

**DISABLED PEOPLE'S ARCHIVE  
CENTRAL LIBRARY SHOWCASE  
EXHIBITION PROGRAM**

**OCTOBER 2024 – JANUARY 2025**

**PLAIN ENGLISH / EASIER TO READ**



**D P A Disabled  
People's Archive**

The **Disabled People's Archive** showcase exhibition is in the glass cases on the ground floor of **Manchester Central Library** until **January 2025**.

This is a booklet which talks about the items (things) in the exhibition. You can use the booklet to find out more information.

Each **glass case** has a **letter from A to N**, and each **item** has a **number**. The number next to the item goes with the description in this booklet.

There are **63 items** in the exhibition. As this booklet explains all these items, it is quite long!

If you want to look at scans and more photos of the items, you can go on our website by clicking this link: [Central Library Showcase Exhibition, October 2024 - January 2025 - Disabled People's Archive \(disabledpeoplesarchive.com\)](https://disabledpeoplesarchive.com)

If you have any questions or want to find out more, email us at [archive@gmcdp.com](mailto:archive@gmcdp.com)

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## GMCDP – Cases A, B, and C

### Introduction:

These 3 display cases are all about **Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP)**.

GMCDP is a **Disabled People's Organisation (DPO)**. This means we are a group **of** disabled people, coming together to work for the things disabled people want and need for ourselves.

GMCDP was started in 1985 - so we are one of the DPOs that have been around for the longest time in Britain.

Over that time, GMCDP has done a lot of work to find out what disabled people need and to help change things so that disabled people get what they need.

The **Disabled People's Archive (DPA)** is part of GMCDP.

One of the things that we do in the DPA is to keep things from GMCDP's history.

We have hundreds of things from GMCDP in the Archive - more than anything from any other organisation!

The things in this case are just a few of them.

## Case A

### Item 1: International Year of Disabled People newsletters.

Before GMCDP started, there was an **International Year of Disabled People** in 1981.

During 1981, groups of disabled people got together in lots of places in Greater Manchester.

Over the next few years, these groups decided to work together more and more.

In 1984, they had a big meeting, when they decided to start one big disabled people's organisation for the whole of Greater Manchester and call it GMCDP.

These two newsletters were made in 1981 by the disabled people's groups who were starting to work together.

They had news in them about meetings and events that were happening for the International Year of Disabled People.

They also had news about things like TV and radio programmes that disabled people might be interested in.

## **Items 2 and 3: Coalition Magazine.**

**Coalition** is the magazine that **GMCDP** used to make and send to all their members.

It started in 1986 as a newsletter with news stories in it about things that were happening in Greater Manchester that disabled people might be interested in.

As it went on, it got longer and became a magazine that lots of disabled people read, and lots of disabled people wrote articles for it.

Coalition magazine was important for disabled people, not just in Greater Manchester, but all over Britain and even in other countries.

We have got all the issues of Coalition in the Disabled People's Archive, from the beginning to the most recent ones.

Here is the first newsletter from 1986, and the last issue of Coalition magazine from 2019.

This was a special issue about the Disabled People's Archive.

#### **Item 4: GMCDP 10th Anniversary T-shirt.**

This T-shirt was printed for a celebration of GMCDP turning 10 years old in 1995.

GMCDP also made a video to celebrate all their work as an organisation in those 10 years.

This video is in the Archive. It has lots of members of GMCDP talking about how GMCDP started and how it changed over its first 10 years.

GMCDP has had a lot more anniversaries since then - in 2025 it will be 40 years old!

### **Case B:**

#### **Item 5: Flyer from GMCDP's first meeting.**

GMCDP's first official meeting was in June 1985. This was called the **Inaugural Meeting**.

**Inaugural** means a meeting to get something new started, like a new organisation.

At this meeting, disabled people from all over Greater Manchester talked about what they wanted a DPO to do.

The people who started GMCDP told everyone about the new organisation and how to get involved in it.

### **Item 6: Disability Action Training (DAT).**

One project that GMCDP did was called **Disability Action Training (DAT)** which happened between 1990 and 1994.

There were 2 kinds of training that they did.

One kind of training was for employers and the council about what disability is and the ways that disabled people are treated unfairly, and how to change that.

It was called **action** training because it would tell people what they could do differently to make things better for disabled people.

The other was training for disabled people about things like how to find jobs.

This book was made by GMCDP to teach other disabled people how to do Disability Action Training.

GMCDP wanted more disabled people to learn how to do DAT so that more people would be able to do it around the country.



## **Item 7: "Our Life, Our Say!" CD-ROM.**

The **Young Disabled People's Forum** was one of the groups that GMCDP had for young disabled people.

One of the things they did was called **peer mentoring**. This means disabled people supporting each other to change things in their lives.

It could mean one disabled person who already knows about something like using buses teaching another disabled person how to use them.

Or it could be disabled people talking about the problems they have with things like finding PAs and coming up with ideas to solve the problems together.

Julie Bethell wrote a book about how to best do peer mentoring for GMCDP in 2003. This book was called "**Our Life, Our Say**".

GMCDP also made a version of the book on a **CD-ROM**. The **CD-ROM** lets you look at the book on the computer, which some people prefer.

## **Item 8: Young disabled people's project flyer**

This flyer is from another one of GMCDP's projects for young disabled people.

It asks for young disabled people from Asian, Caribbean, African, Chinese or mixed-race backgrounds to join in with the project.

GMCDP wanted to make sure that all sorts of young disabled people from different backgrounds could feel safe and welcomed on the project.

GMCDP ran the Young Disabled People's Project for many years, and they created lots of things. We have some of these things in the Disabled People's Archive.

## **Case C:**

### **Item 6: Rights Now T-shirt.**

GMCDP was part of a campaign called "**Rights Now**" in the 1990s.

