

Large Print guide

Nothing about us without us

Section: Disabled people fight back

Text size: 18pt



This guide contains



Transcription

- Large print of the wall texts and labels.
- Short descriptions of the objects and images on display.

Large Print exhibition guides in 14pt and 24pt text versions, magnifiers and colour overlays are also available.

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Disabled people fight back

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This guide follows the order of the displays within this section of the exhibition.

When you have finished using this guide, please return it or give it to a member of staff. Thank you.

Section introduction: Disabled people fight back

Disabled people have been fighting against discrimination and injustice for centuries.

As long ago as 1620, patients of the notorious Bethlem Hospital, better known as Bedlam, presented a petition to the House of Lords expressing concerns over conditions for inmates.

The first official organisation of disabled people was the British Deaf and Dumb Association, formed in 1890. In the same decade, the National League of the Blind was founded. In 1920, its members marched to London, this tactic inspired other protest marches including the Jarrow March of 1936.

In the 1950s, a campaign for independent living for disabled people led to the formulation of a new idea, the Social Model of Disability. This focused on the disabling barriers in society rather than people's impairments.

By the 1980s, the Disabled People's Movement had grown, and disabled people started to campaign for anti-discrimination legislation. Despite progress made in the decades that followed, disabled people's fight for justice is as important as ever. The fightback against oppression continues.

Main section

Disabled People Fight Back banner by Ed Hall, 2015

This banner was created as part of a collaborative project between the People's History Museum and Full Circle Arts called 'Disbanners'.

The banner maker Ed Hall worked with disabled people across north-west England to design large scale banners addressing issues of disability and austerity.

Disabled people often use the slogan 'Nothing About Us Without Us' in their activism to communicate the idea that no decision should be made by anyone without the involvement of members of the group affected by that decision.

[Object description]

A purple silk banner with a red outer and white inner border measures 1,810mm x 1,760mm.

Along the top of the banner are the words 'DISABLED PEOPLE FIGHT BACK' and 'NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US' at the bottom.

Protesters holding placards and banners are painted across the centre of the banner with the word 'EQUALITY' above them. Slogans depicted are: 'ACCESS TO WORK', 'SOCIETY ▷

- ▷ MAKES PEOPLE DISABLED - NOT THE DISABILITY', 'SMASH THE BARRIERS WHICH EXCLUDE US', 'EDUC-ATE THE MEDIA', AND 'POWER-LESS-NESS = PAIN'. 'NO CUTS. END DISCRIMINATION TO DISABILITY SERVICES • WE ARE ONE'

Subsection introduction: Deaf liberation now

Deaf people have been fighting for the right to communicate in sign language since 1880.

Delegates of the Second International Congress for Education of the Deaf (Milan, 1880) voted to ban sign languages from Deaf education, in favour of speaking, listening and lip-reading. 164 delegates were in attendance. Only one was Deaf. The repercussions of the ban are still affecting Deaf people today.

Deaf people immediately started to fight back, forming the National Association of the Deaf and Dumb in 1886. The British Deaf and Dumb Association followed in 1890. Progress was made in 2003 when British Sign Language (BSL) was formally recognised, and in 2022 when the BSL Act was passed.



- ▷ The struggle continues as BSL is not taught in schools and Deaf people still fight for access to interpreter services.

Francis Maginn bronze bust, 1990

Francis Maginn was one of the organisers of the 'National Conference of Adult Deaf and Dumb Missions and Associations' in January 1890. The conference aimed to 'elevate the education and social status of the Deaf and Dumb.'

This resulted in the formation of the British Deaf and Dumb Association (BDDA), later known as the British Deaf Association (BDA), in July 1890. Maginn was one of its four founders, he believed membership should only be open to Deaf people but this was overruled.

This bust was made to mark the BDA's centenary in 1990.

On loan from

British Deaf History Society Deaf Museum

[Object description]

An older man with a thick moustache, wearing a tie, shirt and blazer. 'FRANCIS MAGINN Founder of The British Deaf Association in 1890' is engraved on a gold plaque on the marble plinth. Measures 700mm x 1,350mm.

