leads on AccessAble's work with tourism industry partners. In 2021 Carrie-Ann secured a partnership with Visit Scotland, working with them to create accessible itineraries to Scottish regions. The itineraries will inspire and enable anyone with access needs to visit Scotland, whilst giving them the crucial detail they need to work out if a place is going to be accessible to them.

Carrie-Ann is a member of England's Inclusive Tourism Action Group and Manchester Airport's Accessibility Forum. She's a judge for the prestigious Cateys Awards and Visit England's Awards for Excellence.

-  carrieannlightley.com
-  [carrieannlightley](https://www.linkedin.com/company/carrieannlightley)
-  [carriealightley](https://twitter.com/carriealightley)

Selina Mills



Writer and Journalist.

Selina Mills is a legally blind writer, journalist, and activist, giving voice to the lives of blind people both past and present, and creating a new platform for our historical understandings of blindness.

Selina has worked as a senior reporter and broadcast journalist for Reuters (Rome), The Daily Telegraph (London), and the BBC. As part of her time at the BBC, Selina was a contributor to the ground-breaking BBC/Loftus series *Disability: A New History* (2013) which has been rebroadcast around the world. She is currently a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4's *In Touch* programme discussing everything from blind history to audio description. She regularly gives lectures and comments on the history of blindness and publishes articles and essays on the importance and impact of audio description, including the challenges faced by audio describers in action films, such as *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

In 2018 she devised and co-wrote, with Nicola Werenowska, what is believed to be the first accessible opera libretto, *The Paradis Files* (with integrated audio description) directed by Jenny Sealey OBE at

Graeae Theatre company, and music composed by Errollyn Wallen OBE. The opera focused on the life of the blind 18th century composer and musician, Theresia von Paradis, and was premiered at London's South Bank, and then went on tour around the UK.

In 2023, Bloomsbury will be publishing her book *Life Unseen: A story of blindness which examines the shifting constructions of blindness over the centuries, and the impact of these ideas on her own notions of blindness.*

“Blindness is part of all our lives and has been throughout history. My task, as a woman with sight loss, and a historian, is to help find these blind stories left on the hillside of history and give them new life.”

-  petersfraserdunlop.com/clients/selina-mills
-  [millsatwork](#)
-  [Millsnothere?](#)



Dr Amit Patel

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Consultant, Motivational Speaker, Author and Broadcaster.

Dr Amit Patel is a best-selling author, diversity, equity and inclusion consultant, motivational speaker and disability rights campaigner. Amit's committed to supporting a range of charities: he is a trustee for Vision Foundation and Living Streets, as well as being VP of the Talking Newspaper Federation, and an ambassador for the RNIB.

On losing his sight completely overnight, Amit's career as a trauma doctor was no longer practical but he was determined to use his education, training and skills to help others. Today, Amit is an active campaigner for accessibility, diversity and inclusion, speaking out against the issues that disabled people face daily.



Amit's first book, called Kika & Me (published 2020), chronicles his sight loss journey and is in the process of being adapted for the big screen by a BAFTA breakthrough producer.

Recently, Amit has been developing a mainstream children's television series. Starring Amit and his guide dog, Kika, the series aims to educate young

children about how different types of assistance dogs help their owners.

Amit is known as a broadcaster, presenter, podcast host and media personality and is a regular on national and local news. Committed to achieving greater representation of disabled people in the media and as a British Asian with a disability, Amit's media profile has meant that he has become a voice and role model for young Asians with disabilities – proving that despite community and social stigma around disability, it is no barrier to living a fulfilling life.

"I know and trust in my abilities, but not everyone around me does. Sometimes it's society that holds us back, so my advice is to never underestimate yourself. Disability doesn't define you, it makes you stronger in ways others don't understand."

-  DrAmit.uk
-  [BlindDad_Uk](https://twitter.com/BlindDad_Uk)
-  [dr-amitpatel](https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-amitpatel)

Adam Pearson



Actor and Presenter.

Adam Pearson is an award-winning disability rights campaigner, actor, presenter and speaker.

Adam has presented a number of documentaries for the BBC: Eugenics: Science's Greatest Scandal (BBC Four), Horizon: My Amazing Twin (BBC Two), Adam Pearson: Freak Show (BBC Three) and The Ugly Face of Disability Hate Crime (BBC Three). His other credits include Tricks of The Restaurant Trade (Channel 4), The One Show (BBC One), Question Time (BBC One), Celebrity Mastermind (BBC One) and Pointless Celebrities (BBC One).

Adam appeared in the BAFTA-nominated film, Under the Skin, directed by Jonathan Glazer and starring Scarlett Johansson. His other acting credits include DRIB and Chained for Life which was released theatrically in the UK and US. Of his performance, The New York Times described him as "an actor of great charm."

Adam is an ambassador for The Prince's Trust, Changing Faces and Us in a Bus. He also won a Radar Award and a Diana Award for his campaigning work. Adam was previously included in The Shaw Trust Disability Power 100 List in 2020.



Mik Scarlet


Broadcaster, journalist, EDI consultant, CEO of Phab.

Mik has a varied career, from being a professional musician and DJ, TV and radio presenter, writer, journalist, an access advisor, equality, diversity and inclusion consultant and now about to join the charity Phab as their CEO.

Born in Luton, disabled from birth, Mik now lives in Camden Town with his wife Diane. His main aim is to leave a legacy of equality for all.

“I’ve always tried and will continue to strive to leave a positive legacy for disabled people, to ensure they can fulfil their potential and live the lives they wish. And have some fun along the way...”

 mikscarlet.com

 [mik-scarlet](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mik-scarlet)

 [MikScarlet](https://twitter.com/MikScarlet)

Photo by Diane Wallace

Pippa Stacey



Disabled Writer, Presenter and Communication Consultant.

Pippa Stacey is an award-winning writer, presenter and communication consultant based in Yorkshire. Through sharing real and authentic experiences of chronic illness, she has grown a sizeable online community and become a reputable name in the charity sector.

Pippa has a particular interest in inclusive education and employment for people with long-term conditions. Through her work with the charity Astriid she helps connect individuals with meaningful work, advocates for employers to create more inclusive roles and diversify their workforce, and provides bespoke talks and training to organisations about living and working with a chronic illness.

As part of the team at Chronic Illness Inclusion, Pippa is also striving to incorporate energy-limiting conditions into the social model of disability in a meaningful way. She is also part of the marketing and communications team at DecodeME, using her skills and lived experience to champion the world's biggest (and long-awaited) genetic study into ME/CFS.

Pippa is a published author and loves writing for her blog and social media platforms. She enjoys collaborating with her favourite brands as a disabled influencer and working with digital marketers to craft more inclusive campaigns. Through her online content, she wants to normalise less-visible disabilities and ambulatory wheelchair users living their most fulfilling lives.

In her free time, Pippa enjoys theatre, books, and fundraising. In everything she does, her aim is to make the world more accessible for people with energy-limiting conditions, to remove the stigma, and ensure everybody can live the life they choose.

 lifeofpippa.co.uk
 [lifeofpippa_](https://twitter.com/lifeofpippa_)
 [pippa-stacey-54367bb7](https://www.linkedin.com/company/pippa-stacey-54367bb7)

Photo by Timm Cleasby Photography



Kerry Thompson

Changing Places Support Officer for MDUK, Disability Blogger, Activist and Ambassador.

Kerry has a rare form of muscular dystrophy and is an avid campaigner on better accessibility for disabled people and their families. Kerry’s popular disability lifestyle blog is actively raising awareness on all platforms for a more accessible and equal world. Kerry has a unique and engaging way with people, offering suggestions, advice and guidance.

Kerry has been a leading campaigner for the Changing Places campaign to increase the number of facilities around the country. Securing more than 100 in Tesco stores nationwide. Kerry now works for Muscular Dystrophy UK as a Changing Places Support Officer, giving guidance and support to local authorities and trusts which have gained a share of government funding.

Kerry has engaged with her local MP and councillors on issues surrounding accessible housing and sits on the Accessible Housing Insight group and Editorial Panel for Habinteg Housing Association, plus The Ombudsman Housing Panel.

Kerry has consulted with charities and companies promoting diversity and equality, campaigns to improve services and engagement. Kerry acts as an ambassador for Purple Tuesday and AccessAble. As well as helping with their campaigns, Kerry runs a women’s group for The Pathfinders Alliance, a user-led charity group.

Kerry has done many TV and radio interviews and been published in a variety of publications.

Kerry was a finalist at The National Diversity Awards, awarded the Muscular Dystrophy Presidents Award for Campaigner of the Year, BBC Three Counties Radio People’s Diversity and Equality Award and named on the Shaw Trust Disability Power 100 in 2019 and 2020.

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George Webster



CBeebies Presenter, Actor, Dancer, Ambassador for Yorkshire Dance, Mencap and Parkrun; Member of Performance Academy At Mind The Gap Studios.

I am an actor. A dancer. A presenter. A conference speaker. A very positive person. As a young man with Down Syndrome, I want to show that people with a learning disability can be and should be represented more in the media.

I have experience in film, TV, stage and dance productions. As a presenter on CBeebies I have been described as a pioneer. My recent introduction to the channel and my BBC Bitesize piece on myths around Down Syndrome have gone viral with millions of views online. In 2022, I was number 19 in the Radio Times top 100 presenters.

I'm involved in parkrun, I'm also an ambassador for them as well which is loads of fun.

I'm also an ambassador for Yorkshire Dance and have been involved in professional dance pieces through the Talent Hub, Meshdance and Ability.

I'm a member of the Separate Doors theatre company's National Ensemble; and in the four year programme for the Performance Academy at Mind The Gap company in Bradford.

I am founding officer of the National Down Syndrome Policy Group and an ambassador for Mencap, where I am a MythBuster.

I'm very professional, prepared and fun. I am 21 and live in Leeds.

 cbeebieshq
 cbeebies
 cbeebieshq

Photo by India Whiley-Morton



Deborah Williams OBE

Executive Director, Creative Diversity Network.




Since 2016, Deborah has been the Executive Director of Creative Diversity Network, the membership body funded by the UK's major broadcasters and production community. Deborah has led the industry charge to bring disability to the diversity conversation and inspired responses from Jack Thorne who quoted diamond data in his MacTaggart Lecture for the Edinburgh TV festival in 2021. This led to coalitions across borders with disabled led organisations coming together to put continuous pressure on the whole industry to become disability inclusive. Change can now be seen in Hollywood, Germany and Australia.

With over 30 years' experience working above and below the line in television, film and theatre, as well as policy development across the wider creative and cultural industries. She is the architect and designer of the BFI Diversity Standards that were adopted by The Oscars, BIFA and BAFTA in 2020. She is on the board for the anti-racism task force in EU screen and the advisory board for New Dawn - the new filmmaking fund for Europe.

