

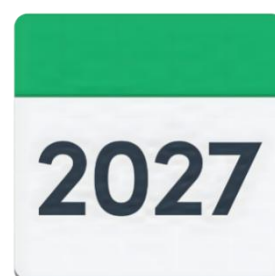


**Advocacy and activism:
past, present and future**



A conference about advocacy and activism in the lives of people with learning disabilities in the past, present and future

It's happening on the 5-6th May 2027:



**We are inviting you to send your ideas
for our SHLD 2027 conference.**



We hope you can come.

It's at The Open University in Milton Keynes.



You can send us ideas for presentations, panel discussions, workshops or posters.



We are also hoping to hold an exhibition at The Open University to show a wide range of advocacy and activism. There is more information about the exhibition below, on page 7.



Advocacy and activism mean different things to different people.



We want this conference to cover many different examples of advocacy and activism in the lives of people with learning disabilities.



These examples can be from the past.



For example, you might want to talk about the history of a self-advocacy group.



Or maybe you have done research about a time in the past when people with learning disabilities or their families and support workers campaigned for change.



We also want to hear from you about advocacy and activism that are happening now.



This will help us all think about connections between history and the present day.



We also want to hear about your plans and hopes for advocacy and activism in the future.



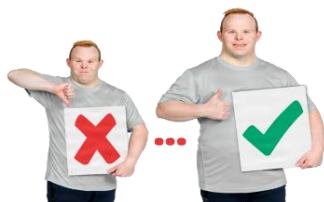
We came up with some questions that might be helpful to think about when sending us your ideas:



Who was involved in the advocacy and activism? And whose voices are were missing?



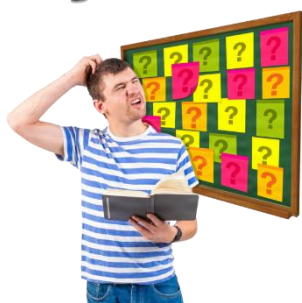
What does advocacy and activism mean to you?



How can advocacy and activism lead to change?



What was the advocacy and activism trying to achieve? And what did it achieve?



What are some of the difficult things about being involved in advocacy and activism?



Are there lessons from advocates and activists in the past that might help advocates and activists today?



What does the future hold for advocacy and activism?



Other important information about the conference

Name R. Smith

Address 224 West St
Manchester

Phone Number _____

Signing up to join the conference (registration)



You can sign up for the conference from February 2027.



You will need to buy a ticket.



The full cost for 1 day will be £80; for 2 days it will be £160.



There will be a number of free tickets for people with learning disabilities. More details will follow about this when registration opens.



There will also be a number of tickets that can be offered at a reduced rate for people on low incomes.



If you do a presentation, performance or workshop, we will offer you a free ticket. And we can help with the cost of travel.



Everyone will need to pay for their own accommodation costs.

The exhibition



We would love to hold an exhibition at The Open University about *Advocacy and Activism in the Lives of People with Learning Disabilities, Past and Present* during the conference.



We are exploring options for this, for example: a physical exhibition and a digital exhibition.



We are interested in showcasing a range of things at the exhibition, such as:



Artwork



Poems



Photographs



Films



If you are interested in sharing material at an exhibition, please contact us to discuss further at wels-shld@open.ac.uk

What to do next



If you are interested in giving a talk or being involved in a workshop at the conference, please send your ideas by email to wels-shld@open.ac.uk



Please send your ideas by Monday 30th November.



Your idea (sometimes called an 'abstract') should be no more than 300 words.



Accessible

Our conference committee includes people with learning disabilities. Please make sure your idea is written in Plain English or ideally Easy Read. If your idea/abstract has too much jargon we will not be able to review it.



Please also contact us if you are interested in sharing some material at the exhibition, by sending an email to wels-shld@open.ac.uk



Our conference committee will make decisions on the final programme in December 2026.



We will let you know the outcome before Christmas.



We look forward to reading your ideas.



Thank you for reading



If you have any questions, please email:
wels-shld@open.ac.uk