"Rights Now" was started by the **British Council of Organisations of Disabled People (BCODP)**.

BCODP was a group of DPOs from all over Britain working together. GMCDP was a member of BCODP at that time.

Lots of other organisations were also involved in "Rights Now".

Some of them were also DPOs, but some were things like charities that are not controlled by disabled people.

"Rights Now" was trying to change the law so that people and businesses would not be allowed to **discriminate** against disabled people.

This means to treat disabled people differently or worse than non-disabled people.

For example, if a shop had steps at the entrance, that would be **discriminating** against disabled people who cannot walk up steps, because they could not get in the shop, but non-disabled people could.

A law to stop things like this is called an **anti-discrimination** law.

This T-shirt was made for the Rights Now campaign.

### **Item 10: The Accessibles comics.**

A group of young disabled people at GMCDP made 3 comics called **The Accessibles** in 2015 and 2016.

They wanted to do this because they thought comics would be a more fun way to learn about important things than ordinary books or papers.

Manchester City Council and Manchester Central Library helped GMCDP to do this comic to celebrate **UK Disability History Month**.

UK Disability History Month is held every year from November 16th until December 20th. There are lots of events when people talk about disabled people's history.

The comics have stories in them about young disabled people finding things out about disabled people's history.

They show how we can learn how to make things better for disabled people in the future from things that happened to disabled people in the past.

## LGBTQ+ – Case D

### Introduction:

This case has things in it that were made by, or that are about, **LGBTQ+** disabled people.

The letters in **LGBTQ+** stand for **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender** and **Queer**.

**Lesbian** means women who are attracted to other women.

**Gay** means men who are attracted to other men.

**Bisexual** means people who are attracted to both men and women.

**Transgender** means people who are a different gender to the one that everyone thought they were when they were born.

**Queer** has been used as a bad word against LGBTQ+ people, but some people have started to use it in a positive way. For example, when they feel that words like straight, gay and lesbian do not describe them.

Sometimes the **Q** can also stand for **Questioning**. This means people who are not sure yet what their gender or sexuality is.

The **plus sign (+)** is to be include everyone that feels part of the LGBTQ+ community but don't feel like they fit into the groups listed in LGBTQ.

Lots of disabled people are also LGBTQ+, including lots of people who have been involved in GMCDP and other Disabled People's Organisations.

Like disabled people, LGBTQ+ people are often treated badly by society, so disabled people and LGBTQ+ people can have a lot in common.

Disabled LGBTQ+ people can have more barriers and problems that disabled people who are not LGBTQ+ do not have.

Some LGBTQ+ spaces are not accessible for disabled people, like being in a building with no ramps.

Some disabled spaces may not be LGBTQ+ friendly, so people may not feel welcome.

So sometimes disabled LGBTQ+ people have made their own groups and organisations.

In these, they can talk about the particular problems that they have to deal with that other disabled people do not, and work out how to solve them.

But lots of LGBTQ+ disabled people are also in disabled people's organisations with other disabled people, and in LGBTQ+ groups with non-disabled LGBTQ+ people.

## Case D

### Item 11: The Rainbow Ripple Report

This is a **report** written in 2006 by the **Rainbow Ripples Group**. This is a group of lesbians, gay and bisexual disabled people in Leeds.

A **report** is a written document that brings together information that people have looked into about a specific topic.

The Rainbow Ripple Report is about the types of services that there were in Leeds for disabled people.

These are services like support with housing, jobs, personal assistance and more. This report looked at how good they were for LGBTQ+ disabled people.

The report talks about how services for disabled people can often ignore the fact that some people are LGBTQ+ as well as being disabled.

It suggests some ways that people who run services can make them better for LGBTQ+ disabled people.

## **Item 12: GMCDP LGBTQ+ Group flyer**

This is a flyer that GMCDP made to tell people about a group that they had started for LGBTQ+ disabled people.

The group had meetings at the **LGBT Centre** on Sidney Street in Manchester. This is now called **The Proud Place**.

It was important to have the meetings at a place that was both accessible for disabled people and part of the LGBTQ+ community.

At these meetings, LGBTQ+ disabled people could meet each other and talk about things that were important to them.

GMCDP still has meetings for LGBTQ+ disabled people now - although at the moment, they are usually online.

If you are interested in going to them, you can email **info@gmcdp.com** to find out when they are.

## **Item 13: REGARD Writes**



**REGARD** is an organisation of LGBTQ+ disabled people from all over Britain.

**REGARD Writes** was a magazine that they used to make and send to their members in the 1990s.

The magazine had news in it about LGBTQ+ events and whether they were accessible for disabled people to go to.

It also had things like poems and book reviews that were written by LGBTQ+ disabled people.

This issue of the magazine is from 1994.

It is called "**REGARD Writes on Rights**" because at the time, lots of disabled people were trying to get laws passed to give disabled people more rights.

They also wrote about LGBTQ+ people trying to get laws passed to protect their rights.

Members of REGARD went to the marches and protests about it. Some of them wrote about what that was like, and took photos, which were printed in the magazine.

## Independent Living – Cases E, F, and G

### Introduction:

**Independent Living** is one of the things that disabled people have been fighting for since the Disabled People's Movement started.

It is one of the most important ideas of the Disabled People's Movement.

**Independent Living** means disabled people getting to choose how to live their lives, just like everyone else.

It does **not** mean living on your own or learning how to do things for yourself with no help.

It means that disabled people are in charge of the help that they need, so they can choose who helps them, and get to tell them how to do it.

This is because disabled people know best about what help they need.

The fight for Independent Living has often meant fighting to get disabled people out of places like hospitals and care homes.

But as an idea, it is bigger than that - it includes all kinds of things that give disabled people more choice and control in their lives.