Deaf liberation now

National Union of the Deaf plaque, around 1976

The National Union of the Deaf (NUD) was formed in March 1976, it was Deaf-led and self-funded. The group's aim was to 'restore the rights of the Deaf' and it focused on sign language as a civil right. The Latin text on the plaque translates as 'knowledgeable and supportive supervision'.

On loan from British Deaf History Society Deaf Museum

[Object description]

Framed rectangle painted tile, measuring 620mm x 370mm. In the centre is a circular image of a sunrise on the ocean's horizon. A large eagle flies over the water.

'NATIONAL UNION OF THE DEAF' is written above.

'VIGILANTIA GNARUS ET AUXILIOR' is written across the bottom.

Federation of Deaf People (FDP) BSL March poster, 2003

Recognise BSL Now Campaign poster, 2003

Deaf people have fought for many years for British Sign Language (BSL) to be recognised as a language.

The FDP organised the first BSL recognition march in 1999. This national campaign attracted thousands of Deaf people and led to the creation of a Deaf network.

The campaign was partly successful on 18 March 2003, when a government statement formally recognised BSL. This step, though historically significant, was not enough to ensure Deaf people had the legal protection to insist on their right to communicate in BSL.
On loan from Jen Dodds

[Object description]

Two A4 posters advertising a march in London on 5 July 2003.

One has a red background with the words 'FEDERATION OF DEAF PEOPLE' at the top, and eight yellow hands emanating from a star in the centre.



Deaf liberation now

- ▷ The second has an orange background with black silhouettes of people marching forward with a 'BSL' flag.

Photographs of marches for British Sign Language (BSL) recognition, 2000

Demonstrations took place across the UK in 2000, as the campaign for the recognition of BSL gathered pace. These photographs were from rallies in Nottingham and London.

Courtesy of Jen Dodds

[Object description]

Two colour photographs.

One is of two people standing on a stage in front of banners that say 'BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE' and 'FEDERATION OF DEAF PEOPLE'. People are watching on from either side. Buildings are in the background.

The second is of a very large crowd of people in Trafalgar Square, listening to a person in a wheelchair speaking, who is positioned at the base of Nelson's Column.

BSL Act Now! photograph by Victoria Jones, 2022

In this image school children are taking part in a rally in support of British Sign Language (BSL) achieving greater recognition.

Despite the formal recognition of BSL in 2003, Deaf campaigners realised that BSL still did not have the same status as other languages. The struggle continued, leading to the BSL Act passing into law on 28 April 2022.

Courtesy of PA Images / Alamy Stock Photo

[Object description]

A colour photograph of children protesting, holding handmade painted placards. Big Ben is the background

One placard has 'DEAF POWER' across the centre and five hands along the bottom signing different words. Another is the shape of a hand with 'BSL' written across the palm.

VISUAL t-shirt, 2002

This t-shirt was used to raise awareness of British Sign Language (BSL) at Llandrillo College and was used at a march in 2002 in Trafalgar Square, London, that was demanding recognition of BSL.



Deaf liberation now

- ▷ BSL is a visual language and the word 'VISUAL' is prominently spelt out vertically down the centre of the t-shirt. The slogan 'every individual deserves equality, change policies!' features on six horizontal lines which intersect with the word 'VISUAL'.
On loan from
British Deaf History Society Deaf Museum

[Object description]

A framed black t-shirt with a name badge attached saying 'BSL Llandrillo College, Colwyn Bay ANDREW'. Underneath the t-shirt are three photographs of a person hand-painting a t-shirt, and a group of people holding a long banner with 'LLANDRILLO COLLEGE' painted on it.

Subsection introduction: Solidarity

Disabled people have actively campaigned on a wide range of issues beyond those directly linked to disabled people's rights.

