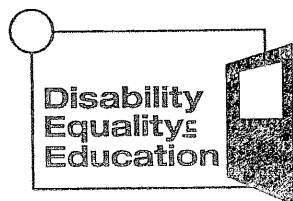


In defence of Inclusion: Warnock challenges the rights of disabled children to inclusion.



We, the undersigned are extremely concerned at the huge amount of media time given to the distorted view of inclusive education that is currently being created by Baroness Warnock, David Cameron MP and a small group of parents. These campaigners are undermining the inclusion of disabled pupils in mainstream schools. They seem to have missed out on 25 years of global debate and development of effective practice that has put inclusion of disabled pupils on a human rights stage. Discrimination is gradually diminishing with the restructuring and resourcing of mainstream schools - for good educational, social and human rights reasons.

Baroness Warnock is talking about the problems of poor integration. This is not inclusion, which means changing the school so all children can flourish.

This Government has brought inclusion to the fore, but in recent years it has lacked priority. Discriminatory attitudes, lack of training and funding in many mainstream schools still lead to some disabled children becoming mainstream 'refugees' in special schools e.g. forced out of mainstream because of the school's lack of capacity to meet their needs. We can understand why parents choose this in these circumstances. However, this is no reason to revert to the past, but rather demonstrates a need to intensify efforts to make inclusion a reality for disabled and non-disabled children, who also benefit.

We believe that the problem is not in the child and their impairment, but in the social and attitudinal barriers in the education system. This 'social model' draws on the thinking of disabled people and underpins all inclusive education. Now, thinking based on an out dated 'medical model' is being used to argue for the establishment of many new special schools. This ignores the pioneering and creative work of many dedicated mainstream teachers, support staff and parents in every corner of the United Kingdom, which has led to successful inclusion of thousands of disabled children.

The Disability Discrimination Act currently requires schools and colleges to make reasonable adjustments and from December 2006 to promote disability equality. 'Removing Barriers to Achievement' lays out the current Government strategy to address many of the shortcomings in the system. This approach should lead the political agenda for education. Effective inclusion improves achievement for disabled pupils/students. Indeed, research has shown that inclusion has no negative effect on the achievement of all. [Inclusion and Pupil Achievement DfES RR578 2004]

Warnock argues that statements need reviewing. Since 2000 the Government has been encouraging Local Authorities to delegate funding to schools to remove barriers and provide support for disabled pupils, rather than going down the costly and often bureaucratic route of statutory assessment. The lack of monitoring

and implementation is the issue rather than the mechanism. At present, statements remain as a safeguard for parents and pupils, until all schools have the expertise, with the backing of the LEA, to restructure teaching and learning to meet the needs of all pupils/students.

Increasingly, around the world and at UNESCO, UN & the World Bank, disability rights and inclusion are seen as a human rights issue and other countries have adopted inclusion as their education policy e.g. India.

Disabled adults who describe themselves as special school survivors are often the strongest advocates of inclusion and bear witness to isolation and loss of opportunities.

Following the Warnock Report and the 1981, 1996 and 2001 Acts, the evidence that inclusion works is the success of a generation of disabled children who are now working or studying in further and higher education. They are accepted by their peers and the community. This includes those who have been labelled as having moderate or severe learning difficulties or autism. The positive impact of inclusion has been shown in numerous studies in the UK and worldwide.

Defend human rights and defend the right for disabled children and young people to inclusive education.