Deborah is known in her own right as an artist provocateur having won awards and nominations nationally and internationally. Her work in theatre is acknowledged as a catalyst for challenge and change in perceptions of disability and difference.

In 2019, she was awarded the Lifetime Achievement award from Inclusive Companies for her body of work in the area of diversity and culture. She is a three-time Disability Power lister.

In June 2022, Deborah was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Birthday Honours List, for services to Diversity in the Arts and Creative Industries.

 creativitydiversitynetwork.com
 company/creative-diversity-network
 [cdnrebs](https://twitter.com/cdnrebs)



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Dr Gregory Burke

Founder and Chair of AccessAble.co.uk; Employment and Discrimination Barrister.

A wheelchair user from 16 years old, Gregory is a multiple award-winning scholar achieving an MA, MPhil and PhD from King's College, Cambridge.

While a student Gregory founded DisabledGo, later named AccessAble.co.uk, in response to a national consultation he conducted as to why disabled people were so excluded from society. 22 years on, AccessAble provides detailed access guides to nearly 400 large organisations including 100+ universities, 100+ local authorities, 80+ NHS trusts and 100+ national businesses. In the last year, 4.6 million disabled people used AccessAble.co.uk. AccessAble employs 80 people, turning over £3 million.

While Gregory was Chief Executive of AccessAble, he trained as a barrister. He was called to the Bar in 2012. By 2017 he was Head of Employment Law at 7 Bedford Row (7BR) leading a team of 28 barristers; possibly the youngest ever head of team. He works predominately on employment and discrimination cases, while remaining Chair of AccessAble. He is recognised in the peer directories as a leading barrister.

Gregory is Chair of Access at 7BR. Recently he has influenced a £3m refit of chambers including an investment of £0.3m into 7BR's accessibility such as the Sesame Steps; making 7BR one of the most accessible and disability-welcoming barristers' chambers in the UK.

His legal expertise and lived insight of disability, combined with that of hundreds of others, has led AccessAble to now provide e-learning and consultancy support to help organisations tackle the societal barriers facing disabled people.

-  AccessAble.co.uk
-  jjgburke
-  gregory-burke-3598833

David Buxton



Chair of the British Deaf Association, Chief Executive of Action on Disability.

Born Deaf, David Buxton is CEO of Action on Disability, previously being CEO of the British Deaf Association, of which he is now Chair. He is also on the board of the European Union of the Deaf. He has been a major influencer with public authorities, governments and the charity sector for 35 years.

David is co-founder of the Liberal Democrats Disability Association, won the 1990 local election as Britain's first Deaf borough councillor and is the first ever Deaf BSL candidate to stand for parliament, which he has done three times.

After 20 years of fighting for a fair access fund for disabled candidates, David was key to introducing the pilot Access to the Elected Office for Disabled People Fund. The fund is no longer available in the UK, but David continues to fight for its re-instatement.

David has successfully:

- Challenged the government via judicial review on the Access to Work funding cap, leading to a one-third increase.
- Issued a pre-action legal action to the Ministry of Justice on Deaf jurors, culminating in new legislation (April 2022) allowing Deaf people to be jurors.
- Lobbied four political parties to include a BSL Act in their election manifestos; founded and led the BSL Act Now! Campaign, lobbied backbench MPs to introduce a Private Member's Bill on BSL. Within a year, parliament – unopposed – supported a BSL bill leading to the new BSL Act 2022.

He believes parliament must be more inclusive, embrace diversity and truly represent all communities across the UK.

 bda.org.uk

 AoD.org.uk

 [DavidBuxtondc](https://twitter.com/DavidBuxtondc)



Matthew Campbell-Hill

Chair, Non-Executive Director, Senior Fellow.

Mat is an internationally respected adviser in emerging technology, strategy and governance, and one of the youngest people to be appointed a non-executive director (NED) of a government department – the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport – and went on to chair the review of UK Anti-Doping during the international doping in sport crisis. He holds multiple non-executive and senior adviser roles in high profile organisations and works actively to champion the increase in diversity in senior roles, providing coaching for women and other underrepresented groups.

Following a spinal injury in 2009, Mat competed for TeamGB, captaining the men's Wheelchair Fencing Team to multiple world cup medals.

Mat is Honorary Secretary for the Council of Anaesthesia at the Royal Society of Medicine, and Senior Fellow in Novel Medical Technologies at Birmingham Medical School. He continues to work as the Director of Design at AerosolShield – acclaimed as a top 10 medical innovation worldwide by multiple publications,

including the Times, and was awarded the 2021 That'll Do Star award.

Mat works with many medical technology manufacturers, including as board member of MICA Biosystems – a revolutionary nano technology – and he is a national mentor for the NHS Clinical Entrepreneurs Program.

Mat works across the transport sector and is a NED at the Driver and Vehicles Standard Agency, and the Board Champion for Diversity, and he is an expert adviser to the UK government on autonomous vehicles (CAVPASS).

Mat continues to Chair Ted's Light CIC, which he launched in 2020, supporting hundreds of young children entering emergency foster care across the UK.

-  matcampbellhill.com
-  [MatCampbellHill](https://twitter.com/MatCampbellHill)
-  [campbell-hill](https://in.campbell-hill)

Heidi Carter



Disability Advocate and Campaigner.

I am a young woman with Down's Syndrome (DS), I share my experiences and campaigns on my Facebook page: Heidi Crowter – Living the Dream. I advocate for better healthcare and independent living.

 heidicrowter.com
 [HeidiCrowter95](https://twitter.com/HeidiCrowter95)
 [Heidi-Crowter-Living-the-Dream](https://www.facebook.com/Heidi-Crowter-Living-the-Dream)

Photo by Jay Crowter

I have campaigned with Don't Screen Us Out since 2016 about non-invasive prenatal testing. Currently abortions are allowed up to birth for severe disabilities in the UK. In 2021, I took the government to court to get this "downright discrimination" removed from the law. I am the first person with DS to take a government to court. I lost the case but am now appealing the High Court decision at the Court of Appeal.

I live with my husband, James. We got married in July 2020. I have written a book called I'm just Heidi about my life and campaigning, it should be published in October.

I hope my life shows parents of babies with DS that their baby can live a full and amazing life.

Mencap ambassador and patron of Positive about Down Syndrome.



Chris Fry

Solicitor and Mediator.

Most of the leading disability rights cases covered by the media, and precedents set in the courts, over the last ten years have, and continue to be, brought by Chris. His work tests and stretches thinking as it relates to access and inclusion.

 frylegal
 chris-fry-904a4115

Chris regularly contributes towards conferences, articles, books and podcasts and volunteers his time often on a pro bono basis. During the COVID-19 pandemic Chris established initiatives which assisted disabled people with access to groceries and information.

Chris is now working to create a fund to enable more lawyers to get involved with disability rights enforcement.

“I am privileged to work with remarkable people who give me the opportunity to achieve remarkable results. Profile generated by the Shaw Trust Disability Power 100 has raised awareness and increased collaboration and is helping us to break down barriers in everyday life.”

Kelly Louise Given






Disability Advocate and Campaigner.

Kelly was late diagnosed autistic and ADHD at the age of 23 following a 13-year battle with services and five misdiagnoses which resulted in devastating consequences. She has dedicated her life since to fighting for neurodivergent rights and challenging misconceptions around disability.

Kelly represented National Alliance of Women's organisations (NAWO) at the UN Commission on the Status of Women and graduated last year from an international internship working on the UN sustainable development goals. This year, she will be attending a United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) innovation lab in New York. From consulting on UN policy to working on mass vaccination, she has been unrelenting in her devotion to influence structural change.

In her full-time job, Kelly works in equality, diversity and inclusion for the mass vaccination programme. She is Chair of the disabled employee network where she has worked on re-writing mandatory equality and diversity training for NHS staff, the roll out of free period products and is re-writing the reasonable adjustments policy to better cater for the disabled

NHS workforce. Kelly is also currently working with Scotland's major nursing universities to establish a reasonable adjustments policy and resources to ensure better access to the nursing profession for neurodivergent students. Kelly is also on a working group advising Network Rail on transport accessibility for women and disabled passengers and designed an NHS myth-busting campaign for autism acceptance month. Kelly recently filmed a documentary with the Royal Holloway University of London on living with disability during COVID-19 and is a regular panellist on current affairs programme BBC Seven Days.

 kelly-given
 kellylgiven
 kelly.given.7



Celia Hensman

Founder and Director of The Disability Policy Centre.



Celia Hensman is the co-founder and Director of The Disability Policy Centre, the first think tank in the UK dedicated to the development and advancement of policy, ensuring that accessibility and disability is at the heart of legislation. Through The Disability Policy Centre, and in her personal work, Celia works to find the practical policy solutions for the improvement of public services and policy reform, which change the lives of disabled people for good. The Disability Policy Centre is engaging with policy leaders and breaking down barriers for disabled people, in every aspect of our society, leading the thinking to ensure that nobody is held back from achieving their potential.

Celia has multiple disabilities including Loey's-Dietz Syndrome, she has never known life without her disability, and consequentially from a young age she has been an active disability rights campaigner. Celia takes pride in her disabled identity, working hard against systematic ableism, discrimination and stereotypes about the talents, potential and ability of disabled people.

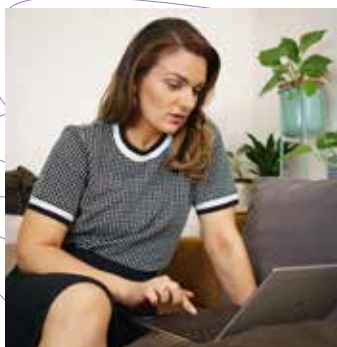
From a young age Celia has been a committed campaigner for disabled representation, inclusion and

accessibility, having worked in various sectors including private, public, employment, legal and policy, drawing on her own experiences and challenges of being disabled. She is passionate about breaking down archaic ableist preconceived perceptions of disability, championing and providing a voice and improving participation and opportunity for disabled people at the heart of Westminster and beyond.

“Disability does not ‘look like’. Disability does not conform to archaic ableist preconceived perceptions of health. Disability is beautifully and infinitely diverse. Accessibility is a right not a privilege, we must be proactive not reactive in ensuring that disabled people and people with long-term health conditions are represented across all sectors. By developing practical solutions that deliver real-world results, we will change the lives of disabled people for good. We must do better to design a world where disabled people are included.”

 thedisabilitypolicycentre.org
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Christina Warner



Barrister.

Christina Warner is a family and animal protection barrister at Goldsmith Chambers.