Chartist leader William Cuffay and suffragette Rosa May Billinghurst campaigned for the right to vote, and disabled people have been prominent in campaigns including animal rights, anti-apartheid and climate change.

William Cuffay after William Paul Dowling lithograph, 1848

William Cuffay is an excellent example of the way that disabled people have led political revolt. He was a Chartist leader in the early 19th century, a working-class movement campaigning for political reform. He has been recognised as a Black revolutionary, and should be regarded as an important figure in the history of disabled people's political action. Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London



Solidarity



[Object description]

Sepia coloured sketch of William Cuffay with a beard, standing in front of window bars. He is smartly dressed and has placed his right hand into his waistcoat, while his left is by his side.

Underneath is written 'W M.CUFFEY. Drawn in his cell in Newgate. By his fellow sufferer W M. Dowling.'

Photograph of Rosa May Billinghurst being arrested, 1908

May Billinghurst joined the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in 1907. She would go on to found the Greenwich branch of the WSPU in 1910. Although she was known as the 'cripple suffragette' she was not the only disabled woman in the movement.

Although police often disabled her by attacking the adapted tricycle she used, she also used it to her advantage, charging the opposition with her trike and crutches, or hiding stones for window smashing under her blanket.

Courtesy of The Women's Library, LSE

[Object description]

A black and white photograph of Rosa May Billinghurst seated in a wheelchair wearing a 'VOTES FOR WOMEN' sash.



- ▷ She is surrounded by police officers on a busy street. A group of women are standing to the right side of the image.

Stoke Mandeville anti-apartheid picket photograph, 1981

Disabled people actively campaigned against apartheid in South Africa. Here are pictures showing disabled people involved in an anti-apartheid picket against South African participation in the 1982 Stoke Mandeville International Games, which were a forerunner of the Paralympics.

[Object description]

Black and white photograph of a group of people in discussion at a protest. They are all using wheelchairs. Behind them is a person pointing a film camera in their direction.

Bernard Leach's letter withdrawing from Stoke Mandeville Games, 1981

This is the letter from athlete Bernard Leach when he announced that he would boycott the Stoke Mandeville International Games unless the South African team was excluded.

He was selected to compete for Great Britain in several swimming events at the competition for disabled people, but when he heard that



Solidarity

- ▷ South Africa was sending a team, he felt that he had 'no option' but to withdraw.

[Object description]

A4 white paper with black typewriter font.

Photograph of Sue Croshaw speaking in Trafalgar Square, London at World Day for Laboratory Animals, 1984

Sue Croshaw was one of the founders of Disabled Against Animal Research and Exploitation (DAARE). It was set up in the 1980s by a group of disabled people against animal testing who campaigned for animal rights.

Courtesy of Disabled People's Archive

[Object description]

Black and white photograph of a person in a wheelchair, reading off a piece of paper into a microphone. Three people surround them; their backdrop is a large black and white photograph of monkeys.

'A CURE FOR MY PAIN BY TORTURING ANIMALS? I WOULDN'T WANT IT ON MY CONSCIENCE!!' is printed in the bottom left corner.

Subsection introduction: Autistic rights movement

The Autistic Rights Movement is based around Autistic people's self-determinism. The Movement believes autism is simply a different way of functioning.

The internet has been an important space for the development of the Movement with key groups starting out as online forums. This was a new tactic, decreasing the social skills required to engage and increasing the international dimension of the movement. There are also in person events and physical protests.

The Movement challenges the use of intervention therapies and medication to modify behaviour, and those that claim to 'cure' autism. They also call upon organisations to become more autism friendly.

London Autistic Rights Movement (LARM) protest photographs, 2012

LARM was set up in 2007 following the need for an autism led political campaign group in the UK being discussed at Autscope 2007. LARM aims to change the way society treats Autistic people. They do this by campaigning for the rights of Autistic people, including the inclusion

Autistic rights movement

of Autistic people in decision-making about Autistic people, and for comprehensive and appropriate services for all Autistic people.
Courtesy of London Autistic Rights Movement

[Object description]

Two colour photographs of people at protests, using a large orange and black banner.

