



Connecting and Representing Disabled Staff Networks

<https://nadsn-uk.org/>

 [@nadsn_uk](https://twitter.com/nadsn_uk)

 [NatAssDSN](https://www.facebook.com/NatAssDSN)

 [NADSN Group](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nadsn-group)

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:** [Hageeq 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).
 - **North West England:** [Mona Patel](#) (Manchester Met Uni) & [Hamied Haroon](#) (Uni Manchester) – until March 2018 | [Lykara Ryder](#) (Manchester Met Uni) – from March 2018.
 - **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).
 - **London & South East England:** [Stuart Moore](#) (Health Educ Eng).
 - **North East England:** vacant.
 - **East of 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

When	What	Where
2015 Mar 4 th	1st 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 nd	Workshop on “NADSN – Experiences from our Disabled Staff Networks across the UK”	NADP International Conference, Manchester
2015 Sep 11 th	Written Evidence from NADSN submitted to the Select Committee on “the Equality Act 2010 and Disability”	House of Lords
2015 Oct 6 th	Invitation from Kate Nash OBE to attend PurpleSpace Launch Party	Herbert Smith Freehills LLP, City of London
2015 Oct 14 th	NADSN representation on the HEFCE E&D Strategy Workshop	HEFCE, London
2016 Mar 1 st	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 nd	2nd 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 th	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 rd	The Inaugural Lord Morris of Manchester Memorial Lecture Event	The University of Manchester
2016 Dec 7 th	NADSN invited to the launch of the “Ahead of the arc” Report	All-Party Parliamentary Group on Disability
2017 Feb 17 th	Response from NADSN submitted to the Consultation on the “Improving Lives: Work, Health and Disability” Green Paper	HM Government
2017 Mar 17 th	3rd 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 th	Views from NADSN submitted to the Consultation on the 2 nd Research Excellence Framework (REF)	HEFCE, SFC, HEFCW & Economy-NI
2017 May 10 th	NADSN activities to mark the first National Day for Staff Networks	The Power of Staff Networks #makingworkbetter
2017 Dec 3 rd	NADSN taking part in the first “Leading the Purple Light Up” for the 2017 Int’l Day of Disabled People	PurpleSpace #PurpleLightUp #IDPD

2017 Dec 22 nd	Academic members of NADSN nominated to be on main and sub-panels for the REF 2021	HEFCE, SFC, HEFCW & Economy-NI
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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.