Having been diagnosed with Stargardts Disease, a progressive condition which causes sight loss she has been unwavering in her commitment to diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. Proudly representing members of the LGBTQ+ communities as well as Spanish and Portuguese-speaking communities wishing to access the family justice system, Christina aims to raise the voices of those living with, or challenged by, disability and their rights to inclusion within family proceedings.

Christina has spoken at events and has been published both nationally and globally, on subjects including the impact of international conflict on disabled women and girls, the effects of domestic abuse on companion animals, the need to ban conversion therapy and the ICC's Rome Statute and the LGBTQ+ community.

A multi award-winning advocate and campaigner she has been credited by Amnesty UK, Advocate, WeAreTheCity and the UK Diversity Legal Awards (2018 and 2021). Christina also featured in Middle Temple's Disability History Month exhibition 2021 and was appointed a member of the Bar Council's Disability Panel in 2021.

 ChrisWBarrister

 christina-warner-961b19a5



Science, Technology,
Engineering and Mathematics

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Disability Power 100

Clive Gilbert



Policy Manager for Assistive and Accessible Technology.

Clive Gilbert is a public policy advocate, researcher and thought leader. Over the past 15 years, Clive has developed an inclusive approach to public policy on disability - bringing together disabled people, industry leaders, frontline practitioners and policy makers to build coalitions that change lives.

Since 2019, Clive has managed the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Assistive Technology at the cross-party think tank Policy Connect. In this role, Clive has used his professional expertise and experiences as a disabled person to unite parliamentarians, government ministers, officials and industry leaders around a shared mission to make society accessible for everyone.

Clive is the author of the recent *Smarter Homes for Independent Living: Putting People in Control of Their Lives* report. The report has played a vital role in shifting the national discussion around social care and technology to a more ambitious vision that realises the potential for products and services to give people genuine agency, choice and control. The government has already accepted the report's recommendation to update its guidance on the Disabled Facilities

Grant to make it easier for disabled and older people to acquire technology to support their independence.

Clive is a member of the Department for Health and Social Care's Digital Social Care Advisory Group. He is also a member of the British Assistive Technology Association's governing council and established and chairs its Augmentative and Alternative Communication Special Interest Group. Clive writes the monthly assistive technology newsletter *disPATches*, which is hosted by the leading inclusive technology charity AbilityNet.

 policyconnect.org.uk/

 [CliveGilbert](#)

 [clivegilbert](#)



Chris
Goodyear

Game Developer.

Chris Goodyear is a deaf/hard of hearing developer and producer who started his own company, Many Cats Studios, to help bridge the gap between disabled/neurodiverse people and the video games industry.

He is passionate about highlighting the amazing skills and talents of disabled and neurodiverse people within the industry and ensuring everyone has a platform for their voice.




Chris has brought community and expertise together by highlighting disabled consultants and testers available to work on games projects through their website. Many Cats Studios also recently launched a discord earlier this year as a place for disabled developers to meet others and learn from each other online.

Many Cats Studios has also just launched the DNA of Games podcast – a series dedicated to highlighting disabled and neurodiverse people working in games. The series title refers to disability, neurodiversity and accessibility that exist within games but don't often get the same attention or acknowledgement from the industry.

Since 2021 Chris has created a very successful digital campaign, during Global Accessibility Awareness Day, of one minute accessibility tips for developers and companies to get bitesize knowledge from advocates and disabled people themselves on how to make their games more accessible.

He is currently working on a video game that will give players the chance to play as a deaf/hard of hearing protagonist and experience the frustration of an ableist society.

“Accessibility is an important factor of modern gaming. Gaming is for everyone, and games development won't reach the next level without the contributions of disabled and neurodiverse people.”

 manycats.uk
 [chris_goodyear](https://twitter.com/chris_goodyear)
 [cgoodyear](https://www.linkedin.com/in/cgoodyear)

Euan MacDonald



Co-Founder Euan's Guide.

Euan MacDonald MBE is the co-founder of Euan's Guide, the disabled access charity making it easier for disabled people to find great places to go with confidence.

Since being diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) in 2003, Euan has experienced being ambulant disabled, a wheelchair user, and now a powerchair user who communicates with eye-gaze technology. The challenges he faced in terms of disabled access are what motivated him to create Euan's Guide in 2013.

Euan's main priority was to tackle the problem of accessible information being misleading, inaccurate, or simply non-existent. Before Euan's Guide, Euan found everyday tasks like shopping, or meeting a friend for coffee were becoming impossible. Researching places before visiting became an essential first step in making plans. So, he set up Euan's Guide with his sister Kiki to avoid other disabled people spending hours researching venues, locations and attractions.

Over the years Euan's Guide has become a place for people to share their knowledge of accessible bars, restaurants, shops, hotels and many more places. Their award-winning website aims to be a friendly, honest and empowering alternative to hours of web searching and phone calls before visiting somewhere new, in turn providing users with the confidence to try new places.

Euan is also founder of the Euan MacDonald Centre (2007) based at the University of Edinburgh, a not-for-profit, internationally recognised network of 200 scientists and professionals researching MND across Scotland. He also launched SpeakUnique in 2012, a service that creates personalised synthetic voices for individuals who have lost or will lose the ability to speak.

 EuansGuide

 EuansGuide

 Euansguide



Dr Nasser Siabi OBE

CEO, Microlink PC (UK) Ltd.

Nasser was awarded an OBE in 2011 for his contribution in helping over 300,000 disabled people transition from education into work. He is also a founding member of the British Assistive Technology Association (BATA) and part of the DWP Disability Employer Engagement steering group. In 2015 he received the lifetime achievement award from the National Diversity Awards. In 2019 Microlink won the prestigious Inclusive Tech Alliance (ITA) Award for Diversity and Inclusion initiative for disability. In 2020 Nasser was voted Director of the Year by the Institute of Directors (IoD) for London and South.

Since 2008 Microlink has worked alongside the Lloyds Banking Group to successfully create an award-winning workplace adjustment (WPA) service for their employees. Microlink's award winning WPA service is now considered best practice and is widely used by over 34 other leading organisations in the UK and US.

Nasser is consulted on policy and procedure by the Business Disability Forum, is a supporting partner for Purple Space and is regularly consulted

with on high level government and civil service policy and guidance.

Currently serving on the DWP Steering Committee on Employer Engagement, Nasser chairs a group activity on transition into employment for disabled students.

2021 has seen Microlink expand into digital accessibility, built environment accessibility and accessible recruitment with plans to offer an end-to-end health and wellbeing package that supports an organisation in any disability requirement they may have. These new sectors marry perfectly with the workplace adjustment service and assistive technologies the company already supplies.

-  microlinkpc.com
-  [microlinkpc](#)
-  [nasser-siabi-obe-206b8318](#)

Adam Thomas



Director, Adam Thomas Consultancy.

Adam Thomas is an independent design consultant, acknowledged as a world leader in accessible, multi-generational and inclusive kitchen design. With 40 years' of lived experience and professional practice, Adam's ambition is to change the face of accessible kitchen design and enable access for all - by designing flexible, high quality kitchens with a full choice of colours and materials.

For more than 30 years, his kitchen designs have been transforming homes across the country. Adam uses innovative design solutions to set new standards in his field. Working with private clients, case managers, architects, personal injury solicitors and occupational therapists, he develops unique, tailored accessible kitchens that allow people to live independently in safe surroundings with significantly improved quality of life.

Adam is a specialist consultant to a number of ground-breaking initiatives working towards disability equality in housing and writes for newspapers and magazines. He is a visiting lecturer and provides tailored training for small groups

of professionals. He also supports expert witnesses with consultancy services, as a subject matter expert in accessible kitchen design.

In his 20s and 30s, Adam was the coordinator of the Rights Now campaign, an active campaigner for disability legislation – now part of the Equality Act 2010. He believes passionately in equality. Adam is married to equity, diversity and inclusion advisor Agnes Fletcher. He is the proud father of daughter Cara and the besotted owner of Jack Russell cross Colin.

 adamthomasconsultancy.com

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Ade Adepitan MBE



TV Presenter, Paralympic Medalist and Journalist.

Ade Adepitan MBE is a TV presenter, Paralympic medalist, journalist and father.

Born in Lagos, Nigeria and raised in East London, Ade survived polio as a youngster. Contracting the virus at just 15 months old he began to lose the use of his legs, and aged three he and his parents migrated to the UK. Ade went on to succeed as an international Paralympic wheelchair basketball player and renowned broadcaster.

Ade's work has taken him across the globe; going undercover with Channel 4's Dispatches, reporting foreign affairs for Unreported World and more recently fronting the ground-breaking BBC Two series, Climate Change: Ade on the Frontline. Ade is co-host of Children in Need. He has hosted countless sporting events, including his BAFTA-award winning coverage of the 2012 Paralympics on Channel 4 co-hosted with Clare Balding.

In a personal documentary for Channel 4, Ade Adepitan: Journey of my Lifetime, Ade returned to his birthplace of Lagos to investigate Nigeria's polio endemic. Ade's story left viewers inspired and he received support on Twitter from

Bill Gates, who invited him to speak at the Global Vaccine Summit: We Changed History in 2020, when Africa officially declared the country free from wild poliovirus. Ade continues to work alongside the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to end poliovirus globally.

Ade's personal sporting achievements include a bronze in the Athens Paralympics, silver in the European Championships and gold in the World Championships.

Ade received an MBE in 2005 and was awarded Honorary Doctorate from Loughborough University in 2006 and the University of East London in 2010. Ade has also released four children's books.

 AdeAdepitan
 adeadepitan/
 Adepifam

Photo by IWPhotographic



Jessica Jane Applegate MBE PLY

Paralympic Swimmer, Inclusion Campaigner.

I was born in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. Before even starting nursery, I had numerous development issues and was diagnosed with learning disabilities. I have had lots of surgeries and as a teenager I was told I was on the autistic spectrum due to my social and communication difficulties.


I began swimming as it was more of a solo sport with less interaction, somewhere where I could be free and be myself where I felt comfortable.

I turned 16 years old at the holding camp at the London Paralympic Games then days later I won gold in the S14 200m Freestyle. I was awarded an MBE in December 2012. Since then, I have become ambassador for Mencap (charity which supports people with learning difficulties and their families across the UK) and Virtus (global organisation for athletes with an intellectual impairment). I visit parliament to campaign, attend events and visit schools, do online talks and promote inclusion.

I have also qualified for every single international event since London 2012 becoming Paralympic Champion, World Champion, European Champion and

achieving 36 international medals for Great Britain along the way.

“I love love love swimming and sport. I am just trying to make it even easier and more accessible for the next generation so more people can enjoy it plus all the health benefits that come with it.”