There are lots of different things in the archive that have something to do with Independent Living.

## Case E

### Item 14: "The Fundamental Principles of Disability"

"The Fundamental Principles of Disability" is a booklet that was made by a group called the **Union of The Physically Impaired Against Segregation (UPIAS)**.

**UPIAS** was an important group of disabled people that started in the 1970s to fight against the ways that disabled people are treated badly by society.

They were some of the first disabled people to talk about a lot of important ideas, like the difference between **impairment** and **disability**.

"The Fundamental Principles of Disability" comes from a meeting between UPIAS and another group called the **Disability Alliance**.

The two groups talked about a lot of different ideas about why disabled people do not have everything they need to live independently.

People in UPIAS thought these ideas were important, so they wrote them down in this booklet so that more disabled people would find out about them.

Later on, disabled people used these ideas to come up with the **Social Model of Disability**.

The Social Model is a very important idea for the Disabled People's Movement.

It says that disability is not a problem in disabled people's bodies, but a problem with how society treats disabled people.

A lot of the people who started UPIAS were living in places like care homes.

This meant they could not choose what to do or who helped them with the things that they needed.

It was important to them to fight for disabled people getting the help they needed to live in ordinary houses and control their own lives.

### **Item 15: Disability Alliance booklet**

The **Disability Alliance** was a group in the 1970s that had both disabled and non-disabled people in it.

They said that one of the biggest problems for disabled people was not having enough money to buy the things they need.

They did research to find out why disabled people were poor, and what sort of things they needed but could not afford to buy.

This booklet, called "**Poverty & Disability: Breaking the link**", talks about what they found out.

They wrote it to try to get the government to change things, such as by giving disabled people more money.

### **Item 16: RNIB leaflet "Looking for work"**

The **Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB)** is a big charity for blind people.

The people who run charities like the RNIB are usually not blind or disabled.

Charities think that they know what disabled people really want, but often the ways that they try to help disabled people are no good.

So disabled people's organisations (DPOs) have often had to try to stop charities from doing things that can make things worse for disabled people.

The Disabled People's Archive has a lot of things in it from charities, because it shows what sorts of things disabled people were fighting against.

This leaflet was about ways that the RNIB tried to help blind people to find jobs.

### **Item 17: "Disabled People in Britain and Discrimination" by Colin Barnes**

**Colin Barnes** is a disabled university professor and researcher.

In the 1980s and 1990s, he worked for the **British Council of Organisations of Disabled People (BCODP)**.

The BCODP did research to find out what sort of things needed to change for disabled people to get everything they needed.

BCODP thought that disabled people needed a law that said people and businesses are not allowed to treat disabled people differently from non-disabled people.

For example, a shop should not be allowed to have steps to get in with no ramp or lift.

If they did, disabled people who cannot walk up steps would not be able to get in the shop, when non-disabled people can.

This is called **discrimination** against disabled people, so a law to stop it is called an **anti-discrimination** law.

Colin wrote this book about why we need an anti-discrimination law in Britain.

This book was published in 1991. A few years later, the government did pass an anti-discrimination law, called the **Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995**.

### **Item 18: Independence postcard**

This postcard says "I am not special, I am not brave, I am a disabled person and John's my name".

It was made by a disabled artist called Brian Hilton for the **Independence Festival** in 1997.

The **Independence Festival** was a festival of art and music made by disabled people.

There were 3 Independence Festivals in Manchester, in 1997, 1998 and 1999.

After that, there was one in Birmingham in 2000 and one in Leeds in 2001.

GMCDP made lots of postcards with messages that would make people think about disabled people differently.

They gave the postcards to people who came to the festival.

They wanted people to see that disabled people could be strong and independent, and non-disabled people do not need to feel sorry for us.

## Case F

### Item 19: GMCDP Independent Living Guides

GMCDP made a set of 7 guides to Independent Living for disabled people in 2010. These are 3 of them.

Each guide was about one of the **7 Needs of Independent Living**.

This is a list of 7 things that DPOs decided were the most important things needed for Independent Living. They are:

- **Accessible Information** - in all the formats disabled people need, like Braille, British Sign Language (BSL), and easy-read.
- **Peer Support** - disabled people helping each other to find out how to change the things that they struggle with.



- **Accessible Housing** - so that disabled people can live in their own houses instead of in places like care homes.
- **Equipment** - all the things that are helpful for disabled people, such as wheelchairs, phones and computers that people can use.
- **Personal Assistance** - help to do all the everyday things that disabled people need help with, but with the disabled people in control of it.
- **Accessible Transport** - like buses and trains, so that disabled people can get to all the places they want to go.
- **Accessible Environment** - like streets and buildings, so that disabled people can get into the places they want to go when they get there.

The 3 guides that we have here are about **Peer Support, Housing and Equipment.**

At the back, the guides have lists of organisations that could be useful to contact for information, with email addresses and phone numbers.

## **Item 20: Children In Need leaflet**

**Children in Need** is a big event for charity that is shown on TV every year.

Lots of famous people would ask the people watching it to send in money. Then the money would be sent to charities for children.

Some of those charities were for disabled children, or for children with disabled parents.

Charity events like Children in Need often showed disabled people in ways that disabled people did not like.

They made disabled people look helpless and like people should feel sorry for them.

And they made it look like disabled people should be grateful to be given things, that actually everyone should have as a right.

This is what the sign 'Rights Not Charity' means. If disabled people had the same rights as everyone, they wouldn't need people's charity money.

If disabled people can only get what they need from charities, then they do not have Independent Living because the charity, not the disabled person, chooses what they get.

So disabled people often protested against the big charity events. At the protests, they gave out leaflets like this to explain to people why they did not want the charity.

