Connecting and Representing Disabled Staff Networks

WHO WE ARE

• A super-network that connects and represents disabled staff networks.
• Focussed on the tertiary education sector (i.e. universities and colleges).
• Open to any individual and organisation interested in the equality of disabled staff (public, private, social or voluntary).
• Providing a collective platform to share experiences and good practice, and examine challenges and opportunities.
• Non-governmental, independent, self-determining, unincorporated association, made up of impassioned people!

SOME OF OUR AIMS

➢ Promote disability equality and campaign for disabled staff networks to be supported in the workplace;
➢ Promote the interests of disabled staff on a national level;
➢ Challenge stereotypes by endorsing the Social Model of Disability, promoting a positive image of disabled people and eliminating the deficit/medical model;
➢ Organise and deliver accessible events that can bring disabled staff and disability equality allies together;
➢ Create regional hubs to make it easier for members to meet each other;
➢ Support relevant research projects, policies and guidance for disabled staff, managers, institutions of tertiary education (HEIs and FEIs) and Government agencies;
➢ Link with disabled students, particularly at postgraduate and doctoral levels;
➢ Create and maintain an internet site with information, resources, documents, blogs and useful links for disabled staff in accessible formats.

NADSN’s Terms of Reference: https://nadsn-uk.org/about-us/terms-of-reference/
BACKGROUND AND FACTS

- NADSN was launched at a National Conference, entitled “What Are We Hiding?” on 6th June 2014 at The University of Manchester.
- NADSN’s Founding Steering Group was formed by 31 disabled staff leaders from across the UK.
- We work closely with organisations such as PurpleSpace, the Equality Challenge Unit (ECU) and the National Association of Disability Practitioners (NADP), and we link with others.
- The NADSN-ALL list on JiscMail currently has 170 members from more than 80 different organisations across the UK and abroad, including 51 universities in the UK.

WHO DOES WHAT

First Steering Committee elected in December 2016, for a term of two years.

- Chair: Hamied Haroon (Uni Manchester).
- Vice-Chairs: Jacquie Nicholson (Uni Aberdeen) & Stuart Moore (Health Educ Eng).
- Secretary: Haqeeq Bostan (Freelancer, London).
- Fundraiser/Treasurer: Sarah Shemilt (Imperial College London).
- Events Lead: Kay Ashton MBE (Freelancer, Salford).
- Communications Lead: Katie Lucking (Uni W Eng, Bristol).
- Regional Leads:
  - Scotland: Jacquie Nicholson (Uni Aberdeen).
  - Wales: Erica Alabaster (Cardiff Uni).
  - Northern Ireland: Angela Getty (Ulster Uni).
  - West Yorkshire: Gill Cockburn & Cath Rose (Uni Bradford) – jointly.
  - North & East Yorkshire: Mary Laurenson (Uni Hull).
  - West & East Midlands: Angela Breen (Uni Birmingham).
  - South West England: Katie Lucking (Uni W Eng, Bristol).
  - North East England: vacant.

We are currently inviting expressions of interest in the vacant roles. Please contact the Chair.

HOW TO JOIN US

- Send us a request using the online form
- Become a member of NADSN by subscribing to the NADSN-ALL list on JiscMail
  - Then join your Regional Hub by contacting your Regional Lead (above)
- Social Media: Follow us on Twitter | Like us on Facebook | Connect with us on LinkedIn
## WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

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<th>When</th>
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| 2015 Mar 4<sup>th</sup> | 1<sup>st</sup> NADSN Conference  
Guest speakers: Dr Luke Beardon (Sheffield Hallam University), Dr Nicola Martin (NADP & LSBU), Dr Karisa Krcmar and Tina Horsman (Loughborough University), Chris Brill (ECU) | University of Chester Diversity Festival 2015                          |
| 2015 Jul 22<sup>nd</sup> | Workshop on “NADSN – Experiences from our Disabled Staff Networks across the UK” | NADP International Conference, Manchester                               |
| 2015 Sep 11<sup>th</sup> | Written Evidence from NADSN submitted to the Select Committee on “the Equality Act 2010 and Disability” | House of Lords                                                           |
| 2015 Oct 6<sup>th</sup> | Invitation from Kate Nash OBE to attend PurpleSpace Launch Party | Herbert Smith Freehills LLP, City of London                               |
| 2015 Oct 14<sup>th</sup> | NADSN representation on the HEFCE E&D Strategy Workshop | HEFCE, London                                                            |
| 2016 Mar 1<sup>st</sup> | NADSN’s first journal publication on “NADSN – Our Stories: Experiences from our Disabled Staff Networks across the UK” | Journal of Inclusive Practice in Further and Higher Education (Vol 7: pp 28-33) |
| 2016 Apr 22<sup>nd</sup> | 2<sup>nd</sup> NADSN Conference  
Guest speakers: Linda Robson (The OU), Laura “Mole” Chapman (Equality Training), Kate Nash OBE (PurpleSpace), Cherron Inko-Tariah MBE (The Power of Staff Networks), Thomas Anderson (Inclusive Networks), David Caldwell (Barclays Bank & PurpleSpace), Prof Udy Archibong MBE (University of Bradford) | University of Bradford Diversity Festival 2016                          |
| 2016 July 4<sup>th</sup> | Written Evidence from NADSN submitted to the Inquiry on “Halving the Disability Employment Gap” | All-Party Parliamentary Group on Disability & Disability Rights UK         |
| 2016 Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> | The Inaugural Lord Morris of Manchester Memorial Lecture Event | The University of Manchester                                             |
| 2016 Dec 7<sup>th</sup> | NADSN invited to the launch of the “Ahead of the arc” Report | All-Party Parliamentary Group on Disability                              |
| 2017 Feb 17<sup>th</sup> | Response from NADSN submitted to the Consultation on the “Improving Lives: Work, Health and Disability” Green Paper | HM Government                                                            |
| 2017 Mar 17<sup>th</sup> | 3<sup>rd</sup> NADSN Conference  
Guest speakers: Kate Nash OBE (PurpleSpace), Bela Gor (Business Disability Forum), Dr Kate Sang (Heriot-Watt Uni), Rosie Russell (Uni of Edinburgh), Stephanie Millar (ECU) | The University of Edinburgh                                              |
| 2017 Mar 17<sup>th</sup> | Views from NADSN submitted to the Consultation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Research Excellence Framework (REF) | HEFCE, SFC, HEFCW & Economy-NI                                          |
| 2017 May 10<sup>th</sup> | NADSN activities to mark the first National Day for Staff Networks | The Power of Staff Networks #makingworkbetter                             |
| 2017 Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> | NADSN taking part in the first “Leading the Purple Light Up” for the 2017 Int’l Day of Disabled People | PurpleSpace #PurpleLightUp #IDPD                                          |
In addition, we share resources/literature (authored by NADSN members and others), news and media highlights. We facilitate input during consultation and other information relevant to NADSN members through our mailing list, website and social media channels.