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Kadeena Cox



Athlete.

Kadeena became the first person for 32 years to win two gold medals in two different sports at a Paralympic Games; winning the T38 athletics 400m and C4 cycling 500m time trial at Rio 2016, setting new world records in both. Her time in cycling was faster than any Team GB rider at an Olympic or Paralympic Games; not bad for somebody that only got on a bicycle as a form of rehab 18 months earlier. Her domination as the leading para-athlete in the world continued again at Tokyo 2020 as Kadeena once again came away with two Paralympic gold medals and once again set two world records.

An able-bodied athlete just two years prior to Rio 2016, Kadeena set her sights on securing a place on the Team GB Winter Olympic team but heartbreakingly suffered a stroke and was subsequently diagnosed with MS. Not letting anything stop her achieving her dreams, Kadeena has five World Championship gold medals and six Paralympic medals across two sports.

Kadeena is breaking barriers and is the only black British athlete to ever win a gold medal in the Olympics/ Paralympics in cycling. Wanting to use her platform to provide positive

change and help the BAME community, Kadeena founded the KC Academy; providing ethnically diverse athletes more opportunities in cycling.

Away from the track, Kadeena has a huge passion for cooking, baking and all things food-related. She was crowned Celebrity MasterChef Champion in 2021. A role model for millions, Kadeena is a true inspiration for all proving that if you set your mind to a goal, anything is possible.

“Live life to the max – I rule MS, MS doesn’t rule me.”

 kad_c
 kad21



Anoushé Husain

Civil Servant and Paraclimber.

Anoushé is a champion for all those experiencing barriers and self-limiting beliefs.




Born missing her right arm below the elbow, living with multiple health conditions, a cancer survivor, a Muslim and coming from an ethnic minority, Anoushé has never let what society or culture thinks she should do limit her or dictate the direction of her life. She is constantly breaking the mould and challenging not only her own beliefs about her own potential but also that of society and her own culture.

She has become a role model to anyone facing a self-limiting belief or barrier and is sharing her journey to help others unlock their potential. Anoushé candidly talks about her life, including becoming a new ambulant wheelchair-user, how she has remained resilient in the face of huge obstacles and talks about issues that we as a society do not talk about enough. In particular, Anoushé highlights the plight of those stigmatised by society in order to change the misconceptions around these groups. She is heavily driven by teaching others to shed their self-limiting beliefs and help empower them to reach their potential.

A civil servant by day, Anoushé is a paraclimber in the UK and an ambassador for both Ehlers-Danlos Support UK and LimbPower, the leading charity for amputees and those with limb difference.

Anoushé has won multiple awards including being in the Shaw Trust Disability Power 100 and is also a Guinness World Record title holder.

“Keep believing the impossible is possible.”

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-  [AnousheHusain1](https://www.facebook.com/AnousheHusain1)

Will Perry



Paralympian.

Will is a Paralympic swimmer, world finalist and British record holder.

He gained his first competitive international experience at 2021's European Championships in Madeira before becoming a Paralympian at the postponed Tokyo 2020 Games. In June 2022, he smashed the British record on his way to a fifth-place finish at the World Championships and will go on to compete for England at the Commonwealth Games in 2022.

Since the Paralympics, Will has spoken openly about his experience with achondroplasia, and has campaigned to raise awareness of disability hate crime and abuse.

Will also is a TEDx speaker, having presented his talk Challenges of a Paralympian at the TEDxLukelyBrook event in March 2022.

Will is currently training to be a professional keynote speaker and travels the country speaking to schools, clubs and companies about his experience.



[will_perry](#)



[will_perry](#)



[will-perry-069b0316b](#)



Aaron Phipps MBE PLY

Professional Speaker, Gold Medal Winning Paralympic Champion.

Aaron Phipps plays wheelchair rugby for Great Britain. He has been to two Paralympic Games and won gold at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic games. GB went from fifth in the world to win the gold medal; he was part of the team that were the first European side to win a medal in wheelchair rugby at any Paralympic games. Prior to his successful career in wheelchair rugby, Aaron completed three London marathons.

Aside from sport, Aaron is a professional speaker delivering keynotes to thousands of people across the globe. His strong messages around resilience, mindset and performance move audiences and create awareness of disability.

Aaron works as a brand ambassador for various companies helping them with their disability and inclusion agenda. Currently, he is working alongside Levy and DWP to help recruit more disabled people in the hospitality sector. Aaron is an ambassador for the Meningitis Research Foundation, raising awareness of the symptoms of meningitis and raising more than £250,000 for the charity.



In 2016 Aaron attempted to climb Mt Kilimanjaro and become the first wheelchair user to reach the summit unaided. When the wheelchair couldn't cope, he refused to be carried and crawled on his hands and knees for four days to reach the top.

Earlier this year, Aaron received an honorary doctorate from Southampton Solent University for services to sport and was awarded an MBE for services to wheelchair rugby.

Aaron is a proud father of two wonderful young girls.

In addition to Aaron's many achievements, Adam Hill from The Last Leg announced, live at Wembley, that he has a man crush on him.

"2021 was such an extraordinary year, to finally go all the way and win the medal for my family was incredible."

-  Aaronphipps.com
-  [AaronPhippsGBWR](https://twitter.com/AaronPhippsGBWR)
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Lauren Rowles



Athlete.

Lauren's remarkable journey began in 2012 at the age of 13 when she woke up one morning paralysed from the waist down. From there she spent the following eight months in hospitals and rehabilitation units trying to regain the use of her legs. Despite being left physically impaired from Transverse Myelitis, Lauren was determined to make it as an Olympic athlete she had dreamed of as a young girl.


Lauren began her career as an elite athlete aged just 14 after she was inspired by the London 2012 Paralympic Games. She quickly found a talent in wheelchair track racing, and she soon represented Great Britain on the international stage, including the Commonwealth Games and Junior World Championships. Lauren transitioned from athletics to rowing in 2015 after being scouted by the British Rowing Team and has gone from strength to strength ever since. Five months after she took her first stroke, Lauren won a silver medal at the Senior World Rowing Championships and qualified her boat for the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio the following year.

Lauren made her mark on the global sporting stage after winning a Paralympic gold medal at the Rio 2016 Games at the age of just 18. Subsequently, Lauren was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2016 New Year Honours List for her services to rowing and has been nominated for several prestigious awards, including the BBC's Young Sports Personality of the Year.

Despite the challenges of near career ending injuries and a global pandemic, Lauren has claimed both the World and European titles. Most recently she has returned from Tokyo as two-time Paralympic champion, defending her 2016 title over a new race distance. Looking forward, Lauren hopes to continue building her legacy in sport and changing perceptions around disability and the LGBT community.

"Dreams make you resilient. Even throughout the toughest hardships I never lost sight of the dream."

 laurenrowles.com

 [itslaurenrowles](https://twitter.com/itslaurenrowles)

 [lauren-rowlesmbe-869755162](https://www.linkedin.com/company/lauren-rowlesmbe-869755162)



Gavin Walker MBE

Athlete.

At age 26 in 2010 I was a firefighter in Sheffield, married with a four-month-old daughter and I sustained an injury after a fall at a barbeque in my parents' back garden. This injury resulted in me breaking my neck leaving me paralysed from the chest down and with little use of my hands.

After overcoming the horrific news of my paralysis and understanding I'd live the rest of my life in a wheelchair, I was focused on becoming the best I could be. I also had a second daughter after my accident which many people think is not possible.

Having to retire from the job I loved, I spent more time playing wheelchair rugby. This improved my physical strength and also helped improve my mental strength. This has allowed me to go on and accomplish many more things than I originally thought were possible.

After gaining all these life skills and experiences I wanted to give back to those who needed it most, like I did in the early days of my rehabilitation. I volunteer my time to work for the Spinal Injuries Association. Here I'm able to help face to face with newly

injured patients and importantly family and friends who are left feeling helpless.

Over the years, I have played in five European Championships, two World Championships and two Paralympic games (Rio and Tokyo). We were the first European team to win gold at a Paralympics and I'm proud to captain this medal winning, record breaking team.

“Get comfortable being uncomfortable.”

 gm17walker

Sophia Warner BEM



Paralympian and Founder of the Superhero Series.

A Paralympian, businesswoman, mother, guest TV pundit and founder of the Superhero Series, Sophia is living proof of one of her favourite quotes: “If you want something done, give it to a busy person.”

Sophia’s athletics career began in 1998 when she made her international debut in the 100m and 200m picking up gold in both at the 1998 World Championships.

Fast-forward to the 2012 Paralympics and 16 years of hard work and dedication saw Sophia run a lifetime best in her 200m and finish fourth in both her 100m and 200m. Sophia retired from elite sport after the World Championships in 2013.

Off the track, Sophia’s marketing and commercial career stretches back more than two decades. Over the years, she has worked extensively for global brands, including BT and Nestle, and after the 2012 Paralympics was appointed the Commercial Director at British Athletics.

Since retiring from elite sport, Sophia continues to combine her loves of business, marketing and sport and in 2017 she took on her biggest challenge with the objective to remove barriers for the everyday person with a disability to enjoy and take part in sport.

In 2017 Sophia founded and now runs the Superhero Series, the UK’s only mass participation disability sports series. Now in its fifth year, the televised series holds four annual events. The mission is simple: to create fun, full-throttle, mass-participation sports events where people with disabilities – AKA Superheroes – call the shots and don’t have to worry about cut-off times or equipment restrictions.

 superheroseries.co.uk

 [superherotri](https://www.facebook.com/superherotri)

 [superherotri](https://twitter.com/superherotri)

The Top 10

The

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Disability Power 100





Andrew Miller MBE

Cultural Commentator, Broadcaster and Disability Champion.

Transforming perceptions and raising the profile of disability throughout his 30-year career, Andrew’s mission has been to democratise our creative industries by championing inclusion. He is recognised as one of the most influential disability advocates in the UK with extensive experience of the arts, film and broadcast sectors.




Starting out in broadcasting in the 1980s, Andrew belongs to the first generation of disabled presenters of British television, and he went on to produce and direct TV arts documentaries. Subsequently moving into arts administration, he became the first wheelchair user to run a major UK arts venue at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff.

Andrew is a national council member of Arts Council England, a governor of the Royal Shakespeare Company, a trustee of BAFTA and his previous non-executive roles include the Arts Council of Wales, Welsh National Opera and UK Digital arts agency, The Space. He is chair of the BFI Disability Screen Advisory Group overseeing their #PressReset campaign and in 2020 he co-founded the UK Disability Arts

Alliance, #WeShallNotBeRemoved and co-authored the Seven Principles for an inclusive cultural recovery.

