

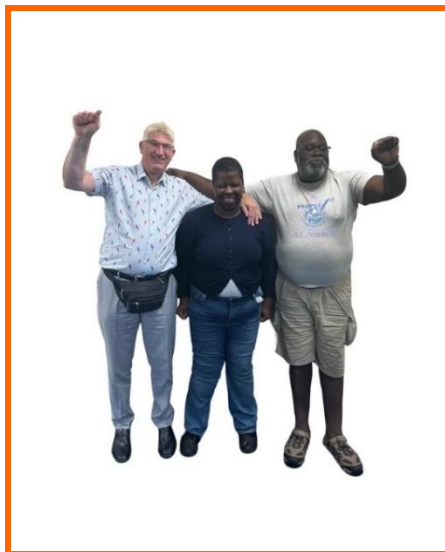


London Campaign Network Meeting



**Thursday 5th February 2026
11am – 3:30pm**

We Are 336, 336 Brixton Road,
Brixton, London, [SW9 7AA](#)

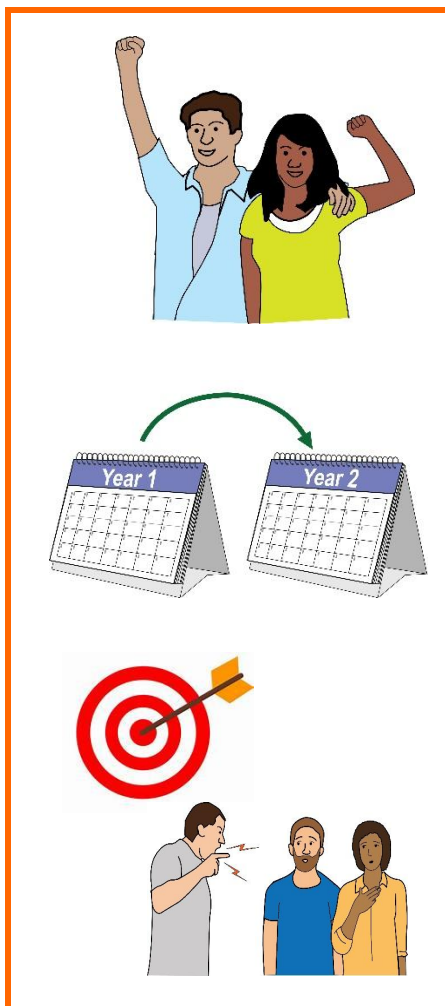


1. Welcome and introductions

Andrew Lee, Raymond Johnson and Samantha Johnson welcomed people to the fourth 4th meeting of the London Campaign Network.

Over 50 people came to the meeting from self-advocacy groups across London.





It was a day full of energy and ideas. Also, being reunited with peers we had not seen for a while brought real happiness into the room.

Over the 18 months we have gone from strength to strength building the network and agreeing what to prioritise together.

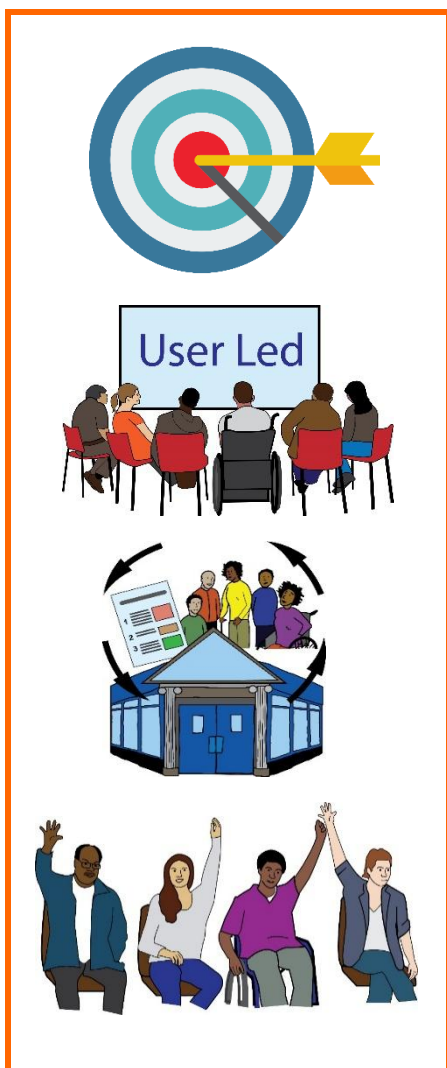
It was great to see how far we have come since our very first meeting.

This was a proud and meaningful moment for everyone involved.