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Organisations: Advisory Centre for Education; Alliance for Inclusive Education; British Council of Disabled People; British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD); Centre for Studies on Inclusive Education; City of Leicester NUT; Communication & Literacy Enterprises (CANDLE); Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE); Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living (DCIL); Development Adult Neuro-Diversity Association (DANDA); Disability Awareness in Action; Disability Equality in Education (DEE); Down's Syndrome Association; Education Psychologists for Inclusion; Education Walsall; Glasgow Disability Alliance; Hackney Teachers' Association (NUT); National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education; The National Childminding Association; Network 81; Paradigm; Parents for Inclusion; People First; Pre-School Learning Alliance; SCOPE; Southall Black Sisters; Southampton Centre for Independent Living; Standing Conference of Voluntary Organisations for People with a Learning Disability in Wales; The Children's Society; The Inclusion Consultancy; The National Childminding Association; West of England Centre for Independent Living; Whizz-Kidz. **Schools:** Billesley Primary, Birmingham; Birkett House, Leicester; Bowness Primary, Bolton; Fulford (32); Gayhurst Primary, Hackney; George Green's, Tower Hamlets; Gorsefield Primary, Manchester (25); Islington Arts and Media School; Millfields Community School, Hackney; North Beckett Primary, Newham (30); St Bridget's Primary, Cumbria. **Head Teachers:** Chris Blomerley, Gorsefield Primary; Chris Cole, St Matthias Primary, Hackney; Denise Cooney, Bowness Primary; Meryl Davies, Cator Park School for Girls, Bromley; Richard Ewen, Islington Arts & Media; Kenny Frederick, George Green's School; Nic Gavin & President City of Leicester NUT; Gill Goodswen, Stile Common Junior School, Kirklees; Julie Greer, Cherbourg Primary, Hampshire; Anna Hassan, Millfields Community School; Shelia Holland, Queensbridge School, Bolton; John Illingworth, Bentinck Primary, Nottingham & Past President NUT; Brigid Jackson-Doooley, Cleves Primary, Newham; Jan Millington, Billesley Primary; Eileen O'Reilly, St Bridget's Primary; Cathy Phillips, Bangabandhu Primary, Tower Hamlets; Manjit Rai, North Beckett Primary; Heather Rockhold, Lauriston Primary, Hackney; Diane Roome, Gayhurst, Hackney; Steven Smith, Fulford School, York; David Stevens, The Park High School, Norfolk; Nigel Uiton, Hampshire; Steve Welton, Birkett House; Pat Willis, Claremont Primary, Blackpool; Christine Yorston Associate Head. **Deputy Heads:** Ceri Crosskey, Billesley Primary; Jane Ikwueke & SENCO, St Matthias, Hackney; Janice Howkins, Swakeleys School; M. Stroud, Gorsefield Primary; Judy Watson, [Former] Minehead. **SENCOs:** Hilary Cook, Lauriston; Angela Cosby, Bierton Combined School, Aylesbury; Sharon Hardman & Deputy, Gorsefield Primary; Pam Hart, Vandyke Upper School, Bedfordshire; M Ojo, North Beckett; Claire Pozner, Islington Arts & Media, Sian Rees, Assistant Head, Fulford; J Riley, Queensbridge, Bolton; Ann Shellard, Claremont, Blackpool; Jon Smith, Bridgnorth Endowed School, Shropshire; Jack Sweby, St John's Service Children's School, Cyprus/ Parent Disabled Young Person. **School Staff:** Carol Berry SNA, Bolton; Veronica Patterson & Alison Baker, Inclusion Managers, Bangabandhu Primary; Jane Bassett, Head of English, Stoke Newington School; St Matthias, Hackney; Robert Broadway, Frances Burley, Susie Burrows, Sue Charters, Mary Thompson, June Peters, Victoria Gelberg, Emma Charters, Kelly de Beer, Claire Tregear, Janice Owen; Haggerston School, Hackney; Ann Dryden-EMA, Kate Ford-Head of English; Philippe Harari, Sixth Form College, Cams.; Alex Hart, Secondary, Rotterdam, NL; Mary Huane-Head of Arts & Media, Islington Arts & Media, Director Borough Youth Theatre; Jen Illingworth, Home School Liaison Teacher; Colleen Johnson, Lakey Lane Primary, Birmingham; Queensbridge, Bolton; Gillian Bell, Carol Diggle, Vanessa Kilroy, Jennifer Oldham; Jon Kelly, Inclusion Coordinator, George Green's/Parent of Disabled Child; Andrea Lowe, Jan Nockolds, Daniel House PRU, Hackney; Sandra Macleod, Shackwell Primary, Hackney; Mick Regan, Kingsmead Primary, Secretary Hackney NUT; Jo Robinson, EMA /Ex-Special School Teacher, Mandeville School, Hackney; Ann Shellard, Claremont