

Disability Rights UK – Trustee Recruitment for AGM 2022

Name: Clenton Farquharson

Video: <https://youtu.be/qMXSjsZyy7I>

Hello,

My name is Clenton Farquharson.

I'm Black disabled man.

I was born to Windrush parents. I became aware of what it means to be a campaigner because of my mum and dad. This influenced how I approach my own activism.

How would I describe myself?

Social justice campaigner. I see my action with the goal of bringing about social change.

I feel strongly about working towards a change, to a just society which is fair. Some issues I'm fighting are to eradicate unfairness, fragmentation, inefficiency. People feeling left behind because of underfunded systems & processes. Hearing myself say it out loud - I consider myself an activist.

To me an activist is anyone who is fighting for change in society.

Societal understanding about intersectionality, seeing multiple disadvantages created by skin colour, ethnicity, disability and other protected characteristics, means people who draws on systems and services can be left behind.

Intentional action is needed, this is what attracted me to the role, to put myself forward to be a trustee of Disability Rights UK.

I'm keen to explore intersectionality. There is no such thing as single issues or struggles. Leaning on the quote of Audrey Lord - 'We do not live single-issue lives'.

A line etched in dignity.

Dehumanising others crosses that line.

Dehumanising Always Starts With Language, Attitude,
Information/Communication Barriers, Physical Barriers.

There are always boundaries. Even in the Wilderness.

When we commit to getting closer, we're committing to eventually experiencing
real, face-to-face conflict.

Whether it's over dinner, at work, in the supermarket line, in-person conflict is
always hard and uncomfortable.

And when it comes to family, it's even harder and more painful.

If your family is anything like mine, you've been required to summon love and
decency in the face of emotions that range from minor frustration to rage.

Maintaining the courage to stand alone when necessary in the midst of family,
community or angry strangers, feels like an untamed wilderness.

When I get to the point where I'm like, Screw this! It's just too hard. I'm too lost!

I hear Maya Angelou's words about being brave : 'The price is high. The reward is
great'.

That's the reason I put myself forward to be a trustee of Disability Rights UK.

Thank You.

Name: Naomi Lawson Jacobs, PhD

Video: <https://youtu.be/dSx1RCg5pi8>

I am a disabled and neurodivergent person – I’m autistic and I have a long-term chronic illness. I have been involved in disability rights campaigning since the 1990s, when I was Disabled Students’ Officer at Cardiff University Union. After completing an MA in Disability Studies at the University of Leeds, I went on to do a PhD that involved research with disabled people. I have a background in policy research in the charity sector. Today I work as a freelance research consultant, disability equality trainer and trainee access auditor.

I’ve always looked for roles where I can share my skills with DDPOs and grassroots communities of disabled people, especially by offering my research skills. In 2020 I co-wrote a research report with Sisters of Frida on the impact of Covid-19 on disabled women, and I currently volunteer with Inclusion Barnet as a research and policy officer. I’m also proud to have written a book on disability in churches, ‘[At the Gates: Disability, Justice and the Churches](#),’ based on my PhD research. This book is part of my ongoing work with a grassroots community of disabled Christians. For several years I have been part of planning team for the UK’s only disabled-led conference on disability and church, and I speak and write regularly on the subject in the media and at seminars and events.

I have always believed that the disability movement is stronger when we raise our voices together. I’m keen to see the disability rights movement become more representative and inclusive of *all* disabled people, including those with chronic illnesses and the neurodiversity movement.

As a researcher, I have a vision for a disability movement that uses evidence to influence the government to improve disabled people’s rights and opportunities. Research can amplify disabled people’s voices and persuade the government to take action – on housing, benefits, the cost of living crisis, and all the oppression that disabled people face in our society. That’s why I hope to be able to support DRUK in taking its policy research strategy forward, as a trustee, over the next few years.

Name: Claire Nevin

Video: <https://youtu.be/DhVt1wD7U20>

My name is Claire Nevin and I live in Northern Ireland. I have a range of both visible and invisible disabilities since early childhood.

I would like to join the Board as I am passionate about disability rights and the society in which we live. I am motivated and driven to help make a change, particularly in respect of promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people and increasing their participation in everyday life. While I have looked at other possible Boardroom appointments, they have not provided the same enthusiasm, nor have they aligned with my personal values in the way your opportunity does.

I have 17+ years' experience working to progress equality, diversity, and inclusion, supporting disabled staff and assisting them to obtain reasonable adjustments in the workplace.

I am an active member of a Disabled Staff Network since 2005, fulfilling the role of Co-Chair since 2020. The Network has always been a grass roots movement driven by its members. However, since taking up the role of Co-Chair, I have strengthened the collective voice of the Network making it a recognised consultative forum contributing to and monitoring the formulation, implementation, and effectiveness of policies, action plans and strategies that might impact upon disabled persons within my place of employment. I am also a member of the National Association of Disabled Staff Networks (NADSN) and in my free time, I volunteer with Disability Action Northern Ireland and Versus Arthritis.

I have completed the Boardroom Apprentice Programme in Northern Ireland. It taught and improved the skills necessary for sitting on a board, focussing on governance, accountability, risk management, communication, questioning, finance, collaborative working based on the Nolan Principles. It complemented my existing knowledge and skills gained from my MBA and Postgraduate degree in Strategic Leadership.

I understand the commitment required to perform the role efficiently and effectively and would not consider this appointment if I could not devote the time required. By utilising networks and other contacts, I could increase collaboration on common projects, amplifying voices to effect systemic change, not only about policy but also attitudes.