‘AUTISTIC RIGHTS MOVEMENT’ is written at the top of the banner and ‘Nothing about autism without autistics’ at the bottom.

In the middle of the banner two hands are grasped together in the shape of an ‘A’, the word ‘LONDON’ joining them across the arms.

Vaxxed 2 protest photograph, 2020

‘On 26 January 2020 Autistic Inclusive Meets protested the screening of ‘Vaxxed 2: The People’s Truth’, an anti-vaccination film, at the Tabernacle Theatre in London. Fifteen adults stood outside the venue in peaceful protest against the film, which brands Autistic people as ‘vaccine-damaged’ and was produced by Andrew Wakefield, who published the original paper falsely claiming a link between the MMR vaccine and autism’.

-Emma Dalmayne

Image courtesy of Emma Dalmayne





[Object description]

Six colour photographs of protesters holding up handmade signs in front of a banner attached to railings. Slogans include 'AUTISTIC NOT INJURED' 'ANTI VAXX PRO DISEASE' and 'VACCINES CAUSE ADULTISM!' 'VACCINES DONT CAUSE AUTISM'.

Boycott Spectrum 10K protest photographs, 2021

'These images are from a protest at the Spectrum 10K study outside the Autism Research Centre in Cambridge. Spectrum 10K is a study that proposes to gather the DNA of 10,000 Autistic individuals, with the supposed aim of research into providing more support.

It all looks wonderful on the surface, the fact that there will be no safeguarding over the DNA, that it is open for any researcher to access is quite frankly terrifying. We as autistic people have valid concerns over who will assess the DNA'.

- Emma Dalmayne

Image courtesy of Emma Dalmayne



Autistic rights movement
/ Cased objects – desk case

▷ [Object description]
Five colour photographs.

Two showing individuals making signs and three showing protesters outside the gate of a property holding up the signs. The slogans include 'EMBRACE DONT ERASE', 'HANDS OFF OUR DNA' and 'AUTISTIC PRIDE'.

[Cased objects – desk case]

National Union of the Deaf (NUD) manifesto, 1976

This document laid out the need for the NUD and its aims and objectives. The manifesto was co-authored by NUD founders Dr Paddy Ladd and Raymond Lee.

Courtesy of The University of Manchester

[Object description]

Two A4 pages on discoloured paper. One with the title 'NATIONAL UNION of the DEAF 1976' printed large and the other with a typed message in typewriter font.

The Federation of Deaf People (FDP) leaflet, around 1998

The FDP was set up in 1998 by Doug Alker, a former chair of the British Deaf Association



- ▷ (BDA) and the Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID). He was frustrated by the tame approach taken by these charities. The FDP campaigned for the rights of Deaf people and the recognition of British Sign Language.
On loan from Jen Dodds

[Object description]

A5 front cover of a leaflet. The title 'THE FEDERATION OF DEAF PEOPLE' is printed above a sketch of two grasped hands. 'FDP' and 'The Voice of Deaf People' printed below.

Charter of Deaf Rights document, 2002

This charter was created by the Federation of Deaf People (FDP). They campaigned for the rights of Deaf people to be able to access British Sign Language (BSL) and for information to be available in BSL.

On loan from Jen Dodds

[Object description]

A4 paper listing Deaf people's rights. It is decorated with a border made from outstretched hands. This included the right to: 'equality; freedom of expression, thought and opinion'; 'be respected as Deaf people'; 'communicate in their preferred language'; 'be educated in their chosen language'; 'full social inclusion'; 'free from discrimination'; 'equal access to information and services' and 'self-determination'.

Cased objects – desk case

Derbyshire Coalition of Disabled People's 'The Quiet Revolution' pamphlet, 1980s

There is a rich history in Derbyshire of radical campaigning by disabled people, including the creation of the first Coalition of Disabled People in Britain.