School, Blackpool; Sue Lintner, Head of Nursery, Brookfield School, Camden; Inbar Tamari, Nursery teacher; Gayhurst Primary; Caroline Whitter, Primary, Bolton; Phyllis Woods, Childeric, Primary, Lewisham. **Governors:** Islington Arts & Media-Jill Barton, Registered Inspector, Primary Education Consultant; Carole Fletcher (Vice Chair), Parent; John E Prince (Chair) & St Matthias Primary; Colin Garner (Chair) Claremont School, Blackpool; Chris Goodey, Inclusion Link, Lister School, Newham; Sharon Sullivan, Grasmere Primary/Parent of Disabled Child. **Higher Education:** University of Manchester: Professor Mel Ainscow, Education, Professor Alan Dyson, Education, Emeritus Professor Peter Mitler, CBE, Special Needs Education; Professor Colin Barnes, Disabled Researcher, University of Leeds/Special School Survivor; Institute of Education: Professor Len Barton Inclusive Education, Navin Kikabhai, Research Assistant; Professor Peter Beresford, Social Policy & Director of the Centre for Citizen Participation, Brunel University; Professor Doug Bilken, Inclusive Education Programme, Syracuse University NY; University of Bolton: Joe Whittaker, Senior Lecturer Education, Colin Crabtree, Support Tutor; Niki Elliot, Senior Lecturer Sheffield Hallam; Dr Anthony Feiler, Senior Lecturer, Graduate Education, University of Bristol; Richard Hatcher, Education Lecturer University of Central England; Professor Ken Jones, Education, Keele University; Valerio Lintner, Reader European Economics, London, Met.; Melanie Nind, University of Southampton; Open University: Jonathon Rix, Kieron Sheehy, Katy Simmons, Inclusive Education Module; Dr David Skidmore, Education Lecturer, Bath. **Parents/disabled young people & families:** Sandra Atfield, Richard Atfield, Ex-special School Pupil; Osian and Heulwen Baworowski; Krishna Birdy; Tamsin Blight; Christine, John & Michael Burke; Jo Cameron, Director PI; Midge Caryer; Katie Clarke; Henrietta, & Charlie Cubitt; Linda & Shaun Donnellon; Alyson Fisk, Vice Chair, Network 81; Linda Jordan, Chair of Governors, Eastlea School, Newham; Hugh, Paola & Piero Gibbs; Judith Gwynn & Brendan Kitchen; Thomas & Darren Hanley; Paul, Agnes & Joseph Jenkinson; Ruth Jobson; Gina Kaneen; Eamonn Keenan, Centre for Social Action, De Montfort University; Jon Kelly, Inclusion Coordinator, George Green's; Caroline MacKeith; Preethi Manuel, Writer; Zelda McCollum, Ex Nursery School Deputy; Chris, Denise, Mary, Ella & Maitiu Mitchell; John Moore, SEN Professional Advisor; Jan Nicholas, Ex-Mainstream Teacher; Dr Sue Pringle; Cath Ryde, SEN Advisory Teacher, Bolton; Mr & Mrs Scobie; S Shaw; Tony, Cath Shubbrook-Ford; Marion Stanton, Special Needs Teacher Trainer; K Wallbank; Linda Whitehead. **Siblings of Disabled People:** Tina Linsey, Wendy Greenwell & Parent Course Co-ordinator; Pupils in Mainstream: Sam Jenkinson, Newfield School Sheffield, Nadia Clark & Anthony Shubbrook-Ford; Kate Caryer & Maresa MacKeith, Disabled Undergraduates. **Disabled people:** Simone Aspis, Director, Changing Perspectives; Jane Campbell, Consultant & Trainer in Disability Rights & Independent Living; Colin Cameron, Consultant, Eat Lotion; Kate Chambers, KC Associates, Edinburgh; Liz Crow, Parent, Disabled Activist, Roaring Girl Productions; Tara Flood; Flick Harris, MDPAG; Rory Heap & Deborah Sowerby, Special School Survivors; Lucy Wilkinson; Brenda Ellis, Disability Consultant; Dr Ju Gosling, Researcher; Mike Higgins & Linda Laurie, New Perspectives Training & Consultancy Agency; Mandy Hudson, Lead Teacher, Disability Representation, Ealing; Rachel Hurst, Disability Awareness in Action; Alison John, Alison John & Associates Ltd; John Kelly, WECIL; Andrew Lee, Director, People First; Lois Keith Writer, Educator, Parent; Wilma Lawrie, ex-mainstream teacher; Andrew Lee, Director, People First; David McCormick, Education Officer, York LEA; Ewan Marshall, TV Producer; Michelle Mason, Director/Christie Wilson, Chair, Alliance for Inclusive Education; David Morris, Chair, Independent Living Alternatives; Hazel Peasley, Special School Survivor; Marion Reichart, Diversity Consultant; Andy Rickell, Campaigner; Sue Rickell, Allies in Change; Richard Rieser, Director, Disability Equality in Education; Marianne Scobie, Disabled Person's Forum, Glasgow; Roger Smith, Hull Adult Education; Anna Sullivan, Chair, DEE, Writer, Ex-Teacher; Sian Vasey, Director, Ealing Centre for Independent Living; Ann Pugh, Redweather