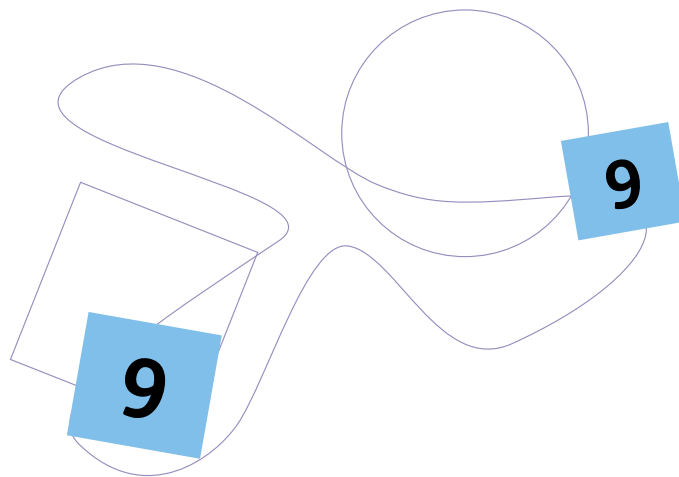
Between 2018-21 Andrew was also the UK Government’s first Disability Champion for Arts and Culture, establishing the role as a powerful campaigning platform for greater inclusion across the arts, museums and film. His pioneering career has been recognised by the National Diversity Awards, The Stage Awards and the 2021 New Year Honours.

“There are so many high-profile cultural initiatives aiming to make disability more visible right now. From the first disabled Richard III at the RSC to deaf and disabled BAFTA award winners; from the BFI highlighting ableism in film to Arts Council England’s national audience access scheme. And I’m proud of them all as collectively they promise an inclusive future.”

-  [andrew-miller-arts](#)
-  [AndrewM_Arts](#)
-  [andrewm_arts](#)







Dr Elliott
Spaeth

Lecturer in Academic and Digital Development.

Elliott is a lecturer in academic practice, which involves helping other university educators think about, and make decisions about, their teaching. He specialises in inclusive learning and teaching in higher education, with a particular focus on disability and neurodiversity. He is passionate about making higher education a genuinely inclusive place for disabled people.

This involves a huge culture shift, helping educators understand that existing practice (including rules, standards, and conceptions about appropriate behaviour) is often based on social norms, and therefore privileges non-disabled people.



He advocates for proactively inclusive environments by encouraging educators to decide what elements of learning and teaching are non-negotiable, and by helping them to think flexibly and creatively about a range of ways of designing and facilitating everything else.

His work at the University of Glasgow includes co-founding a Neurodiversity Network for staff and students, co-developing a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) on inclusion and

diversity in education, creating an academic course for new lecturers on teaching inclusively and contributing to policy and strategic decisions on disability and neurodiversity.

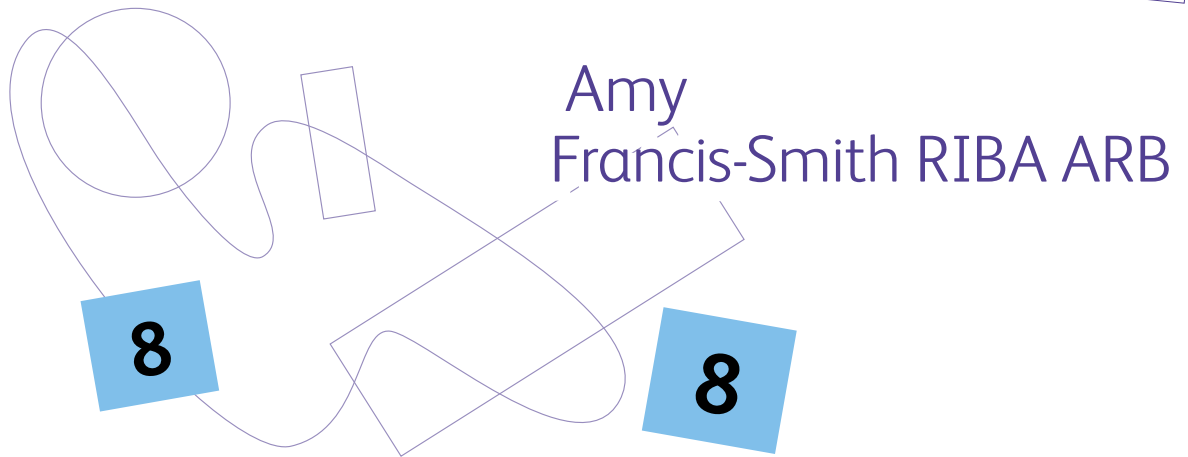
He is disabled, neurodivergent and trans.

“For decades, I tried to figure out how to avoid getting things wrong. A turning point for me was realising that a lot of what people describe as appropriate or professional behaviour is really just their own preference, or something they’ve internalised from someone else. Behaviour usually isn’t inherently wrong or bad, it just might have impacts on others that it’s respectful to consider.”

 chronicallyelliott.wordpress.com
 ElliottSpaeth

9





Architect, Inclusive Design and Access Consultant.

Amy Francis-Smith is a multi-award-winning Disabled architect, inclusive designer and access consultant, project lead at Pinnegar Hayward Design and the outgoing Vice-President of the Birmingham Architectural Association. Campaigning for legislative change, her work and research focuses on providing improved accessibility for people with Disabilities in the built environment.

Named as a Design Council specialist in accessible environments, providing expert advice on accessibility, policy, design and top-level strategy. Amy has experience across design and construction, particularly with residential schemes, multi-million-pound healthcare projects as well as access consultancy for buildings and new product development.


Fighting for improvements on access policies around accessible housing and the Building Regulations, she gives talks and lectures to educate students and professionals on their social responsibility, sits on the advisory board of Habinteg (an accessible housing association), lobbies the government, is an ambassador for the Architect's Benevolent Society and has worked with companies such as the

Financial Times, BBC, British Council, Coventry City of Culture, City A.M., Wallpaper* and the Architects Journal.

Her third year being featured on the Power 100 list, she also has been shortlisted from 62,000 as a National Diversity Award Positive Disability Role Model, a RIBA J Rising Star in Architecture, an Archiboo Activism winner, a UK Construction Week Role Model, Birmingham Live's 30 Under 30.

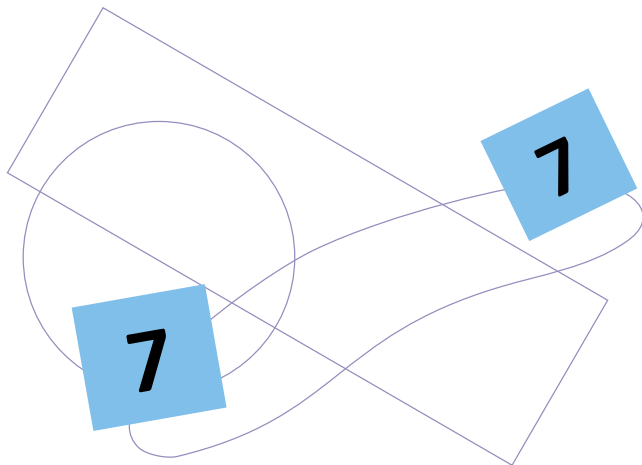
Her determination stems from witnessing the experience of friends/ family as well as her own ill health. Amy was previously bedridden with life-threatening, severe chronic illnesses and disabilities, most notably Mast Cell Activation Syndrome, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, Crohn's, a hearing impairment and CPSTD.

"Inaccessible features have been designed into our man (and woman) made world, so they can be designed out again!"

-  amyfrancis-smith.com
-  amyfrancis-smith
-  amyfrancis-smith







Kim Tserkezie

Actor, Presenter, Writer, Producer and CEO Scattered Pictures.

Kim Tserkezie has worked as an actor, presenter, writer and producer for 25 years, with a career spanning comedy, drama and documentary.

Kim got her first TV break as a presenter for BBC's Disability Today and From The Edge and went on to play Penny Pocket in four series and two arena tours of BAFTA award winning Balamory. In 2020, she won a Royal Television Society Award for best drama performance for her leading role in Obsession (BFI Network). Other acting credits include Boy Meets Girl, Wolfblood, Bliss, and Lodger, a TV comedy pilot she co-wrote and performed live at BBC Salford Sitcom Showcase, as well as numerous theatre roles.




Kim set up Scattered Pictures in 2011. The production company, based in Kim's home city of Newcastle, develops projects focused on underrepresented talent. The company recently received four radio documentary commissions for BBC World Service.

Kim has achieved drama and comedy writing commissions from multiple broadcasters including BBC, ITV and Channel 4 and is currently writing and producing for TV, film and audio, collaborating with some of the UK's leading indies.

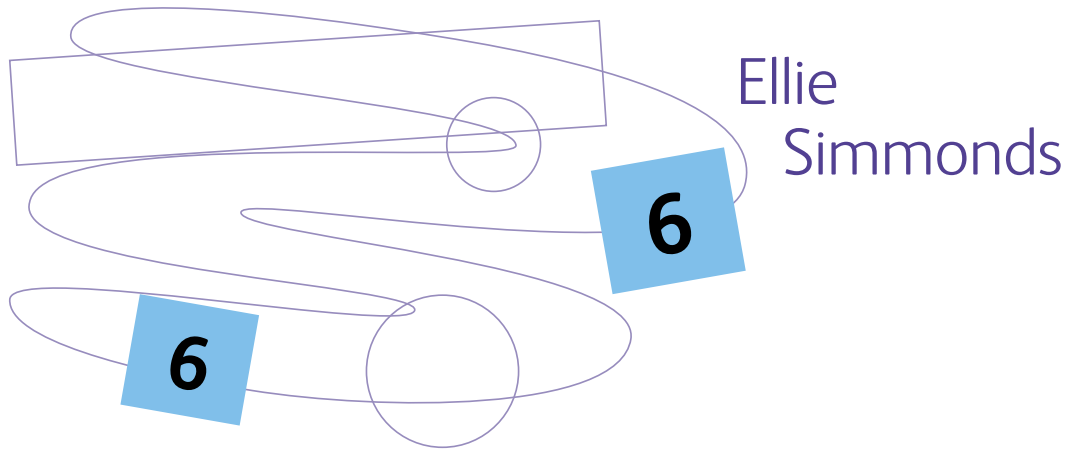
Kim won a John Brabourne Award in 2016 and was a board member of the Royal Television Society (RTS) North East and the Borders 2017-21. She has been a full BAFTA member since 2014 and is deputy chair of BFI's Disability Screen Advisory Group. Kim has chaired industry events for RTS, BFI and Netflix and is a trustee of the North's development agency for writing and reading, New Writing North.