The Coalition played an active part in the establishment of both the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People and the Disabled People's International. The formation of these organisations in the early 1980s, led to many other organisations controlled by disabled people developing throughout the 1980s.

[Object description]

A5 front pamphlet cover with the 'DCDP' logo at the top. The word 'HISTORICAL' is underlined. Beneath this 'THE QUIET REVOLUTION' and 'THE STRUGGLE FOR FULL PARTICIPATION AND EQUALITY'

Disabled People's Direct Action Network (DAN) Northwest flyer, 1990s

DAN is a collective of disabled people who use civil disobedience to campaign for civil rights for all disabled people.

DAN had a national remit but it was up to local disabled people to organise in their local areas. Active DAN groups sprang up all over the



- ▷ country. North-west England, West Yorkshire, Derbyshire, London and Bristol, among others all had active groups.

[Object description]

A4 paper with meeting and contact information. In the centre there is a black and white photograph of seven people protesting with a banner. Two people have chained their wheelchairs to a road access barrier.

DAN Newsletter, June 1999

DAN was unfunded. The people who went on actions funded the group. Group members self-organised the creation and printing of flyers and newsletters like this one.

On loan from Ruth Malkin

[Object description]

A4 booklet with a black and white grainy photograph of a protest on the cover. In the forefront a person in a wheelchair, wearing a top saying 'DAN DARES', holds a sign 'FREE OUR PEOPLE'. Their other hand is raised making a peace sign with two fingers.

Coalition magazine, September 1992

'Coalition' is the official magazine of the GMCDP. It was first published in 1986 as an information new sheet, but quickly developed ▷

Cased objects – desk case

- ▷ into an important forum for debate, analysis, and expression of opinion on all issues relating to disabled people. The magazine has gained a strong national and international reputation.

[Object description]

A4 paper with a contents list and a black and white photograph of a large protest. In the forefront two protesters using wheelchairs are wearing t-shirts printed with 'RIGHTS NOT CHARITY'.

Rights for Disabled People Now mug, 1994

'This mug was bought whilst at a Rights Now! protest in Trafalgar Square in 1994, when we were campaigning for a change in law to prevent discrimination against disabled people and for a full civil rights law.'

- Sue Elsegood

On loan from Sue Elsegood

[Object description]

White mug with 'RIGHTS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE NOW!' printed in blue and yellow.

Rights for Disabled People Now! press briefing, 1995

The Disabled People's Movement fought hard to gain civil rights in the 1990s.

This press briefing was a call to continue the fight for a Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill which had been blocked by the Conservative government despite being popular in parliament in 1994.

On loan from Disabled People's Archive

[Object description]

A4 paper headed with 'RIGHTS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE NOW!'. Each word has its own line and is repeated across the page.

Organise!

Subsection introduction: Organise!

Grassroots self-organisation has been essential in the battle for disabled people's civil rights.

The 1980s saw a huge growth in the number of organisations set up and run by disabled people. This was in part due to better funding opportunities following the United Nations International Year of Disabled People in 1981. The first coalition of disabled people was formed in Derbyshire in 1981, it was soon followed by other local coalitions across the country in Greater Manchester, Hampshire and Avon. In the years that follow many activist networks and disabled people's groups formed.

Coming together, sharing ideas and organising protests has been key to the progress of the Disabled People's Movement, laying the foundation for equality legislation that exists today.

Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC) Nothing About Us Without Us banner, 2010s

DPAC was set up in 2010 to oppose the vicious and disproportionate impact of austerity on disabled people. It was formed by a group of



- ▷ disabled people after the first mass protest against the austerity cuts and their impact on disabled people which was held on the 3 October 2010 in Birmingham.

There are now DPAC branches and members across England and Wales, with a sister organisation, Black Triangle in Scotland. On loan from Manchester Disabled People Against Cuts

[Object description]

A homemade painted rectangle banner measuring 2,265mm x 1,217mm.

DPAC's logo of a large colourful circle grasped by four hands of different colour emanating from a triangle in the centre. The words 'MANCHESTER DPAC' are next to 'NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US'.