Our Agreements for the day:

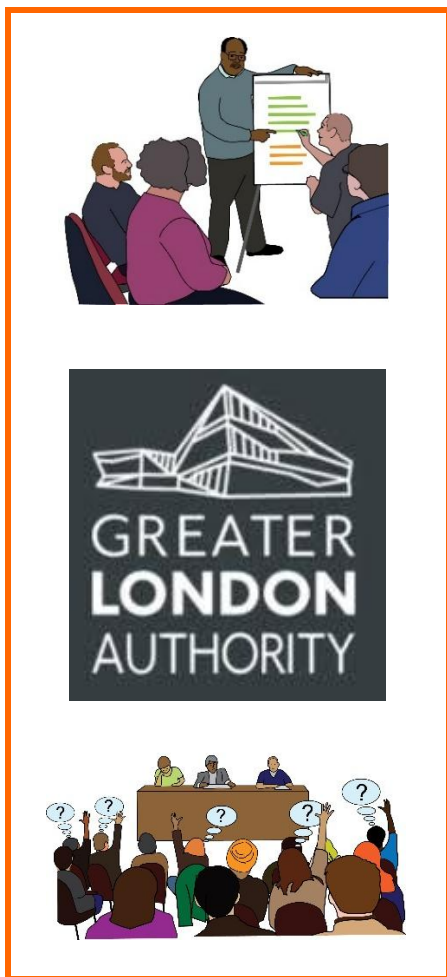
- One person to speak at a time
- Phones off or on silent
- Respect everyone's points of view
- Keep to time
- Support and encourage each other



Our 4 big aims for the Network

Andrew reminded people about the work of the network.

- To set up a 'London Campaign Network' for and run by self-advocates with learning difficulties/disabilities.
- To find opportunities to work together on campaigns that matter to us all.
- To influence the people that make decisions about us.
- To improve the lives of people with learning difficulties/disabilities across London.



What we've done since the last meeting

We visited groups and organisations across London to find out what they were working on.

We built better links with the Greater London Authority (GLA).

This included:

- Attending consultation events on the Disability Plan
- Negotiating how we can include more people with learning difficulties/disabilities in their policy work.

At our very first meeting members voted on the following areas to focus our work on first:

Advocacy



Benefits and Money



Hate Crime

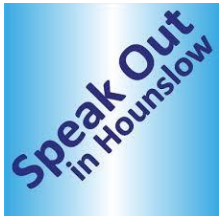


Hate Crime was the focus of this meeting.



