

# Remote Campaigning, Working and Living: The Impact on Our Ability to Influence Social Change – 24 Feb 2022 – Online Resilience Forum

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26 January 2022



**Topic** Remote Campaigning, Working and Living: The Impact on Our Ability to Influence Social Change – Simone Aspis

**Date** Thursday 24 February 2022

**Time** 16:00 – 17:30 GMT

**Location** Online (please arrive in the online platform 5 minutes prior)

**The Resilience Forum is for ANYBODY (with a pulse!) involved with or interested in resilience research**

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## **Session Summary**

For the past two years we have been living our lives virtually, where for many of us, our work, socializing, leisure and learning and accessing services has been done through a range of social media platforms, Twitter, Facebook, Zoom and MS Teams. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, most of us have been living at home or with family / partners. Now we are moving out of the Covid-19 pandemic, with many of us still finding ourselves working from home with no real prospect of any in-person events, conferences, lobbies and the like, I am asking what is happening to our community and impact on our ability to affect social change in the future.



At the start of the pandemic I completely understood our retreat to the virtual world and the comfort of our own homes, with this deadly covid-19 infection that no one really understood other than that hundreds and hundreds of disabled people were dying on a daily basis. Now, with the vaccination roll out, a greater understanding who is affected, covid-19 variant being less serious and moving out of the winter months, I very much hoped we would be aiming for more staff gatherings, in-person campaigns meetings and events focusing on social change. Or should I say a move towards more hybrid ways of working, campaigning and engagement, recognising that still for some disabled people they will find leaving their homes a big physical, social and emotional challenge. So actually, hybrid ways of operating should be a win win for everyone, but there is still a lot of resistance to doing this. Maintaining the status quo is impacting upon us working together, being seen and remaining hungry for social change.

What has changed for us over the past year that prevent us from wanting to get out there again?

What needs to change so that we return to us getting out there again?

### **Presenter**

#### **Simone Aspis**

I have over 25 years of disability rights campaign work, working with a range of organisations such as People 1st, United Kingdom Disabled Peoples Council, Alliance for Inclusive Education and Reclaiming Our Futures Alliance on a range of disability rights campaigns including securing disabled peoples civil rights laws and UN Convention Rights of Persons with Disabilities being adopted by UK Government.

I do Free Our People Advocacy work – working with people with learning difficulties and autistic people who are locked up in psychiatric hospitals and want to move into the community. Currently, I am gearing up for a big Government review of the Special Education Needs and Disability framework, the legal framework that sets out disabled children and young people's rights and entitlements to education. Please visit my lovely website: [www.simoneaspis.co.uk](http://www.simoneaspis.co.uk).

I have been working on Heidi Crowter's court case, she is challenging the Abortion Act on disability and human rights grounds. For more information see [www.rofa.org.uk](http://www.rofa.org.uk).

During the covid-19 pandemic locked down, I have been involved in various remote campaigns involved challenging the Government's Coronavirus legislation and stay at home regulations, which all have had a big impact upon disabled peoples' lives. I have been involved in the Support and Action Group lead by people with learning difficulties, who have been active in various campaigns including legal challenges around people with learning difficulties that include published deaths data, covid-19 vaccination priority, psychiatric hospital community leave and visits. Since then I have written various blogs about the impact that remote working has had upon our community – some home truths!



### **Who might be most interested:**

All welcome – the Forum will be designed to be accessible to a wide range of communities including academics, practitioners, researchers, students, carers, community workers, service users, people with lived experience of mental health problems, adults.

### **Useful reading**

### **Why are disabled people with learning difficulties being prevented from leading campaigns, projects and initiatives?**

### **Jargon-busting**

You can find our jargon busting sheet [here](#)

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### **Access Information**

The forum will be held online on Microsoft Teams. Please arrive in the online platform 5 minutes prior. An email with instructions will be sent out the day before the event. We have chosen this platform as it appears to be more secure and transparent in its data practices than many others. Please see our [privacy statement](#) for more information about Microsoft Teams terms and conditions.

If you like what you see and you want more, More, MORE, why not [subscribe to our mailing list](#)? You'll receive our email newsletter with details of our upcoming Resilience Forums, training and other events, news and resources (most of which are free!), and any other products and services that might be of interest. This is a web-based service and it is very easy to subscribe, unsubscribe or update your email address at any time.

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### **Previous Resilience Forums**

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You can find information about our previous Resilience Forums in Brighton, Blackpool, Hastings and online [here](#). Many of our previous Resilience Forums and Centre meetings have slides you can download, blogs you can read, or short films you can watch.



