

# WHAT SHOULD BRITISH DISABLED PEOPLE ASK IN THE ELECTION

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## 1. **We need to fund the movement**

This is number one because over that last few years many old respectable organizations of disabled people have closed down. Without us any government we elect will get it all wrong. If we are spending more time looking for handouts or grants from charities who can never understand us we will never build a movement that reflect our collective views.

We ask the next government to make it a statutory requirement of local government to work with or help to come into being an organization, a coalition of disabled people.

The functions of this coalition should be

1. To bring together disabled people across impairments to identify and prioritize the policies they want the local and national government to create.
2. To scrutinize local policies to ensure that disabled people are most efficiently and effectively delivered.
3. To organize disabled people around the issues of most concern to them and to bring them to the attention of politicians and policy makers.
4. To organize forums and conferences of disabled people so that they can come together to discuss and create positions on all of the above.

Centers for independent Living in every area per capita.

There has been a significant shift towards Independent living in Britain over the last two decades but for the dream of independence to be fully realized disabled people shouldn't have to move home or family to receive services. The same service should be everywhere.

Mandating that every local authority has a recognized agency run by disabled people which oversees and develops the services needed to support any disabled person regardless of disability in the community will eventually deliver DANC's ultimate dream of Free our People and at the same time strengthen our advocacy by freeing and allowing them to speak out for the very first time our most oppressed people. The model for these centers already exists on paper in the vision report to Birmingham City Council.

### Nationally

We want a strong national democratic coalition of disabled led organizations coupled with a leadership program to recruit train and staff them.

If organizations for us do not want to get involved apart from asking why not we should leave them in the voluntary/charity sector whilst organizations of only receive statutory funds. We would call on any government to fully fund a national organization of disabled people and to fund a national democratic organization of centers for independent living.

Both these policies if implemented would mean that we could strengthen and educate the national movement. It would give us the resources to train new leaders, to do collective advocacy to come together and discuss and form policy around all the issues that we may have.

It works both ways. Local and National government already waste millions in hiring people to tell us what we think or better still how to handle us! This way they not only get it right but form a partnership with us where we both take responsibility. When I think of the waste over the last 30 years and the slow progress we have collectively made this seems like the common sense economical option.

So these are my demands!

It would make us come together. It would effectively bring us together. All our other issues could be discussed and advanced if we did this but without this we are just lonely voices on face book.

Please reader notice these demands are progressive and positive not defensive or status quo. We rightly react to oppression and defend but sometime like at election time we can go on the attack and dream. Well politicians do! Can't we?

Stay strong, stay angry, stay proud!

Johnny (March 2010).