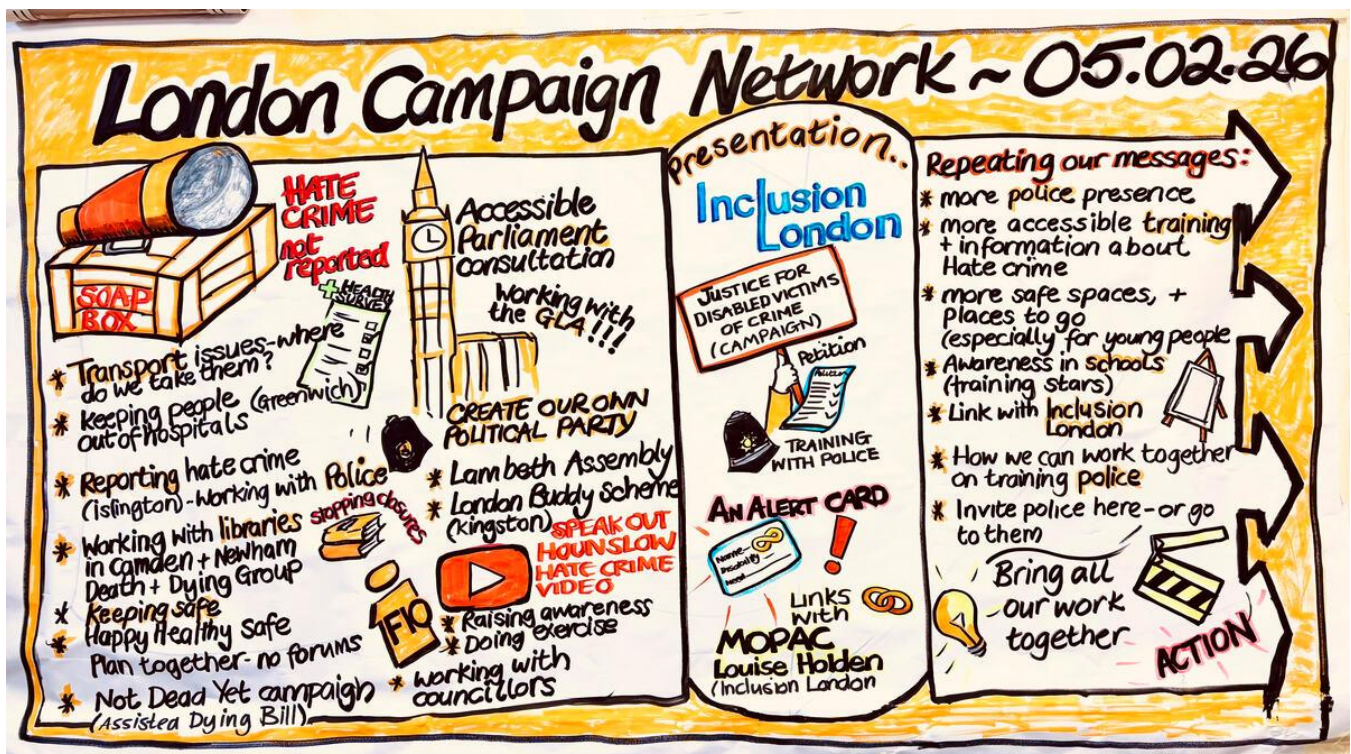
Soap Boxes

Everyone was offered 5 minutes on the Soap Box to talk about their work.



We watched the Speak Out in Hounslow film about Hate Crime.

We produced a graphic at the meeting to remind us of what everyone shared about their own work during the Soap Boxes, the presentation, and the ideas we came up with about Hate Crime.





Guest Speaker: Jon Abram from Inclusion London

Jon spoke about:

- What hate crime is
- How to tackle it
- Why we must continue campaigning

He explained that hate crime is not always about just one part of a person's identity.

Sometimes, people are targeted because of more than one thing about who they are.

This is called **intersectionality**.

For example, a person may have a learning difficulty/disability.

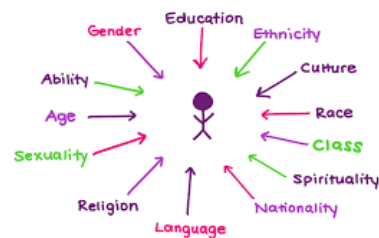
But they may also be Black.

Or they may be Muslim.

Or they may belong to another minority group.

This means they are not only at risk because of their learning difficulty/disability. They may also be targeted because of their race or faith. So, the hate they experience is not just about disability.

It can be about disability and race. Or disability and religion.





Jon said stopping hate crime will take time. It will not stop happening from one campaign alone.

We must keep working together.

He said there is “power in numbers”.

If we stand together and keep speaking up, our voices are stronger.



Many members shared their own experiences.

“The police don’t do anything. Don’t go to the police. Go to your local organisation.”

This shows that some people do not trust the police because of past experiences.

“You have to retrain the police to make sure they know how to handle people with learning disabilities better.”

This shows how important proper training is to understand the needs of people with learning disabilities.

“We invite the police to our self-advocacy meetings, but they don’t come”



12:40pm – 1:40pm

Lunch and Networking
Information sharing



Workshop: Hate Crime

Ideas for change

At each table we talked about the barriers and challenges, and then we thought about the possible solutions.

Here is a summary of the feedback:

Reporting and Support

- Encourage people to report incidents
- Support each other after hate crime
- Work more closely with local organisations

Police and Training

- People with learning difficulties/disabilities should help train the police
- There should be mandatory training for police



- The police should work more closely with our community
- There should be more police presence on the streets

Some members felt that more police presence could help prevent hate crime.

Schools and Awareness



- Members suggested that disability awareness should start from a young age.
- They proposed that people with learning difficulties/disabilities and disabilities should work in partnership with the Metropolitan Police to visit schools across London and, where possible, nationally.
- The aim would be to:
 - Speak directly to children about disability awareness
 - Challenge negative stereotypes
 - Promote understanding and respect
 - Reduce stigma before it becomes harmful behaviour





Members highlighted that prejudice is often learned at a young age. Early education can help prevent negative attitudes from developing and reduce the likelihood of future hate crime.

By hearing directly from people with lived experience, children would gain a better understanding of learning difficulties/disabilities and the impact of discrimination.

Safe Spaces



Members also discussed the importance of creating visible and trusted safe spaces within communities.

These would be places people could go immediately after experiencing hate crime in a public setting.

