Campaign Planning Session Notes

Topic: Intersectionality

What are our top asks on INTERSECTIONALITY?

* Chronic Illness – need to consider how most people with chronic illness and energy limiting impairment are women who experience both ableism and sexism, especially where they experience denial and disbelief in accessing medical treatment and social care/security.
* We need to explicitly demand funding for LGBT, Women’s and BAME DPOs and demand that funders address structural inequalities
* Need to consider Deaf issues as intersectional – its about language and culture crossing over impairment
* Mental Health Act Review recommendations – contains discrimination and flawed points about BAME people, young people and people with learning difficulties. Barely mentions women, LGBT people older people and people with physical impairments.
* Disabled asylum seekers – must build links between Disabled movements and asylum seeker movements. Trauma and mental distress caused through detention and their flight/cause of their flight
* we need to work across equality user-led organisations and share perspectives and approaches and have a united approach to demand that govt addresses structural and intersectional inequality highlighted by covid crisis
* LGBT Disabled people – have often formed informal support networks in response to failings by services, we need to consider how formal services can complement informal networks rather than destroy it. Also issues around abandonment of Disabled LGBT people by LGBT groups, especially after diagnoses of HIV.
* Trans Disabled people - Trans people living in supported housing and care homes, particularly those with learning difficulties, are continually refused the opportunity to express themselves.
* Disabled women – also need to consider they face issues in pregnancy, marriage and childcare and also in healthcare.
* BAME Disabled people – black boys with learning difficulties excluded from school for not keeping up academically, discrimination of BAME people who experience mental distress

How can campaigns on INTERSECTIONALITY be developed regionally?

* We need to be demanding funding for BAME organisations (inc.DPOs) at a local and regional level, and ensure the funding is sustainable so organisations last more than a couple of years.
* Collaborate with other national/regional organisations to set up regional inclusive branches.
* Using cultural and media productions - Easy Read will also need to be considered in media efforts to ensure our messages spread and are not placed through a barrier.
* National organisations should be less London-centric
* Covid also gives us the chance to reiterate yet again that Disabled people are often particularly disadvantaged socio-economically, still more so those facing more than one form of discrimination, yet socio-economic disadvantage is not well covered in the Equality Act
* It is not enough to have regional representatives in national organisations. We have to trust and empower them to work on our behalf in their local areas, and support them with resources, rather than trying to control everything from the centre.

How can all of us make sure that these asks and regional development happen?

* Develop an intersectional DPO charter with a set of demands to include in campaigning work
* Assemble a list of “good” external organisations on a national and regional level to work with
* Develop a simple explanation of intersectionality and translate into Easy Read and other formats.