Photographs of Rights Now! demonstration in London, 9 July 1994

The Rights Now protest is a typical example of the ongoing campaigns of many disabled people's groups to put anti-discrimination laws into place. Eventually these struggles for justice resulted in the Disability Discrimination Act in 1995.



Organise!

- ▷ [Object description]
Two black and white photographs.

One shows protesters making their way down a busy street, whilst a police officer looks on. Nelson's Column is in the background. Some are wearing campaign t-shirts and holding homemade placards, one reads 'BE CIVILIZED! GIVE US CIVIL RIGHTS NOW. CUT THE CHAINS. PASS THE BILL NOW!'.

One shows a speaker and BSL interpreter on stage in addressing a crowd in front of a 'RIGHTS NOW' banner at Trafalgar Square.

Tory Cuts Kill Disabled People placard, 2010

Placards such as this have been used in many protests since 2010, against a range of austerity measures which have targeted disabled people, threatening and in many cases ending lives.

On loan from Manchester Disabled People Against Cuts

[Object description]
Drawn in blue, red and black markers onto white cardboard measuring 420mm x 585mm with a handle made of two sticks taped together and attached to the bottom of the sign.

Maximus Killers For Hire placard, around 2015

This is a placard which highlights the private outsourcing company Maximus, who started assessing whether benefits claimants were 'fit to work' in work capability assessments from 2015. The slogan 'killers for hire' refers to the high numbers of deaths which occurred due to delays or withdrawals of benefit after work assessments.

On loan from Manchester Disabled People
Against Cuts

[Object description]

Hand drawn and painted on cardboard
measuring

420mm x 510mm with a handle made of two
sticks taped together and secured at the bottom
of the sign. 'MAXIMUS' has paint dripping from
each letter.

#StopAndScrap Universal Credit placard, 2016

Disabled People Against the Cuts (DPAC),
started the Stop and Scrap Universal Credit
campaign in response to criticisms of Universal
Credit.

The reforms implemented from 2016 onwards
had devastating impacts on many disabled
people.

On loan from Manchester Disabled People
Against Cuts



Organise!

▷ [Object description]

The words are painted in red and yellow with a black background onto rectangle cardboard measuring 590x 420mm, A wooden handle is attached to the back of the sign.

#StopAndScrap Universal Credit protest photograph, around 2016

Courtesy of Disabled People's Archive

[Object description]

Colour photograph of protestors outside Manchester Central Library. Five of the protestors are holding up placards, including the three on display in this section. There is a banner and chalked messages on the floor.

Conservative Party Conference protest, 14 Sept 2017

[Object description]

Colour photograph of protestors with the DPAC banner on display and placards. One protester is using a microphone. Police line the back of the protest, behind them are large yellow barriers. The Midland Hotel and Manchester Central Library are in the background.

Conservative Party Conference protest, 2019

[Object description]

Colour photograph of protesters on a road holding signs, DPAC banners and GMDCP banners on display in this section. There is a person dressed as the grim reaper with a Boris Johnson face mask. A protester holding a megaphone sits on a banner on the floor.

Disabled People's Direct Action Network (DAN) Conservative Party HQ demonstration, April 1997

[Object description]

Colour photograph of protesters on a road. One person in a costume police hat is holding a sign with the words 'PEOPLE NOT PROFIT'

I am not worthless...

#HumanCatastrophe placard, 2017

This placard was used by Sharon Hooley at the anti-austerity protests outside the Conservative Party Conference in Manchester. Sharon, and other activists, were unable to access the protest area so moved to block the tramlines at St Peter's Square. This resulted in Sharon's arrest, an operation which was difficult due to an inaccessible police van.



Organise! / Cased objects – tall case

- ▷ [Object description]
Placard measuring 420mm x 590mm with the words 'I AM NOT WORTHLESS, NOR A DRAIN ON SOCIETY! PLEASE STOP SYSTEMIC KILLING OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE!'. Drawn in different fonts and colours on white background.