Productions/Parent: Lucy Wilkinson; Michelle Wates, Disabled Parents Organisation; Special School Survivors - James Elder-Woodward, Dorothy Mallon, Alice Maynard, Inclusion Consultant. **Other signatories:** April de Angelis, Playwright; Tony Benn; Christine Blower, Deputy General Secretary, NUT [Personal Capacity]; Kate Buffery, Parent; Lindsay Duncan, Actor/Parent; John Edginton, Director, Otmoor Productions; Rahila Gupta, Writer, Parent; Linden Ife, Barrister; Bali Gill, Imran Khan, Human Rights Lawyers; Betty Jackson, Designer; Suresh Grover, Director, Monitoring Group, Chair NCRM; Alys Kihl, Theatre Director/ Ex Teacher; Graham Lane, Labour Group Leader, Newham Council; Linda Marlowe, Actor/Director; Francesca Martinez, Comedian & Disabled Person; John Michie, Patron Islington Borough Youth Theatre; Claire & Roland Muldoon, Head of Programming/ Artistic Director, Hackney Empire; Angela Neustatter, Journalist; Julia Pascal, Theatre Director/Writer; Carlos Reyes-Manzo, Human Rights Photographer; Michael Rosen, Author, Broadcaster, Parent; Guy Slater, Writer/ Director; Anita Smith, Lawyer; Andy Smith, Theatre Director; Samson Soboye, Designer; Mark Strong, Actor; Richard Wilson Actor/Director; Benjamin Zephaniah, Writer; Adrian Ainsworth, S Oakes, Senior Advisory Teachers, IMPACT Bolton; Valeria Baker, Journalist; Margaret Bamforth, Early Excellence Centre Manager, Blackpool; Carol Boys, Chief Exec. & Bob Black, Education Information Officer, Down's Syndrome Association; Frances Blackwell, Psychotherapist; Nicola Blackwell, Ed Psychologist, Crawley; Peter Brawley, Scotland; Sheila Bryan, ALS Manager/E&D Coordinator, Weymouth College; Mary Campbell, Leicester; Anna Charles-Jones, Manchester Disabled People's Access Group; Lambeth Early Years & Sure Start; Angie Northwood, Inclusion Manager, Steve Codner, Rachelle Dalrymple George, Michael Matenesi, Claudia Townsend, Sue Utley, Shelah Vide, Michelle Welds, Elizabeth Wood, Hazel Wane, Inclusion Outreach Worker, + 10; Paradigm: Elaine & Peter Kinsella, Directors, Nicola Hilson, Helen Collins, Nic Rowland-Crosby, Consultants, Judith North, Director of Consultancy; Jim Crowe, Director, Standing Conference of Voluntary Organisations for People with a Learning Disability in Wales; Mary Dickins, Trainer & Consultant, All Together; Jackie Downey, Ex-Teacher; Christopher Dyer, Retired Inspector SEN; City of Leicester NUT: Peter Flack, Sally Morrison, Assistant Secretaries, Ian Leaver, Officer & Jane Rolfe, Secretary; Jane Holmes, EP, Learning Trust, Hackney; Paul Howard, Education & Training Consultant; Jacqui Jensen, Head, Integrated Disabled Children's Service, Derby; John Joyce, EP, Education Leeds; Jefferson King, Actor; Denise Kingston, Specialist Senior Educational Psychologist for Early Years; East Sussex C.C.; Sophie Knight, Welfare Rights Advisor, Somerset; Christine Lang, Head of Learning Support Services, Newham LEA; Gerv Leyden, Honorary Board Member, Marsha Forest Centre, Toronto; Jean Pierre Lin, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Guy's & St Thomas' Hospitals; Reina Lister, LSA, Sheffield; Stef Lorenz, EP Consultant, Manchester; Hermione Lyall, Consultant in Paediatric Infectious Diseases, St Mary's Hospital; Sheelagh Maloney, Director, The Inclusion Consultancy; Beth McPherson-Jones, Strategic Leader, Disability Education Walsall; Janet Means, S. Patel, Parents for Inclusion; Dr Denis Mongon, Pre-School Learning Alliance; Colin Newton & Derek Wilson, Co-founders Inclusive Solutions; Fin O'Regan, Behaviour Consultant; Julie Owen, Director, The Inclusion Consultancy; Val Packer, SEN Advisory Teacher; Richard Parnell, SCOPE; John Parry, Portage Coordinator, West Sussex; Janet Phillips & Gill Worthington, Specialist Educational Assistants; Penny Platt, International Consultant in Inclusive Education; Carl Poll, Parent; Angela Pratten, EP; Amy Pryce, SEN Consultant for Inclusion; Tony Purcell, DEE Trustee, Linda Redford, Educational Consultant; Colin Revel, Adrian Wyatt [DANDA]; Gill Richards; V Richardson, Focus Learning Support Service, Bolton; Judith Rieser, Music Therapist, Bristol; Steven Rose, Editor, Community Connecting; Jan Rose, Director, Learning Disability Charity; Dr Sharon Rustemier, Child Rights Advocate, Mental Health Service User; Chris Sey, Principal EP, Oxfordshire; Linda Shaw, Writer/Researcher, CSIE; Rachel Stocks, EP, Notts. 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