## **Item 21: "No ILF No Life" T-shirt**

The **Independent Living Fund (ILF)** was money that the government gave directly to some disabled people to employ **Personal Assistants (PAs)**. It started in 1988.

Only some disabled people could get it - the people who needed most help with things that people need to do every day, like getting out of bed, putting clothes on, or eating and drinking.

Disabled people often thought the ILF was better, because they understood what disabled people needed.

Councils could make it hard for disabled people to get the money they needed - they would ask lots of questions and maybe not believe what disabled people told them.

But with the ILF, disabled people often felt like they were more in control of their lives and could get what they knew they needed.

In 2014, the government said they were going to get rid of the ILF.

So disabled people's organisation tried to fight to keep it.

They made things like T-shirts, banners and postcards saying "**No ILF - No Life**" to show that the ILF gave disabled people control over their lives.

But the government did not listen to disabled people, and they closed down the ILF in 2015.

## **Item 22: Unison and the Disability Discrimination Act**

The **Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)** was a law that was passed in 1995.

The DDA said that businesses and people was not allowed to treat disabled people differently to non-disabled people.

This is called **discrimination**. So, the DDA is an **anti-discrimination** law.

The DDA did not give disabled people everything that they wanted. But it did do some important things.

This guide was made by **Unison**, who are a **trade union** for workers in lots of different jobs, including people working for local councils.

A **trade union** helps workers fight back when their bosses treat them badly.

They might support a worker who has been fired when they should not have been, or who is not getting paid as much as other workers for the same job.

This guide explains how the DDA could be useful to help trade unions to support disabled workers in the union.

It also explains why disabled people did not think the DDA was good enough and what could be different about the law.

## Case G

### **Item 23: GMCDP Independent Living Guide**

GMCDP made this independent living guide in 2007 for disabled people in Greater Manchester.

It explained the 7 needs of Independent Living and why they are important.

This guide told disabled people who they could talk to for help with any of these things in the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester.

These are Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan.

This was so disabled people in each area of Greater Manchester had the right information to make sure that they could choose Independent Living.

### **Item 24: Independence postcard**

This postcard says, "Our Voices Will Be Heard All Over the World".

It was made by a disabled artist called Brian Hilton for the **Independence Festival** in 1997.

The **Independence Festival** was a festival of art and music made by disabled people.

There were 3 Independence Festivals in Manchester, in 1997, 1998 and 1999.

After that, there was one in Birmingham in 2000 and one in Leeds in 2001.

GMCDP made lots of postcards with messages that would make people think about disabled people differently.

They gave the postcards to people who came to the festival.

They wanted people to see that disabled people could be strong and independent, and non-disabled people do not need to feel sorry for us.

## **Item 25: Orange parking badges**

These are badges for disabled people to put in their cars to show that the car belongs to a disabled person.

This means that they are allowed to park their cars in some places that other people are not allowed to park.

Or in some places where most people have to pay for parking, disabled people do not have to.

This helps disabled people live more independently, because often disabled people need to park closer to places that they need to go than non-disabled people do.

We now have **blue badges** for this in Britain - but the first disabled parking badges were orange. These ones are from the 1990s.

## **Item 26: DIG guide to setting up a Personal Assistant support scheme**

One of the most important things for Independent Living is **personal assistance**.

This means getting help from another person to do the things that you need to do but you cannot do by yourself.

These things are different for different disabled people, but often it could be things like getting out of bed, putting clothes on, cooking meals, or cleaning your house.

Having a **Personal Assistant (PA)** to do these things means that you are in control, because the PA works for you and you are their boss.

Disabled people fought to get money from the government to be able to employ PAs in the 1980s and 1990s.

The **Disablement Income Group (DIG)** was a group of disabled people who campaigned for disabled people to get more money from the government for all the things that they need.

They wrote this guidebook for councils and other organisations to show them how to help disabled people to employ PAs.

### **Item 27: WECIL Personal Assistant Employer's Handbook**

The **West of England Centre for Inclusive Living (WECIL)** made this handbook for disabled people who employ PAs.

**Centres for Inclusive Living (CILs)** are organisations run by disabled people. They can also be called Centres for Integrated Living and Independent Living.

CILs give disabled people advice and support to get the things they need to live in the community and be live independently.

One thing that some disabled people might need advice and support with is employing PAs.

It is very important for Independent Living that disabled people get to be the boss of their PAs, not the other way round.

That way, disabled people are the ones who are in control of the things that they need help to do.



But it can be difficult to be someone's boss, especially if you have never worked for a boss yourself.

There are lots of things that you have to do the right way. And you might not know how to find people to work for you as your PAs.

So Disabled People's Organisations wanted to support disabled people to get these things right.

This handbook tells disabled people what they need to do and where they can get support with the parts of being a boss that they might find difficult.

## Protest – Cases H, I, and J

A **protest** is when people stand up for what they believe in. There are many types of ways to protest. We talk about them in these display cases.

Often when people protest about something, they are trying to get the government to do something or to stop doing something.

It also is a way to tell people about an issue that other people may not know about or may not know is a bad thing for disabled people.

There are lots of things that the Disabled People's Movement has **protested** about.

Some of them are making transport accessible, freeing disabled people from institutions like care homes, and stopping benefit cuts.

A lot of things that disabled people protested about in the past are still affecting disabled people today.

We need to learn about the protests and fights of the past to help make disabled people's lives today better.

There are lots of things in the Disabled People's Archive that were made for protests or are about protests.

## Case H

### Item 28: DAN t-shirt

This T-Shirt was made by a group called **DAN**, the **Disabled People's Direct-Action Network**.

DAN were a group of disabled people who protested about lots of things in the 1990s and 2000s.

**Direct Action** is a way of protesting where people try to actually stop or change something themselves, rather than just asking the government to stop or change it.

For example, one thing that DAN protested about was buses not being accessible for disabled people.