"I believe meaningful inclusion in broadcasting will happen when fair representation exists within the whole creative and production process, on and off screen, from training and writing to directing, right through to commissioning."



-  scatteredpictures.net
-  KimTserkezie
-  kim.tserkezie








Paralympic Swimmer.

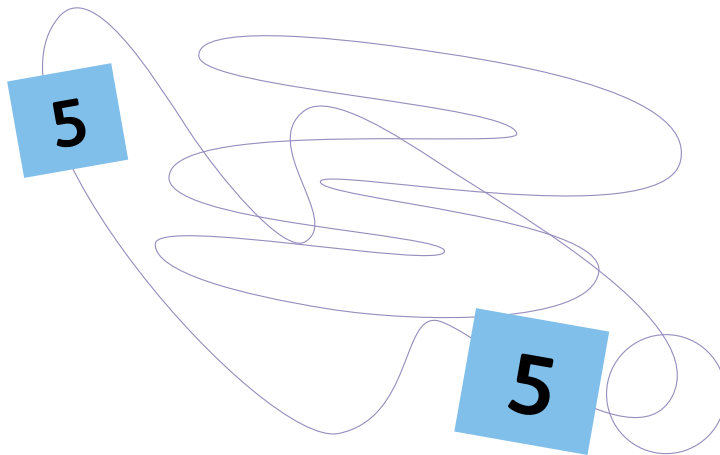
Former professional athlete Ellie Simmonds competed in four Paralympic Games in the sport of swimming, achieving a total of eight Paralympic medals with five of them being gold. Ellie made her international debut on the British Para-Swimming team at the age of 12 at the World Championships in Durban and was the youngest member of Paralympics GB at the age of 13 in Beijing 2008. That same year, she became the youngest person ever to be awarded an MBE from the Queen. Following on from a successful home games in London 2012, she was awarded an OBE. After her third games in 2016 she took a gap year from the sport and went travelling the world. In 2021, after 15 years of international competition and having competed at Tokyo 2020, Ellie called time on her sport.

Away from sport, Ellie is an ambassador for Scouts, WaterAid and a patron of the Dwarfs Sports Association UK. Currently Ellie is on the board of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 and a trustee for United by Birmingham 2022 Charity.

-  [elliesimmonds1](#)
-  [ellie-simmonds-65713922a](#)
-  [elliesimmonds](#)







Dr Halima Begum

Chief Executive, the Runnymede Trust.




Halima is Chief Executive of the Runnymede Trust, the prominent UK civil rights and race equality think tank. A disabled Muslim woman, she was born in rural Bangladesh and raised in a working-class family in East London. It was thanks to a community support campaign in Halima's Brick Lane neighbourhood that her eyesight was partially saved as a toddler.

Halima has worked tirelessly to achieve equality across minority communities since her teens, co-founding Women Unite Against Racism to challenge the rise of the National Front in the early 1990s. She has gone on to hold leadership roles with organisations including DFID, the British Council and Lego Foundation, supporting minority and disabled communities as far afield as Rwanda and Nepal.

In the last year, her leadership around disability and race has been particularly visible in the judicial review proceedings filed by the Runnymede Trust and Good Law Project against the government over non-competitive senior public appointments, including that of Baroness Dido Harding to COVID-19 Track and Trace. In February, the High Court ruled in favour of Halima and her

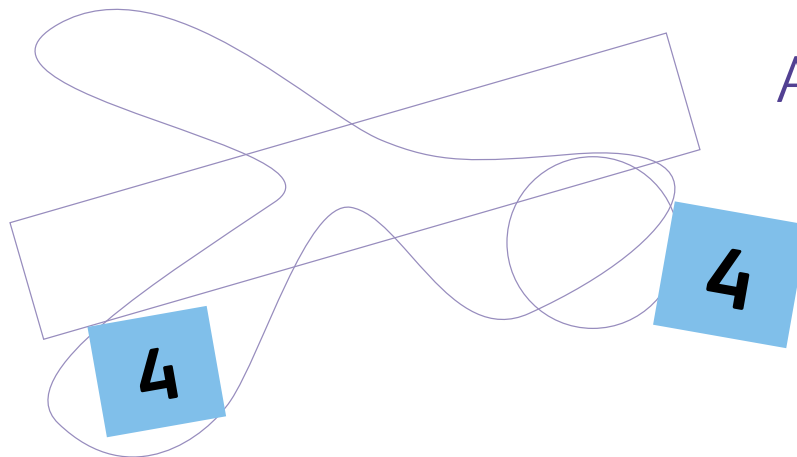
team, concluding the Health Secretary had breached the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. This important victory means government can no longer ignore the capacity and competency of our disabled and ethnic minority communities when making senior public appointments.

Halima's expertise is widely sought, and she currently advises organisations including the British Academy, Nuffield Foundation, ITV and the British Constitutional Review convened by the Institute for Government and the Bennett Institute for Public Policy at Cambridge University.

-  runnymedetrust.org
-  [halima_begum](https://twitter.com/halima_begum)
-  [halima-begum-45b24b19](https://www.linkedin.com/company/halima-begum-45b24b19)







Anna Landre

Ukraine Crisis Focal Point (The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies), 2021 Marshall Scholar, 2020 Truman Scholar.

Anna Landre is a wheelchair-user, activist and scholar whose work focuses on the disability policy implementation gap, in which progressive laws and standards often fail to translate to practical improvements in disabled people's lives. Her work in this area spans the disciplines of humanitarian relief, international development, urban planning and social care and benefits policy.

Anna is a Truman (2020) and Marshall (2021) Scholar and is currently pursuing a master's degree in international development and humanitarian emergencies at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

She also currently works as the Ukraine crisis focal point at The Partnership for Disaster Strategies. In this role, she spearheaded the launch and evacuation and humanitarian response mechanism with Fight for Right Ukraine to reach disabled Ukrainians being left behind in the international response to the war. Thus far, they have successfully assisted thousands of Ukrainians with disabilities and their loved ones in reaching safety. In the past, Anna

also worked with the partnership on disability justice-oriented pandemic relief policies and helped to expand the organisation's presence in Latin America and the Caribbean.

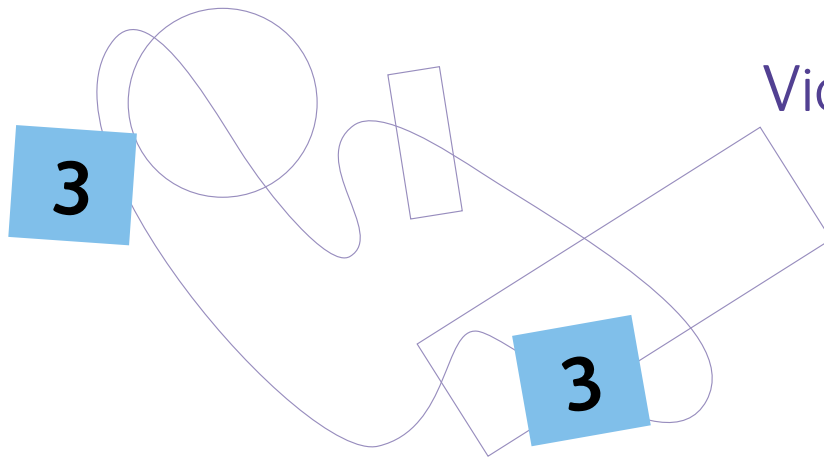
Before this she served the Washington DC government as a twice-elected advisory neighbourhood commissioner while completing her undergraduate degree in regional and comparative studies at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service (2021). During this time, Anna conducted research on the implementation gaps of disability laws in Latin America.

Anna's advocacy efforts have been featured in outlets including the New York Times, Washington Post, Forbes, Vogue, and others.

-  annalandre.com
-  [annalandre](https://twitter.com/annalandre)
-  [annalandre](https://www.linkedin.com/in/annalandre)







Victoria Ann Jenkins

CEO and Founder, Unhidden.

Victoria is an award-winning adaptive designer, disability advocate, speaker and writer.

She studied fashion design at Istituto Marangoni graduating in 2008. She has spent the past 14 years working as a garment technologist, going freelance in 2017 when she became a start-up consultant and technical illustrator also.

Victoria became disabled in her mid-20s and has a variety of gastrointestinal and musculoskeletal conditions and symptoms from surgeries and complications of her conditions. This is what led to her founding Unhidden, a socially responsible adaptive fashion range for people with disabilities.

In early 2021 she wrote her first book, *The Little Book of Ableism*, as a guide to help non-disabled people learn simple and easy ways to communicate with the community and be accessible in their private and professional lives. She regularly speaks about ableism and inclusive design as well as disability representation and depiction in the media. Her TedX talk will be out in Summer 2022 and she is working on multiple partnerships

that will change the retail and fashion landscape for the disabled community.

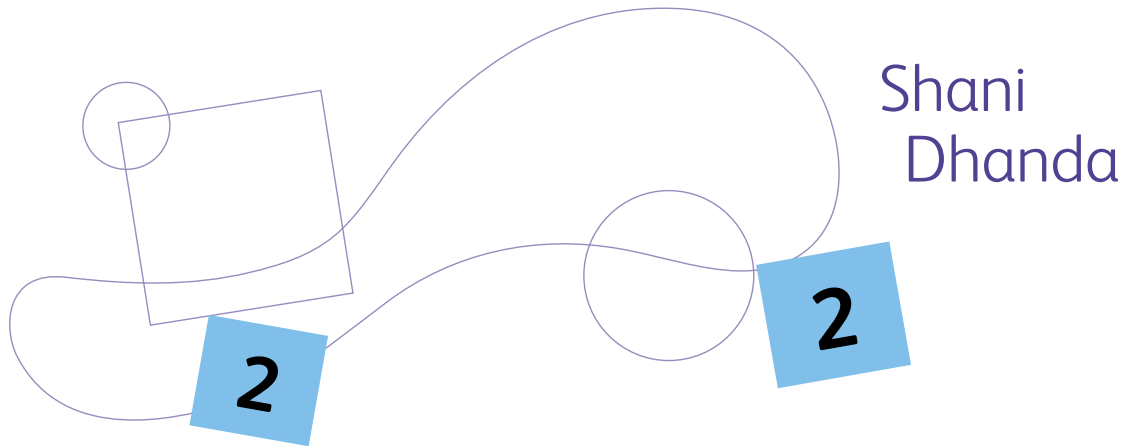
She is also an ambassador for Models of Diversity and Purple Tuesday.

“We cannot be what we don’t see. Fashion should not be a barrier to equity and it is disgraceful it has taken so long to get to this point in the UK.”

-  victoriaann.online
-  [victoria-jenkins-812b7027](https://www.linkedin.com/company/victoria-jenkins-812b7027)
-  [Victoriaannofficial](https://www.facebook.com/Victoriaannofficial)







Shani Dhanda

Social Entrepreneur, Disability Inclusion Specialist and Broadcaster.