[Cased objects – tall case]

**Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC)
baseball cap, 2020s**

[Object description]
Black cap with DPAC triangle logo and title in white stitching.

**'Tory Cuts Kill' and 'Stop and Scrap
Universal Credit' DPAC badges, 2010s**

[Object description]
Two badges, one with a blood covered meat cleaver in the centre and the other in the style of a 'STOP' pedestrian road sign.

Balls to the Tories protest ball and image, 2015

‘This red ball is one of many hundreds which DPAC threw at Tory MPs as they entered and exited their party conference in Manchester. Although they are harmless hollow ball pit balls we had to smuggle them through armed police stops.’

Courtesy of Rick Burgess

Ball on loan from Manchester Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC)

Photograph copyright Stephen Kingston/Salford Star

[Object description]

Small red plastic ball.

Colour photograph of Boris Johnson being escorted by two police officers. Members of a crowd behind a metal fence throw coloured balls in their direction. Balls and leaflets litter the road.

The Original PIP/WCA recording equipment, 2016

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) refused to allow digital recordings of PIP assessment sessions and insisted on tape



Cased objects – tall case
/Central display zone

- ▷ recordings which had to be made in duplicate and insisted that each party to the assessment must have a copy.

This recording kit was designed for disabled and ill people to record PIP and WCA assessments. This was created in 2016 through a collaboration between DPAC and Recovery in the Bin to counteract the frequent inaccuracies in assessment reports. A network across Britain was established of multiple kits.

On loan from Manchester Disabled People Against Cuts

[Object description]

Opened metal case measuring 360mm x 450mm. Inside are two tape recording machines, two cassette tapes and an extension wire, cushioned in foam padding.

[Central display zone]

#MillionsMissing t-shirt, around 2019

This ME action campaign has highlighted the millions who are forgotten or written off, largely due to the ways in which their impairments mean they cannot leave their homes. It has highlighted that there are a multitude of people who feel just as strongly as those who can protest in public.



- ▷ The campaign started before the Covid-19 pandemic, opposing stigmatisation, and a lack of appropriate health care and social support. It acquired greater significance during the pandemic due to the tendency to dismiss

people with ‘underlying conditions’ such as ME people as having less significant lives and deaths.

[Object description]

Red t-shirt with the ‘#MILLIONSMISSING’ slogan printed across the chest.

www.deafpowernow.org t-shirt, 2001

This t-shirt advertises the deafpowernow.org website which was set up and run by the Deaf Liberation Front and was active between about 2001-2004.

[Object description]

Black long sleeved t-shirt, the words www.deafpowernow.org in white print.

Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP) banner, 2015

This banner was created by Wadiha Ahmed and Brian Hilton to celebrate GMCDP’s 30th anniversary. GMCDP was established in 1985 by a group of disabled individuals from Greater ▷

Central display zone

- ▷ Manchester. The coalition and its members have a long record of campaigning for the rights and inclusion of disabled people, running projects specifically with young disabled people, training both disabled and non-disabled people, as well as providing information, advocacy and peer support.

GMCDP actively promote the understanding and implementation of the Social Model of Disability, which underpins all its work.
On loan from Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People

[Object description]

Green banner measuring 1,880mm x 1,170mm. The letters 'GREATER MANCHESTER COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE' are sewn down the centre. 'EST.1985', 'RIGHTS NOT CHARITY' and 'GMCDP' with a wheelchair user symbol holding up the 'C' as a placard, and are sewn either side.

Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP) members at Independence Festival Manchester in Albert Square, 1999

[Object description]

Colour photograph of six people in front of an outside pop-up stall with handmade signs and decorations stuck to the roof cover and sides. People perusing the stall at the back

The end

This is the end of the Large Print guide for the Disabled people fight back section of the exhibition. We hope you have found it useful. Please return the guide or give it to a member of staff. Thank you.

Please share with us any feedback on this resource. You can email access@phm.org.uk or share your feedback with a member of staff.