In the 1990s, most buses did not have ramps for wheelchair users to get on - or any room to fit the wheelchair on the bus!

So DAN protested by blocking roads and chaining themselves to buses. This stopped the buses from going anywhere.

It also got non-disabled people to think about what it was like not to be able to go anywhere on the bus.

DAN also protested about other things that stopped disabled people from being free to live like everyone else, such as people being locked up in institutions.

This T-Shirt says '**Nothing About Us Without Us**'.

This is a phrase that is used a lot in the Disabled People's Movement. Other groups of people, like Black people in South Africa, have used it too.

It means that if a decision **about** a group of people is being made, then they should include those people, the decisions should not be made **without** them.

For example, non-disabled people should not decide what sort of support disabled people should get without asking disabled people what they want.

### **Item 29 and Item 30: Disabled People Against Apartheid**

This leaflet and booklet were made in 1985 by a group called **Disabled People Against Apartheid**.

**Apartheid** was a system of laws in South Africa that kept black and white people separate from each other.

Black people were treated very unfairly. They were not allowed to do lots of things that white people were allowed to do.

Some disabled people thought that this was similar to the ways that disabled people have been treated unfairly and kept separate from non-disabled people.

Lots of people in other countries said that they would not buy anything from South Africa or let sports teams from South Africa join in their events until South Africa stopped Apartheid.

This is called a **boycott**. A boycott is a type of protest.

The government of Britain said they agreed with the boycott. So there were not supposed to be things like sports events in Britain with people from South Africa in them.

This leaflet and booklet are from the boycott of the **Stoke Mandeville Games**.

This was a sports events for disabled people from all over the world. It was an early version of the **Paralympics**.

The Stoke Mandeville Games had a team in it from South Africa. Only white people were allowed in the team.

So Disabled People Against Apartheid went to Stoke Mandeville to protest against the team from South Africa being allowed to go there.

They gave out leaflets like these to explain about the boycott and to get more people to join in, both disabled and non-disabled.

### **Item 31: Militant and Disabled Magazine**

This is a magazine called 'Militant and Disabled' that was made by a group called **Militant Labour** in 1995.

Militant Labour were a left-wing political group who also used to publish magazines with the same name.

This was a special, one-off magazine that they made about the Disabled People's Movement. It explains a lot of the things that are important to disabled people.

They sent it to people who usually read the Militant Labour magazine every month.

So non-disabled people who were already interested in protesting and trying to change society got to read about the Disabled People's Movement.

They might not have known much about disabled people before then - so reading it probably helped them to understand better about what problems disabled people had to deal with.

## Case I

### Item 32: Photographs from Accessible Buses Protest

These are 3 photographs that show a group of disabled people blocking the road and stopping buses in Manchester.

This was an example of **Direct Action**.

**Direct Action** is a way of protesting where people try to actually stop or change something themselves, rather than just asking the government to stop or change it.

The group were protesting about buses not being accessible for disabled people. They blocked the road so no one could use the buses.

This was a way to get non-disabled people to think about what it was like not to be able to go anywhere on the bus.

The photo in the middle was taken by **David Hevey**.

David Hevey was a famous photographer who took lots of photographs of the Disabled People's Movement.

### Item 33: DAN T-Shirt

This T-Shirt was made by a group called **DAN**, the **Disabled People's Direct-Action Network**.

DAN were a group of disabled people who protested about lots of things in the 1990s and 2000s.

**Direct Action** is a way of protesting where people try to actually stop or change something themselves, rather than just asking the government to stop or change it.

This T-Shirt design comes from the story of **Robin Hood**. Robin Hood was an outlaw from near Nottingham who stole from the rich and gave to the poor.

Because DAN were protesting in Nottingham, they decided to use a design of Robin Hood and added that to the drawing of a wheelchair user.

### **Item 34: Handcuffs**

These are a pair of **Handcuffs**. Handcuffs are used by the police to lock people's hands behind their backs.

DAN used handcuffs in a lot of their protests.

People would use handcuffs to attach themselves to things so that it would be hard to get them off.



For example, on a protest about inaccessible buses, someone might handcuff themselves to a bus.

Or if people were protesting outside a building where something bad was happening, they might handcuff themselves to the doors of the building so people can't get in.

Then it would be difficult to get rid of the protesters. The people in the building or the road would have to stop what they are doing and call the police or the fire brigade.

They would have to bring big tools to cut through the handcuffs to take the protesters away.

This meant that they would stop the people doing whatever they were protesting against for a lot longer and cause a lot more trouble for them.

It would also make more people pay attention to the issues that DAN was there to protest about.

### **Item 35: BSL March leaflet**

This leaflet is about a **march** by the **Federation of Deaf People**. This is a group of Deaf people that work together to fight specific issues that affect Deaf people.

A **march** is a kind of protest where lots of people walk together with signs and banners about the same issue.

Usually marches go somewhere that means hopefully lots of people will see them, like through a city centre.

This march was about **British Sign Language (BSL)**. BSL is the way that Deaf people in Britain talk to each other.

The march was to get the government to treat British Sign Language (BSL) as an **official language** of the UK.

This would mean that important information would have to be given to people in BSL as well as in English.

It would also mean that BSL could be taught in schools, so hearing people as well as Deaf people would understand it.

These things would make life a lot easier for deaf people.

For lots of Deaf people BSL is their first language. They learn to sign as babies, just like hearing people usually learn to speak.

For a long time, hearing people tried to make Deaf people learn to speak, even if that was much harder for them than signing.

They would not let Deaf people learn BSL because they did not think it was a proper language. They thought only spoken languages counted as real languages.

Deaf people have fought against this for many years as they say that signing is just as good as speaking.