Shani is a multi-award-winning disability inclusion specialist, thought leader, social entrepreneur and broadcaster.

She has taken change into her own hands and founded Diversability, Asian Woman Festival and Asian Disability Network to challenge social inequality globally.

In the last 12 months as a keynote speaker and inclusion consultant, Shani has worked with over 70 clients and motivated global audiences on significant world stages, including twice at Dubai Expo 2020 and the United Nations. Shani's TED talk received over 30,000 views in the first 36 hours after it went live.

Shani is named one of the sixteen most influential women in leadership, a Changemaker to watch in 2022 by CEO Magazine and listed in the BBC's 100 Women List 2020.

Shani is a guest panellist on ITV's Loose Women, a consumer expert on BBC's Rip off Britain and a panellist on Jeremy Vine on 5 and made waves with her This Morning appearance on ITV. Shani

also had a guest star role in EastEnders and won six awards and honours in 2021 for her relentless activism and commitment to disability inclusion.

Shani was the face of LinkedIn's first TV advert in 2019/2021 and ranked in the top 1% of most influential LinkedIn members in the UK. She's also featured in a Netflix series Time to Eat initially aired on the BBC, ONS Census 2021 and the second LinkedIn Changemaker TV advert.

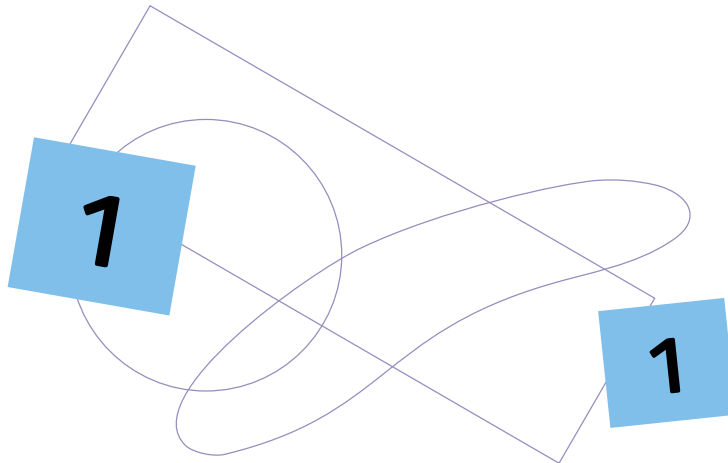
Shani holds seven executive and advisory roles and is an ambassador at five disability organisations.

"It's a privilege and honour to hold space and represent the experience of disabled people, especially those who face multiple layers of oppression, like me, simply because of characteristics that make us who we are. Here's to making even more systemic change and making the world a fairer place for everyone."

-  shanidhanda.com
-  ShaniDhanda
-  shanidhanda







Rose Ayling-Ellis

Actor.

Rose Ayling-Ellis is a deaf actress. Rose learnt British sign language (BSL) as a young child after her mother was motivated to improve their ability to communicate with each other and to immerse Rose in the deaf community. Since then, the deaf community and BSL have been integral to Rose and her identity.

In 2018, Rose was cast in Stephen Poliakoff's *Summer of Rockets* for BBC Two, her first major television role. Theatre then came next, with Rose performing at the Royal Exchange Manchester and Birmingham Rep Theatre.

Rose joined the cast of *EastEnders* in 2020 and was the first deaf character to use BSL on the soap. Rose has firmly positioned herself as a much-loved figure on British television screens. This role has given her the platform to not only showcase her talents as an actor but has initiated the beginning of Rose firmly marking herself out as the role model she felt she lacked as a young person.

In 2021, Rose was propelled to the attention of the nation and wider industry as the first deaf contestant

to appear on BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing*. With her dance partner Giovanni Pernice, Rose went on to win the competition, lifting the glitterball at the end of the series.

As well as acting, Rose's passions lie in sharing deaf culture and advocating for the deaf community, evidenced by her involvement in campaigning for the BSL Bill to be passed by government.

 [rose.a.e](#)
 [roseaylingellis](#)





Rising Stars

The

shaw trust

Disability Power 100



Jonathan Bryan

Founder of Teach Us Too.

When I was seven I was removed from my special school for a few hours a day to be taught to read and write by my mother; and after a year and a half, I had learnt enough to spell out everything I wanted to write and say, using my eyes to choose letters on an alphabet board held in front of me. While recovering from a serious illness aged 10, I felt God had given me some extra time so I could try and make a difference for children like me in education.

In 2018 my memoir, *Eye Can Write*, was published and I founded my charity, Teach Us Too, envisaging an education system where all children are taught to read and write regardless of their label or disability. For my campaigning I received a Diana Legacy Award. With my charity I present to trainee teachers, teachers and other professionals, and parents; challenging assumptions and sponsoring training in literacy instruction for complex learners. Making sure the voices of special educational needs and/or disability (SEND) pupils are central to policies and decisions is my passion. I am also part of FLARE (Friendship, Learning, Achieve, Reach and Empower), the Department for Education's

national young SEND advisory group, and the Disabled Children's Partnership young advisory group.

"I believe that all children should be taught to read and write regardless of their label / disability."




-  eyecantalk.net
-  [jonathan-bryan-0ab12b179](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jonathan-bryan-0ab12b179)
-  [eyecantalk](https://twitter.com/eyecantalk)

Photo by Tom Pilston

Cornel Hrisca-Munn






National Accessibility Manager, Disability Network Global Chair, Professional Musician.

Born in Romania with no lower arms and an inverted right leg, Cornel was placed in an orphanage due to attitudes towards disabled people in Romania at that time and was expected to die. Cornel was rescued from the orphanage by aid workers at 18 months old, who brought him over to the UK for an above-knee leg amputation and ended up adopting him.

Cornel excelled in school and earned a degree in philosophy and theology from Oxford University. He's a prolific drummer, winning the UK Drum-off in 2020 and 2021, where he went on to represent the UK in the global finals. Cornel also plays bass, and has played both instruments across the globe, including headlining shows at prestigious venues across Europe, recording live and session tracks, and appearing as the House Band Drummer and Bassist on Channel 4's The Last Leg. Cornel manages multiple social media accounts amassing engagement into the millions, influencing others and demonstrating the skill and ability of disabled musicians.

Cornel is an accessibility expert and has managed prolific accessibility programmes across multiple sectors to make huge improvements to the lives of disabled people. He founded and ran a disability charity, chaired multiple international disability forums, influenced UK policy to make COVID-19 testing more accessible, and spearheaded initiatives of accessibility across the built environment, government and private organisations. Cornel is an influential voice in closing the disability employment gap, and a published academic writer, contributing to the field of inclusive teaching in music and disability.

-  [cornelhmun](#)
-  [cornelhmun](#)
-  [CornelHMMusic](#)



Josh McDonagh

Graduate Inclusive Design Consultant.




Josh works three days per week for Proudlock Associates, an award-winning disability and inclusive design consultancy based in London. Josh supports the directors and his other senior colleagues in producing access audits, detailed surveys focusing on inclusion and accessibility of the built environment. Furthermore, Josh and the team feedback to design teams, mainly architects ensuring that any proposals meet part M of the building regulations as a minimum. Josh and his colleagues always aim for higher inclusive design standards using documents such as the British Standards.

When Josh is not working for Proudlock Associates, he is also a very vocal member of the Network Rail Built Environment Accessibility Panel (BEAP). BEAP provides feedback to project teams on the proposed improvements to the network. Despite being one of the newer panel members, Josh has developed a no-nonsense reputation for challenging spatial agents (architects, engineers, project managers and sponsors) when they approach inclusive design just as a tick box.

Josh seeks to achieve the highest standards of inclusive design for any proposal. Josh uses his personal experience of mobility, coordination, dexterity, communication and cognitive impairments to inform his approach to his professional activities.

Josh was recently appointed as a trustee for Disability Snowsport UK and is the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion champion.

“Endeavouring to make the world a more inclusive place.”

-  proudlockassociates.com
-  mrjoshmcdonagh
-  josh-mcdonagh-15555483

Amber Shaw



Student.

I'm Amber, I am 18 years old and live in Salford. My hobbies include attending my specialist horse riding centre, going out with my friends, going to the theatre to watch musicals and concerts.

I have just completed a level 3 BTEC in information technology at Bolton Sixth Form College and I am hoping to get an apprenticeship next.

I have been a member of Salford Youth Council for around three years and helped them set up a group for young people with special educational needs or disabilities. I have taken part in local and national campaigns around access to equal education and opportunities for young people with disabilities.

I am part of the national disabled young people's advisory board which advises the Department for Education and other public bodies on the needs and views of disabled young people. I have handed in a petition to 10 Downing Street asking for equal rights for disabled young people.

In February 2022, I won Young Citizen of the Year for Greater Manchester for my campaigning work and activism. This made me feel really proud and I want to inspire other young people with a disability and / or special educational needs to aim high and achieve their goals.

"I'm really excited to be shortlisted as a Rising Star for the Shaw Trust Disability Power 100 list. It's a real privilege to have my campaigning work recognised."

 amberrs2004



Fraser Simmonds

Fraser Simmonds is your typical nine-year-old boy – a bit cheeky with a witty sense of humour, loveable, intelligent, a complete dinosaur expert... and he happens to be a full-time powered wheelchair user because he lives with Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Over the years following his diagnosis as a baby, he has become the driving force behind Fraser and Friends – an online Facebook community which educates others about what life is like living with a disabling rare condition. Through this community, Fraser is inspiring others into action to bring about positive changes that will make a difference to society for disabled people.

Fraser has been the face of many public campaigns and awareness posts highlighting examples of accessibility and inclusion as a wheelchair user, and the general inequalities that disabled people experience every day. He has worked with the Department for Transport, Changing Places, the Mirror, the Sun, Huffington Post, ITV for a programme about Britain's Bravest Children, and more recently with BBC News highlighting the impact the COVID-19 pandemic had for disabled

people. When he was younger, Fraser climbed Snowdon on his Mum's back, which attracted lots of press and media interest and showed what a positive outlook he and his family have to his disability.

Fraser has been awarded a Prime Minister Points of Light award for his disability campaigning and was invited to 10 Downing Street for a cup of tea!

"I'm a professional wheelchair driver!"

 [fraserandfriends](#)



Judges' Choice

The

shaw trust

Disability Power 100



Lucy Aliband

Former trustee for Disability Rights UK and volunteer at the United Nations.

I was a trustee for Disability Rights UK (2016 – 2020), the Director of Communications in a campaign that brought about the abolition of disabled car parking charges from all NHS hospitals in England last year and am now (2022) a volunteer at the United Nations.

