

Exhibition to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, March 2010

Jonathan Shaw MP, Minister for Disabled People, has been successful in a Parliamentary ballot for an exhibition space in Parliament for the week of 1-5 March. The exhibition will mark the 40th Anniversary of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Person's Act, the first piece of legislation in the UK recognising the rights of disabled people.

The exhibition provides a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the disability agenda within Parliament, and to promote positive images of disability. It is important that the exhibition reflects the views, experiences and talents of disabled people, and we would therefore like to invite disabled people and disabled people's organisations to provide exhibition pieces. We are interested in hearing from all disabled people who are interested, including young people and children.

Following the exhibition in Parliament, we will be seeking further opportunities to display the exhibition pieces, for example in ODI office space, in Minister's offices, at ODI events, in the lobbies of government buildings, and on the ODI website. We envisage that the exhibition pieces would ultimately become part of the government art collection, which supplies art work displayed in government buildings, to ensure they would continue to be displayed in areas where they could influence perceptions of disabled people.

Exhibition pieces

We would like exhibition pieces to be visual or audio representations of what equality means to disabled people, representing:

- The past: what life was like for disabled people 40 years ago when the Act was introduced
- The present: progress made so far towards equality for disabled people

- The future: what equality for disabled people will look like in 2025 and beyond

Exhibition pieces could be, for example:

- a drawing, painting, collage or photograph
- a poem
- a sculpture
- a performance (eg a play or a dance, which would need to be filmed: the filmed version would then be shown as part of the exhibition)
- a song (which would need to be recorded)
- a film (either fictional or a documentary)

Costs

We will reimburse reasonable expenses associated with producing an exhibition piece, provided costs are identified in advance and approved by ODI. Costs could include:

- cost of materials
- fees for personal assistants, interpreters, etc
- transportation costs
- cost of hiring a room for a performance/ workshop/ rehearsal
- professional fees, eg drama/ art coach
- reasonable travel costs, eg to travel to a performance venue

Selection criteria

To comply with the requirements for an exhibition in Parliament, the content of any exhibition piece must not be of a contentious nature, contain items of advertising, commercial interest or material likely to give offence, nor should it contain materials intended to further the aims of any political group or party. It must not present a risk of harm or injury to anyone.

Any exhibition pieces must be portable and freestanding (or have an appropriate display stand), as nothing can be attached to the walls, floor or ceiling in Parliament. Maximum dimensions for any two-dimensional piece would be 90cm x 90cm. Any three-

dimensional piece should cover a floor area of no more than 90cm x 90cm, and be no more than 2m high. Any filmed or recorded piece should be no longer than 10 minutes.

The exhibition space is limited, as is the ODI budget for reimbursing costs. Depending on the number of entries, we may not be able to select all of the proposed exhibition pieces for the exhibition in Parliament. It will be at ODI's sole discretion as to which entries are selected. Our aim is to ensure that the exhibition works as a coherent whole with a good range of exhibits representing the past, present, and future, across the different genres, and we will be selecting on that basis.

Next steps

If you are interested in providing an exhibition piece, please complete the attached form indicating the type of exhibit you would want to provide and associated costs. We will accept more than one entry from an individual or organisation, but please complete a separate entry form for each entry.

Please return the form to us by Monday 11 January to thomas.randall@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or to the Office for Disability Issues, Ground Floor, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA, for the attention of Thomas Randall. Given the tight deadline (due to the March exhibition date offered by Parliament), we are happy to discuss plans for exhibition pieces or to answer any questions from interested parties, please email thomas.randall@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or phone 0207 449 5018.

We will approve any expressions of interest by 18 January 2010 at the latest.

We will need any final exhibition pieces by 19 February 2010.

Please contact us as above if you require alternative formats.