For a lot of deaf people, knowing and using BSL is very important to them. It is a big part of who they are as Deaf people and as a community.

The British Government finally agreed to treat BSL as an official language in 2003.

## Case J

### Item 36 and Item 37: Letter to Member of Parliament and Template

Another way to protest is for people to write letters to their MPs (Members of Parliament).

These letters were about **care charging**.

This is when local councils make disabled people pay for things they need that the council gives them, like personal assistance.

Most councils do this, but lots of disabled people think it is very unfair.

Disabled people usually have less money than non-disabled people to start with.

If they have to pay for things that they need - which they have no choice about needing - they will have even less money.

They might not be able to afford both the assistance they need and other things that everyone needs to pay for, like food and heating.

Writing to MPs about unfair things like this could help, because an MP could tell the council that they need to change it.

The council might be more likely to listen to an MP than to disabled people themselves.

Or an MP might be able to help change the law.

The government could pass a law that says councils are not allowed to charge disabled people for things that they need from the council.

But they will only do that if enough MPs agree with the new law.

And not everyone believes that writing to MPs will do anything.

The MPs might not care or might not agree with disabled people that care charging is unfair.

So disabled people need more ways to try to change things than just writing to their MPs. But it is one thing that might sometimes help.

### **Item 38: Disabled People Bite the Hand that Patronises**

This was a postcard made by a group of young disabled people in a project set up by GMCDP.

The project was to make a short cartoon video called 'Disability Is'. The pictures on the postcard come from that video.

The Disabled People's Archive have the video on their YouTube.

The design of the postcard was made to highlight the way that disabled people are treated. This could be by charities, non-disabled people and even family members.

Disabled people do not want other people to feel sorry for them, or to act like non-disabled people know better than disabled people what they want or need.

The pictures show a disabled person being patted on the head like a dog by a non-disabled person who says "Aah, are you being a good boy".

Disabled people want to be respected as human beings who know what they need and can make their own decisions, not treated like pets.

Postcards were a good way to send around messages to other people. If it had art like this on the back, lots of people would see it!

## **Item 39: Rights Now Campaign Resource Pack**

"Rights Now" was a campaign that the **British Council of Organisations of Disabled People (BCODP)** led in the 1990s.

BCODP was a group of different **Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs)** from all over Britain working together.

**Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs)** are organisations run by disabled people that do things for disabled people, like GMCDP.

Lots of other organisations were also involved in "Rights Now". Some of them were also DPOs, but some were things like charities that are not controlled by disabled people.

"Rights Now" was trying to change the law so that people and businesses would not be allowed to **discriminate** against disabled people.

This means to treat disabled people differently or worse than non-disabled people.

For example, if a shop had steps at the entrance, that would be **discriminating** against disabled people who can not walk up steps, because they could not get in the shop but non-disabled people could.

A law to stop things like this is called an **anti-discrimination** law.

This resource pack was to help people in DPOs around the country to organise protests or other events for "Rights Now".

## Item 40: Disability Manifesto

A **manifesto** is a list of the things that a political party says they will do if they become the government.

For example, a party might say that if it gets to be the government, it will make all the buses and trains accessible.

All the parties usually write manifestos before a General Election. People can read all the manifestos and then decide which party to vote for.

More people will vote for a party if they like the things that they say they will do in their manifesto - and if they believe they would actually do those things!

Disability Daily wrote this **Disability Manifesto** for the General Election in 2001.

The **Disability Manifesto** was a list of things that they wanted whichever party won the election to do for disabled people.

So it was also a list of things that disabled people wanted to change, to make life better for disabled people in Britain.

## Item 41: DAN badges

These badges were made by **DAN**, the **Disabled People's Direct-Action Network**.

DAN were a group of disabled people who protested about lots of things in the 1990s and 2000s.

One of them says "**Piss on Pity**".

"**Piss on Pity**" was a slogan that disabled activists used to say that they did not want to be pitied by charities and non-disabled people.

One of the badges has the same picture of a wheelchair user dressed as Robin Hood and shooting an arrow at the T-shirt in case 1 (**item 33**).

The last one just has **DAN's logo** - a simple picture of a wheelchair user, like the one used for things like accessible toilets and parking spaces, breaking a chain.

DAN used this to show the idea of disabled people freeing themselves from barriers made by non-disabled people.

## **Item 42: Photograph of people outside of the House of Parliament**

This is a photo of a group of disabled people outside the **Houses of Parliament** in London.



Lots of protests are outside or near the Houses of Parliament, because the government works there.

People often go there to try to talk to their MPs about the things that they are protesting about, or just so that MPs will see that the protest is happening.

We don't know exactly which protest this photo is from, but we think it is probably from the 1990s.

## International – Cases K and L

**International** means from other countries.

Most of the things in the Disabled People's Archive are from Britain, but we do still have quite a lot of things from other countries.

Some of these things are from a group called **Disabled People's International (DPI)**. **Disabled People's International (DPI)** was started in 1981 in Canada.

It was made up of national DPOs from lots of different countries.

DPI was started to fight for the rights of disabled people all over the world.

The people who started it wanted to bring together disabled people and DPOs from all over the world to share ideas and work together.

They wanted to make sure that disabled people everywhere could have all the same rights and be just as much a part of society in their countries as non-disabled people.

We also have many other items from other **Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs)** in countries such as Spain, America and South Africa.

### **Item 43: DPI Constitution**

A **constitution** is an important document that lots of organisations have.

It says what the organisation is for and how it is supposed to work. It is usually written by the people who started the organisation.

This is DPI's constitution. It explains how DPI works as an organisation and what the different parts of DPI all do.

#### **Item 44: DPI Statement on Equal Opportunities**

An **opportunity** means getting the chance to do something that you want to do.

**Equal opportunities** mean everyone getting the same chances to do what they want to do, even if not everyone might want to do the same things.

