

Independent Living Scrutiny Group: biographies

Haji Saghir Alam, OBE

Haji Saghir Alam has legal and business background and is serving as Disability Rights Commissioner where he is Lead Commissioner for Partnership and Capacity Building. He has extensive experience and knowledge of human rights and diversity particularly multiple discrimination. He has been working with Central and Local Government on equality and diversity issues.

He is Member of Race and Diversity Panel of CENTREX the National Police Training Authority. He is a Patron of Ethnic Disabled Children's Society and Patron of World Aid Foundation and is Trustee of Action on Disability and Development an International Development Charity working in Africa and Asia. He is Member of the Lord Chancellor's Consultative Forum and BBC Advisory Council. .

He has in past served in senior positions as a Non-Executive Director of District General Hospitals NHS Trust. He was Vice-Chairman of Standards Board of a Metropolitan Borough Council. He was a Diversity Advisor to the Home Office and Member of National Probation Service.

Baroness Campbell of Surbiton, DBE

Baroness Campbell is an active Independent Crossbench Peer, currently working on the Welfare Reform Bill, Equality Bill and Coroner's and Justice Bill. She has been a Member of the House of Lords Appointments Commission since 2008. This year she took over the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Disability Group from Lord Ashley.

In addition, she is Chair of two expert panels on Welfare Reform and Independent Living for the Government's Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).

Jane Campbell has a long history of parliamentary lobbying for disabled people's civil and human rights. She has been particularly active in creating structures which encourage disabled people from all sectors of society to take control of their lives and influence political and social change. Jane was a Commissioner at the

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Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) from 2006-2009, and a Commissioner of the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) from its inception in 2000.

Among her publications, Jane co-authored Good Guide to Disability Training (with Mike Oliver) in 1990; and contributed a chapter to Disabled People and the Right to Life (ed Luke Clements and Janet Read) in 2008.

Jane Campbell has been recognised for her work twice in the Queen's birthday honours (in 2000 with an MBE and again in 2006 when she was made a Dame), and is the recipient of three honorary doctorate degrees.

Michelle Daley

Michelle is an independent disability equality trainer, consultant and a campaigner. She has worked for a number of organisations both at local, national and international level to develop, promote and implement policies on equality and diversity. She is also a founder member of the 2020 Campaign.

For a number of years Michelle has actively worked at the grass root level addressing issues such as access, education, independent living and cultural diversity. She sits as the chair to her local disability organisation where she plays an important role ensuring that disability equality and diversity is at the forefront of practice and service delivery.

Nick Danagher

Nick Danagher is a freelance consultant in Disability Equality issues. He has a background in developing and managing local independent living schemes and national organisations. He has also acted as a consultant to Government on a wide range of social care policy initiatives and is a former Co-Chair and Executive Director of the National Centre for Independent Living.

Rowen Jade

As a survivor of mainstream education, Rowen has always been a passionate campaigner for an inclusive education system. After graduating with a Law degree she worked for the Alliance for

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Inclusive education, several Centres for Inclusive Living and now as a freelance consultant in disability equality. She specialises in work with young disabled people and has pioneered the setting up of a Personal Assistance Support Scheme in Bristol. She is also a parent, artist, counsellor, partner and writer and her publications include "Bigger than the Sky" (an anthology of writing by disabled women on parenting issues), "Whose Voice is it Anyway" and "Creating Independence and Inclusion".

Ian Loynes

Ian is the Chief Executive of the Southampton Centre for Independent Living. SCIL is one of the oldest CIL's in the UK and one of the most nationally proactive.

Ian's formal education specialised on the then emerging computer revolution; he ran his own Computer Consultancy business for 15 years before moving to Hampshire in 1994. Shortly after this he joined SCIL to develop Direct Payments Support Systems, taking the Chief Executive role in 1998.

Ian is evangelical about the Social Model of Disability, the importance of a strong and vibrant Disability Movement, and the development of User-Led Organisations which are genuinely based on CIL's. Ian views these as tools to enable the emancipation of Disabled People from the daily discrimination and oppression they face. Ian is a strong supporter of the move away from Disabled People's traditional reliance and association with 'charity' and being objects of pity.

Ian is actively involved with several other organisations controlled by Disabled People, including the National Centre for Independent Living, of which he is a Director.

Ann Macfarlane

Ann Macfarlane, a wheelchair user, is a leading Disability Rights and Equalities Consultant, focusing on health and social care as it affects disabled adults, including older citizens. She specialises in Independent Living, Direct Payments and Individual Budgets, and has been involved in the Disabled Peoples' Movement in the UK for many years. She is a consultant for the National Centre for Independent Living, an 'Expert by Experience' for the Care Quality

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Commission by Age Concern and Help the Aged and was appointed a Trustee to the Board of the Social Care Institute of Excellence in 2007. She is well recognised in the local community for her voluntary sector commitment and was recently appointed Patron of Kingston Centre for Independent Living.

Ann received an MBE in 1992 for her involvement with disabled people, locally, nationally and internationally and awarded the OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2009. She was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship, Rotary International's highest honour, for fostering international relationships.

Andy Rickell

Andy, who has cerebral palsy and is hard of hearing, has had an influential career campaigning for disabled people's rights.

Andy is currently the Chief Executive Officer for the Vassall Centre Trust, a disabled people's organisation based in Bristol providing and promoting barrier-free workspace and encouraging management and leadership by disabled people. He is also a regular columnist for the national magazine, Disability Now.

Andy's most recent previous post was as an Executive Director of one of the UK's largest disability organisations, Scope, where he led on cultural change in order to make it committed to the equality and human rights of disabled people, through working in alliance with disabled people and their organisations to co-produce its strategy and services. This included significantly increasing the employment of disabled people at the organisation, which rose from 3.7% to over 20% in fewer than three years.

He was also Chief Executive of the British Council of Disabled People, the national voice of the disabled people's movement, and was one of the original authors of the Disabled People's Rights and Freedoms Charter. He has been an activist for human and civil rights issues for disabled people for well over a decade and is frequently called upon by the media as an expert.

Andy was educated at Selwyn College, Cambridge, with a first class degree in engineering and management studies. He is a Methodist local preacher.

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Philippa Russell

Philippa Russell is the Chair of the Prime Minister's Standing Commission on Carers, launched by Gordon Brown on 3 September 2007. She was Disability Policy Adviser to the National Children's Bureau and was formerly was a Commissioner with the Disability Rights Commission and Director of the Council for Disabled Children.

She is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. She has Honorary Doctorates from the University of York and King Alfred's College of Higher Education, Winchester for her work with disabled children and their families and is an Honorary Fellow of the University of Central Lancashire. She was awarded an OBE for her work with children with special educational needs and their families; the CBE for services to disabled people and the DBE in 2009 for services to disabled people and family carers.

In 1990 she was awarded the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Centenary International Award for women who have contributed to the field of learning disability. She was also awarded the 4Children Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004 for her work in developing childcare and other services for disabled children and their families. In 2005, she was awarded the RADAR (Royal Association of Disability and Rehabilitation) Lifetime Achievement Award for the furtherance of the human and civil rights of disabled people.

She is the parent of a son with a learning disability and has wide contacts with voluntary and user organisations with an interest in disabled children, young people and their families. In this context, she is a trustee of the National Family Carers Network, the National Development Team for Inclusion and is Chair of MOVE (a new charity established under the auspices of the Prince of Wales's National Disability Partnership to support the inclusion of children and adults with complex disabilities in school and community).