Safe spaces could include:

- Corner shops
- Community centres
- Local organisations
- Libraries
- Office buildings
- Other clearly marked safe locations





These spaces would provide a temporary place of refuge where someone could:

- Feel safe
- Calm down
- Contact support
- Report the incident if they choose to



Information and Accessibility

- More accessible information about hate crime online
- Easy Read materials about hate crime
- Clear guidance on who to contact when hate crime happens



2:40pm – 2:50pm

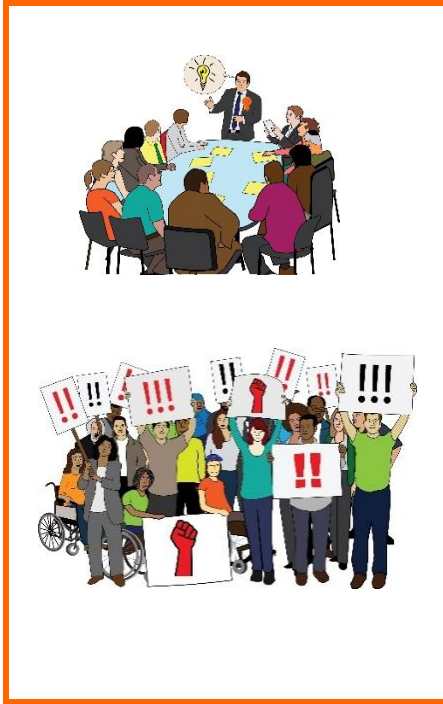
Comfort Break



What next?

We must continue to:

- Speak up
- Support each other
- Raise awareness
- Push for better training



- Demand real change

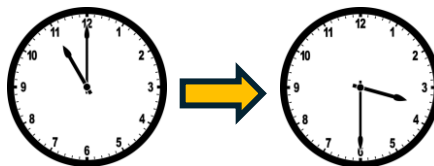
Hate crime is not acceptable.
People with learning difficulties/disabilities
deserve to feel safe.

In 2026 we want to strengthen links with the
GLA (Greater London Authority) and the
Mayor's Disability Plan.

There is power in our voices.
There is power when we stand together.
Our campaigning continues.

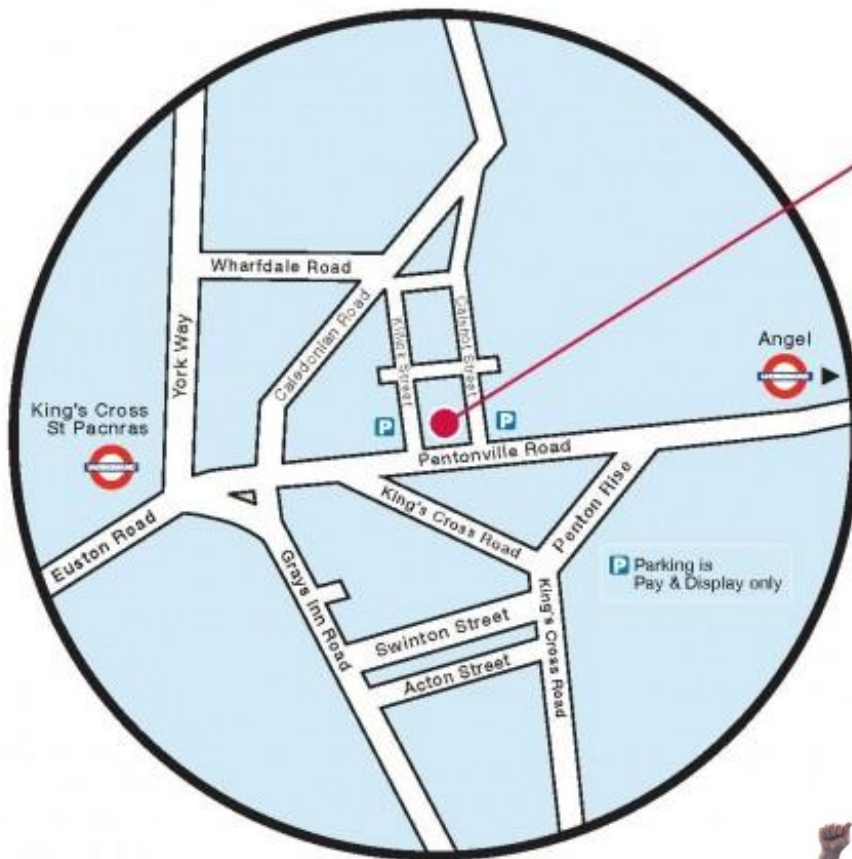
Our next London Campaign Network meeting

Tuesday 30th June 2026
11am – 3:30pm



Voluntary Action Islington
200a Pentonville Road
(Near Kings Cross) London N1 9JP
<https://vai.org.uk/contact-us/how-to-find-us/>

DIRECTIONS



Voluntary *Action* Islington
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Contact us:



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