This is important for disabled people because often disabled people are stopped from doing things that non-disabled people get to do.

**Disabled People's International (DPI)** wrote this paper to say that having equal opportunities is important for disabled people all over the world.

They also wanted to show some ways that governments in all countries can change things so that disabled people have equal opportunities.

In the paper they talk about lots of things that countries might need to change so that disabled people can have equal opportunities.

These things include making houses, other buildings, streets, trains and buses accessible.

They also include making sure that disabled people can get the same health care, go to the same schools, and work in the same jobs as non-disabled people.

DPI think that **Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs)** are very important for giving disabled people equal opportunities, so all countries should have them.

#### **Item 45: DPI World Council Meeting notes**

This document is the notes from a meeting that DPI had in Sweden in 1983.

In that meeting lots of things that affected disabled people around the world were discussed.

One thing they spoke about was the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** that was made by the **United Nations (UN)**.

The **United Nations** is a group including most of the countries in the world. They try to stop wars between countries and help different countries to work together.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was written in 1949 after World War Two and says all people in every country should have the same human rights.

Some of these rights are the right to life, the right to start a family, the right to be free from harm, the right to education and more.

But the United Nations did not say anything about disabled people in this document.

So DPI agreed to tell the United Nations that they should make sure that they talk about disabled people in their documents.

They got the UN to say that disabled people are a group of people who often do not get the rights they should get, and that the UN should help disabled people to get their rights.

#### **Item 46: "Are Disabled People Included?"**

This is a booklet that was made by DPI in 1998.

It is about all the ways that disabled people are treated badly in many different countries around the world.

Disabled people are not getting things that are supposed to be their rights - even though the **United Nations (UN)** said everyone in the world should have those rights.

For example, in some countries disabled people are locked up in hospitals or by their families, so they do not have the right to go where they want.

In some countries, some disabled people are not allowed to vote, or to get married, or to have a passport.

DPI said in this booklet that the UN needs to stop the governments of all those countries from treating disabled people like that.

#### **Item 47: "The Last Civil Rights Movement" by Diane Driedger**

**Diane Driedger** is a disabled writer from Canada.

This is a book that she wrote about DPI in 1989.

The book is about how DPI started and the disabled people from many different countries who helped to make it happen.

It is called "**The Last Civil Rights Movement**" because in a lot of countries, disabled people were one of the last groups of people to get laws giving them the same rights as everyone else.

## Case L

### Item 48: ADAPT T-shirt

**ADAPT** is a group of disabled people in America that started in the 1970s.

ADAPT fights to get disabled people out of care homes and get them accessible houses and the personal assistance that they need.

In America, the word that they use for personal assistance for disabled people is **Attendant Programs**.

ADAPT is part of the **Independent Living** movement.

ADAPT often uses **direct action** to get disabled people out of care homes.

**Direct Action** is a way of protesting where people try to actually stop or change something themselves, rather than just asking the government to stop or change it.

This T-shirt has a picture of a brick wall shaped like the USA, with a wheelchair user behind a window with bars.

This is to show that the places, like care homes, that lots of disabled people have to live in are like prisons.

The disabled people who are in those places cannot go where they want or decide what to do in their own lives.

Underneath, it says "Land of the free...Unless you live in a nursing home".

Americans often call America the "**Land of the Free**", because everyone is supposed to have freedom there. Freedom is very important in their culture.

But disabled Americans who are in care homes are not free! So ADAPT use things like this T-shirt to say that they should be free.

### **Item 49: "Disability Front Line" magazine**

"**Disability Front Line**" is a magazine that was made by a DPO in South Africa called the South African Federation of the Disabled.

In the archive we have many journals from different countries. We have lots from Africa.

### **Item 50: "En Marcha" magazine**



**"En Marcha"** is a magazine that was made by a DPO in Spain called the Spanish Confederation of People with Physical Disabilities.

In the archive we have many journals from different countries. We have lots from Europe.

### **Item 51: "Disabled in Action Speaks"**

**"Disabled in Action Speaks"** is a newsletter that was made by a DPO in America called Disabled in Action.

In the archive we have many journals from different countries. We have lots from the United States of America.

### **Item 52: International Day of Disabled People poster**

This is a poster for an event that GMCDP put on in 1996 to celebrate the **International Day of Disabled People**.

The **International Day of Disabled People** is on the 3rd of December every year. It was started by the United Nations in 1992.

DPOs around the world often have events on the International Day of Disabled People.

The events might have people talking about disabled people's history, or art and music by disabled people, or just be a party where disabled people can meet each other.

This year, GMCDP is having an event for the International Day of Disabled People here in Manchester Central Library!

### **Item 53: DPI Europe leaflet**

This is a leaflet that was made in 1993 by the **DPI assembly in Europe**.

The **DPI assemblies** are all part of the worldwide organisation of DPI. There are assemblies for different regions of the world.

When they made this leaflet, DPI in Europe was working with the **European Commission**. This is like a government in the **European Union**.

DPI was working with them to try to get all the governments in Europe to give disabled people equal rights.

## Women and Disability - Cases M and N

### Introduction

Disabled women have always been in the Disabled People's Movement.

But sometimes, disabled women have felt like disabled men had more power, or like the issues that only happened to disabled women were being ignored.

So some disabled women have started their own groups within the Disabled People's Movement.

Some disabled women talked and wrote about the specific ways that disabled women are treated by society.

These can be different from what happens to both non-disabled women and disabled men.

Here we have some things from the Archive that were made by and for disabled women.

## Case M

### Item 54: GEMMA leaflet

**GEMMA** was a group for disabled **lesbian** and **bisexual** women.

**Lesbian** means women who are attracted to other women.

**Bisexual** means women who are attracted to both women and men.

Women who were both disabled and lesbian or bisexual might feel lonely or feel like no one really understands them.