I was instrumental in the success of the above campaign. I appeared in the Daily Mail, the Times, the Telegraph and on BBC London radio. I worked closely with Sir Vince Cable which resulted in receiving formal endorsement for the campaign from the Liberal Democrats. The Conservatives and Labour (following suit) included a pledge in their manifestos.

The campaign was implemented into law in April 2021. This remains the most significant disability inclusion policy change in England during the pandemic.

The campaign also resulted in free NHS parking for frequent outpatient attenders, parents of sick children staying overnight and NHS staff working night shifts.

The Disability Power 100

My volunteer work with the United Nations (Palestine) includes:

- Making their premises accessible to people with disabilities
- Assisting the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA):
 - ▶ In tailoring their gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health / rights services to be more inclusive and accessible to women with disabilities.
 - ▶ In creating targeted interventions to meet disability-specific needs.

I am hopeful of visiting Palestine later this year.

“Sisyphean achievements at great personal cost are more admirable than many a Herculean feat.”

- 🌐 disabilityrightsuk.org/policy-campaigns/campaigns/nhs-disabled-parking
- 🌐 palestine.unfpa.org/en

Parmi Dheensa FRSA



Include Me TOO Founder and Executive Director, Social Innovator, Co-Chair Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network.

Parmi Dheensa is a multi-award-winning social innovator and humanitarian, a disability rights activist, advocating and empowering with and for under-represented communities and unheard voices. She shares lived experiences with her disabled son, Callum, who has complex needs.

Parmi is the founder of Include Me TOO charity working with disabled children, young people and their families from a diverse range of backgrounds, particularly minoritised and racialised communities.




Parmi has developed services, resources, delivered and led on projects at local, national and international levels covering areas of intersectionality, participatory approaches, inclusive practice, policies, and safeguarding for disabled children, young people and their families promoting a disability rights-based ethos.

She has presented and led on disability equity, race and inclusion at both the House of Commons and House of Lords and presented at the United Nations Geneva Social Forum review of the

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 10th Anniversary on the inequalities experienced by disabled children, young people and adults from racialised communities.

Parmi has spearheaded several international initiatives through her leadership and drive. Parmi is increasing access and creating spaces for and with disabled children and young people.

She developed an interactive Hospital Communication Passport in response to the pandemic and the health inequalities and access of disabled persons. She delivered train the trainer workshops with Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network (CCYDN) working with local partners around the world to implement.

 includemetoo.org.uk
 [parmi-dheensa-frsa-90227189](https://www.linkedin.com/company/parmi-dheensa-frsa-90227189)
 [parmidheensa](https://twitter.com/parmidheensa)



Professor Alys Young

Professor of Social Work.

I am Professor of Social Work at the University of Manchester where I also co-lead the SORD research group – a Deaf and hearing group working in BSL focussing on inequalities in health and social care affecting d/Deaf people across the lifespan.

I am also a distinguished visiting professor at the Centre for Deaf Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. I was conferred a fellowship of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2016 in recognition of my contribution to the field of social research with d/Deaf people, and to social work.

In 2016, I won the Times Higher Award for outstanding research supervisor of the year. I am also a senior fellow of National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) School for Social Care Research (SSCR). I currently lead the national longitudinal study of deaf youth in transition to adulthood and the first study of the impact of interpreter mediated Mental Health Act assessments.

Having lived with a serious debilitating condition most of my adult life, a great deal of my research work and academic

teaching and student support is driven by a commitment to social justice, in all its forms. Anything I am able to do to unlock the latent potential and talents of others is a key motivator in redressing the consequences of structural and interpersonal inequalities. I have previously served the University of Manchester as the Academic Lead for Disability Equality.

“I have never been one for lofty ambitions, but life has taught me that striving to be authentic in all relations alongside others takes you places you never expected to go.”

www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/alys.young.html

sites.manchester.ac.uk/sord

sites.manchester.ac.uk/thereadystudy

Hall of Fame

2021

Caroline Casey is the businesswoman and activist behind The Valuable 500, the world's largest CEO collective and business movement for disability inclusion. Caroline has been featured in the Disability Power 100 for several years and the Valuable 500 was number one in 2021.

2020

Nikki Fox is the BBC's Disability Correspondent, reporting on the issues affecting disabled people today. Nikki, who is known to millions for her work on Watchdog, How to Look Good Naked, and Supermarket Secrets was number one on the Disability Power 100 in 2020.

2019

Baroness Jane Campbell has fought for equal rights for disabled people for as long as she can remember – from challenging special school segregation as a child, to public demonstrations, and now advocates for disabled people in the House of Lords. Baroness Jane Campbell was the 2019 Disability Power 100 number one.

2018

Alex Brooker's TV career famously began with a job as a presenter as part of Channel 4's coverage of the 2012 Paralympics. Alex is now a familiar name for many TV viewers, most notably as one of the hosts of Channel 4's The Last Leg. Alex was number one on the 2018 Disability Power 100.

2017

Dame Sarah Storey DBE is a British Paralympic athlete in cycling and swimming. Her total of 28 Paralympic medals including 17 gold medals makes her the most successful and most decorated British Paralympian of all time. Dame Sarah Storey DBE was featured as number one in the 2017 Disability Power 100.

2016

Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE is a Paralympian, Crossbench Peer in the House of Lords, motivational speaker and broadcaster. As a working peer Tanni uses her experience and knowledge during debates in the House of Lords and has spoken on a range of issues including disability rights, welfare reform, and of course, sport. She was the 2016 Disability Power 100 number one.

2015

Stephen Hawking was a physics theorist and author. Stephen's ground-breaking theories about the universe have vastly improved our knowledge on space and time. In 1998 Stephen published a book A Brief History of Time which made complicated scientific and mathematical theories accessible for all; the book sold 10 million copies. Stephen was number one on the Disability Power 100 in 2015. Stephen died in 2018, aged 76.

Shaw Trust: Advocating for disabled people

At Shaw Trust we pursue our strategic vision of a fairer, more inclusive society through our advocacy and policy work, which is led by the Shaw Trust Foundation. We base our advocacy on the evidence and experience we have gained through 40 years of service delivery, working with commissioners, employers, partners and our communities.

We are supportive of government in bringing forward initiatives to improve disabled peoples' lives, having responded to consultations on the Health and Disability green paper and the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and Alternative Provision green paper. In our response to the government's National Disability Strategy, we put forward the benefits of Shaw Trust's child to career strategic approach, which we believe will improve outcomes for disabled people through joined up provision of support and services.

In 2021, the Shaw Trust Foundation became a founding member of the Disability Employment Charter. Our continued support of the Charter, which now has more than 100 signatories made up of a range of other disability charities and commercial organisations, is part of our efforts to change the social landscape through advocacy and application of the social model of disability.

Earlier this year, we jointly hosted our first Disability Power 100 roundtable in Westminster with the Disability Policy Centre and the All-Party Political Group for Disability. This event reinforced our position as an influential voice around issues for disabled people and presented an opportunity to strengthen relationships with other leading voices in the sector.

We have also launched the Shaw Trust/PurpleSpace Bursary Scheme. The scheme is an exciting new initiative with our partners at PurpleSpace, the professional hub for disability network leaders, offering a framework for self-directed learning for the establishment and delivery of high-performing disability employee resource groups and networks.

Shaw Trust is proud to be listed as one of only 77 organisations in the Valuable Directory, the first global directory of disability inclusion specialists. The directory brings together disability intelligence and expertise as a powerful resource for the Valuable 500, the business collective made up of 500 global CEOs and their companies innovating together for disability inclusion.



Clare Gray
Head of Disability Advocacy, Shaw Trust

About Shaw Trust

At Shaw Trust, we believe in equality, opportunity and inclusion. Now in our 40th year, we help hundreds of thousands of people every year by delivering a diverse range of not-for-profit public services focusing on care, education, work and wellbeing. We are one of the UK's largest charities and employ more than 3,000 people in England, Scotland and Wales.

We work with commissioners, employers and other partners to deliver services of the highest quality and lasting social value. We help people of all ages, from childhood through to the end of their working life.

Find out how we can help you and your organisation.

Recruit to build diverse teams

Shaw Trust provides a fully funded recruitment service offering a large pool of candidates from all walks of life. Employers can be matched with immediately available candidates from a wide range of backgrounds. We support with screening, preparation and provide advice on how to widen access and shorten recruitment processes, to maximise social value for the business and local community.

Disability Confident

Shaw Trust is accredited as a Disability Confident Leader and champions businesses to progress to become Disability Confident Employers by actively encouraging and supporting our supply chain and networks. Employers that are Disability Confident play a leading role in changing attitudes for the better. We'll help you think differently about disability and improve how you attract, recruit and retain a diverse and inclusive workforce. Shaw Trust offers advice, guidance, resources or practical support from level 1 up and until you achieve level 3.

Become accessible

Shaw Trust Accessibility Services supports organisations in the private, public and charitable sectors to create an accessible environment, both digitally and physically. The team has more than 30 years' collective experience bringing a unique range of lived experience to help you meet web accessibility standards and comply with legislation.

Build wellbeing and resilience in your teams

Shaw Trust has a team of dedicated, experienced health and wellbeing trainers who deliver consistently high quality, evidence-based training and counselling to enable teams to gain knowledge, skills and abilities to confidently interact and manage people with disabilities and understand best practice support for potential candidates with disabilities during recruitment and on-boarding. We also offer Mental Health & Youth First Aid accredited training, manager and staff resilience training.

Train your teams

As an Ofsted grade 1 outstanding training provider, Ixion, which is part of Shaw Trust, offers employers tailored workforce development, from entry-level pre-employment training through to executive development. Our programmes evaluate training needs and offer cost-effective solutions. We offer traineeships, apprenticeships, fully-funded training and eLearning.

Become a corporate volunteer

We add value to every service we deliver by investing back into local projects. We offer volunteering opportunities that develop skills, confidence and support communities. From mentoring others to help them find a job, to sharing your life experience with students at our schools or giving your time in our shops, volunteers help us achieve our aim of empowering people. We can also offer a tailored volunteering package to meet your organisational needs on a local or national basis.

Commission Shaw Trust

We deliver high quality services to help local communities thrive. We have a wealth of experience of working with national, regional and local government, clinical commissioning groups and employers as a prime provider, subcontractor and joint venture partner. We have a proven track record in employability, children's services, justice, health and wellbeing programmes using our expertise and partnerships to best support our clients' needs.

To get in touch please email employers@shaw-trust.org.uk.

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We go above and beyond to help people realise their potential. That's why we accept the risks and challenges other organisations won't, to help those who face the biggest disadvantages.



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