

FUTURE NORMATIVES

MANIFESTUS POEM

(Spoken Word)

Imagining the future can be a radical act, nothing about us, without us, let's start with that; what would our current cities, towns and rural areas be like if they centered around disabled and impaired people? Even for just one day and one night.

Yesterday is the past, today is the present and tomorrow is the future.

Blue sky or a new Paradigm? The connected future is now, where people can live full active lives from their homes, if they so choose. Tomorrow, free connectivity around the clock, compulsory A-Z maps not only for 'standard' navigation but inclusive of sensory cues, changing places, toilets and accessible routes and buildings too; with Audits and sanctions for inaccessible spaces and points to improve.

Good design, good infrastructure enables and the bad kind disables; we all know that but pre-pandemic, the barriers abounded. Structures and offerings that embrace all bodyminds, change the quality and textures of our lives, structures that embrace us all creates a thriving connected community; yes you've heard it all before. There's more.



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The pandemic is a time of great upheaval for many but also a great opportunity, a turning point, for those pre-pandemic who were forced to exist on the periphery, during the pandemic a type of digital unity occurred; we must seize the moment and mould it to embed the equitable changes, an unexpected side effect of Covid-19, that enables us to build back different. Better. Fairer.

Yesterday's institutional and person to person actions, drenched in prejudice, perpetuated the systemic inequalities experienced pre-lockdown by marginalised groups; there are still issues but there are also new ways to improve. Claiming physical and digital spaces for communities previously trapped in perceptual blind spots, now illuminated. The move towards the creation of something different, better, was long overdue. The Future is now, here's what we'll do:

Consider the current complex and nuanced circumstances; some are emerging from shielding and many are still shielding, there are many needs to consider and multiple modes required, essential for equalised tangible and intangible spaces for bodyminds to navigate physical and digital landscapes, places we

can all call home, cloud, screen, location, phone. Now is the time to step towards Post-lockdown 4.0. The optimisation of these different terrains not only for our linguistic selves (if accessed) but to reawaken our whole selves, give space for our senses and illuminate what an equalised environment not only looks like but feels like.

Other key components in the new normative include democratic voices, voting, but rights alone are not sufficient, designing in connectivity, communication habits are essential, we need infrastructure connectivity-coalitions with both public and private sector embedding and upholding alternative ways to access services, support, emotional connection, medicine and pain management and work; all underpinned by interactional, relational empathy and substantive solidarity.

This Future Normatives Manifestus Poem is a call to end inequality, end attitudinal barriers, the carousel of repetitive arguments and challenges the disabled community knows all too well. A carousel that costs energy, tears and spoons. Tomorrow speaks of a structure that is flexible and responsive, that bends towards and embraces its citizens, the people, not

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citizens bending (and some breaking) to fit into yesterday's systems. Connectivity policies are needed that grants every citizen free access to the internet. Connectivity is key. Needs to be free.

Equality measures and connectivity infrastructure are required for tomorrow as we emerge from lockdown with equity acceleration and accomplish-ship plans to secure frameworks for free connectivity supported by dedicated funds and resources and to address the blind spots, the gaps that cause information and connectivity poverty. A secure and robust infrastructure through a joined up approach, crossing both public and private sectors and across the British Isles to help to shape the new intangible landscape, inclusive of guests who are also offered economically accessible options to dwell in the digital land to thrive, to rest. Connectivity leads to all people living active lives, or active rest, all from their homes if they so choose. Paid work, medical, social and more.

Yesterday, it was claimed the focus was on disability awareness, today the focus is on acceptance and tomorrow the focus needs to be on embedding today's digital changes, this will embed and enhance access to paid work, benefits and other pursuits, meaningful



connectivity communication and sideways engagement that was previously denied pre-lockdown. Changing the former normative 'just us' to Justice and fair access for everyone, to spaces and information, with the disabled community being heard, a cultural shift and a new political verb that speaks to housing and transport, the list goes on, there is much work to do in the future we need to build.

Reshaping the physical and digital landscapes is what is required, a braiding together of lived experience, the wider community, the private and public sector and professionals to inform policy and ensure these important topics get the attention needed and desired.