In groups for disabled women, the other women might all be straight and not understand what it is like to be lesbian or bisexual.

In groups for lesbian and bisexual women, the other women might all be non-disabled and not understand what it is like to be disabled.

So GEMMA was a group where disabled lesbian and bisexual women could meet each other, become friends and support each other.

## **Item 55: WILD newsletter**

**WILD** was a group for women with learning difficulties in the 1990s. They had meetings in Manchester and Bristol.

This is their first newsletter, which was written in 1993.

It was made so that women with learning difficulties could write and tell each other about things that were important to them.

## **Item 56: Boadicea issue 22**

**"Boadicea"** was a newsletter made by **Greater London Action on Disability (GLAD)**.

"Boadicea" was named after a woman who lived in the area around London thousands of years ago.

She was a powerful leader who fought against the Roman Empire.

In some paintings of her, she is riding a chariot that looks a bit like a wheelchair.

So disabled women in GLAD thought she was a bit like them - going around on wheels and fighting for their rights!

"Boadicea" was made for disabled women in London and all the articles in it were written by disabled women.

Usually, the articles in "Boadicea" were about what it is like to be a disabled woman, or about things that disabled women might be interested in.

### **Item 57: "Piss on Pity" T-shirt**

This T-shirt was made for a disabled comedian called **Barbara Lisicki**.

She is a comedian and activist who was very active in the **Disabled People's Direct Action Network (DAN)**.

DAN protested against things like charity events that often showed disabled people in ways that disabled people did not like.

The charities made disabled people look helpless and like people should feel sorry for them.

And they made it look like disabled people should be grateful to be given things, that actually everyone should have as a right.

**"Piss on Pity"** was a slogan that disabled activists used to say that they did not want to be pitied by charities and non-disabled people.

Activists like Barbara used comedy and other kinds of art to get the message across of why charities are bad for disabled people.

Barbara often performed in **cabarets**.

A **cabaret** is an event when lots of different people perform on a stage. They might be doing music or poetry or comedy or other performances.

The cabarets that Barbara and other disabled artists put on were important for the Disabled People's Movement.

They were places where disabled people got to have fun and meet other disabled people who thought the same way that they did about things.

They would sell T-shirts like this at the events - both to make money for disabled people's organisations, and so that people would see disabled people wearing them.

This was another way to get the message across and change how people think about things like charities.

### **Item 58: "With Wings" book**

**"With Wings"** was a book of writing by disabled women.

It has lots of different pieces of writing in it - including poems, stories and articles about what life is like for disabled women.

A book like this is called an **anthology**.

"With Wings" was put together by two disabled women called Marsha Saxton and Florence Howe in 1988.

They were from America, so most of the women whose writing they put in the book were also American.

But they had lots of different impairments and lots of different life experiences.

## Case N

### Item 59: Disabled Women in Europe resource kit

This booklet was made by **Disabled People's International (DPI)**.

DPI was started in 1981 in Canada to fight for the rights of disabled people all over the world.

DPI is made up of national DPOs from lots of different countries, and it has groups in different parts of the world.

The DPI group in Europe made this to help other organisations in Europe to fight for the rights of disabled women.



This booklet gives information and advice on the laws in Europe that affect disabled women the most.

### **Item 60: "I'm Too Sexy for a Charity Poster" t-shirt**

This T-shirt was made for a disabled comedian called **Barbara Lisicki**.

Barbara Lisicki also had the Piss on Pity t-shirt made for her. You can read more about her on page

**"I'm Too Sexy for a Charity Poster"** was a funny way to say that the ways charities show disabled people in things like posters and adverts are bad for disabled people.

They often showed disabled people as helpless and like children, not as independent adults who might have sex, just like non-disabled people.

### **Item 61: Manchester Disabled Women's Conference report**

GMCDP and another group called **Manchester Disability Forum** put on a **conference** for disabled women in 1990.

At this conference, disabled women talked about lots of different things that mattered to disabled women.

For example, whether disabled women had less power than men in disabled people's organisations, and whether disabled women need different kinds of support to disabled men.

This report was made to tell everyone what they talked about at the conference.

## **Item 62: Global Women's Strike leaflet**

**Global Women's Strike** is a group that fights for the work that women do to be seen as more important.

A **strike** is when people stop working so that their bosses will give them more money or treat them better at work.

It works because it shows the bosses what will happen if the work is not done.

So **Global Women's Strike** is about showing people what would happen if women stopped doing the work that lots of women do - like cooking, cleaning and looking after children.

Women do not usually get paid for doing that kind of work at home. So Global Women's Strike wanted the government to give women more money.

Disabled women often especially need more money, because it can be harder and cost more to do lots of things if you are disabled.

This leaflet was made by Global Women's Strike around 2017. It shows lots of disabled women saying why they joined Global Women's Strike.

### **Item 63: Independence postcard**

This postcard says "I can't afford your charity. The price is all my dignity". It shows a disabled woman with her guide dog.

It was made by a disabled artist called Brian Hilton for the **Independence Festival** in 1997.

The **Independence Festival** was a festival of art and music made by disabled people.

There were 3 Independence Festivals in Manchester, in 1997, 1998 and 1999.

After that, there was one in Birmingham in 2000 and one in Leeds in 2001.

GMCDP made lots of postcards with messages that would make people think about disabled people differently.

They gave the postcards to people who came to the festival.

They wanted people to see that disabled people could be strong and independent, and non-disabled people do not need to feel sorry for us.

This is the end of the document.

If you have any comments, questions or ideas on the exhibition, please email [archive@gmcdp.com](mailto:archive@gmcdp.com).

This will help us put more exhibitions and host events in the future.



**DPA** Disabled  
People's Archive