

NOVEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

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Ageism and Age Discrimination

Have you ever been in a situation where have been made to feel that you are being discriminated against because of your age or made to feel less valued and negatively stereotyped? If you have, you have suffered Ageism and Age discrimination. Age discrimination can impact on your confidence, financial situation and job prospects.

Age discrimination occurs at the workplace where employers are reluctant to recruit, retain and to promote and train older workers. However, although Age discrimination is often seen as a work place issue you may face it when you're out shopping, at the doctor's surgery or even when ordering products and using public services. The media plays a big role in generating negative perceptions of older people. Nobody should be made to feel that they are of lesser worth because of their age. It is important therefore that Ageism and Age discrimination are challenged.

Furthermore, we need to be aware of our Human rights so that when they are abused, we are able to challenge bad treatment. Human rights are often talked about in relation to the treatment of older people in care homes and hospitals but they can also be applied to day- to -day life. **Human rights belong to everyone. It is our right to be treated with fairness, equality, dignity and respect.**

While there is a law to protect animals and another to protect children, there is yet a law to be passed to protect older people discriminated against by virtue of their age. The absence of such a law is the greatest acts of discrimination at the present time and should be tackled **now**.

OPEN MEETING MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2014

Room 8, LAMBETH TOWN HALL

1.30 pm to 3.30 PM

Come and join in this important debate. Hear about what is being done to highlight and challenge age discrimination and of the campaign to ensure that a law protecting older people against discrimination because of their age is put on the statute books. This will be an interactive session so come prepared to talk about your experience of age discrimination and those of others. Let us build up a strong voice and case against what we as older people consider to be unfair, negative, limiting of our potential and demeaning.

Speaker: Mavis Hoyle, Vice Chairman, Harrow Friendship Society

Facilitator: Ellen Lebeth. Chairman, Lambeth Pensioners Action Group

Thank you to 'Magic Me' an organisation which tackles Ageism and negative perceptions of older people for their support .

Hands Off Campaign

The NPC launched the 'Hands Off Campaign' at the lobby of Parliament on 5 November at the House of Commons. The Hands Off Campaign' aims to safeguard benefits such as the freedom pass, winter fuel allowances, free prescriptions and TV licences after the 2015 elections. There have been comments made by the main political parties at Westminster indicating that these benefits may be under threat. Hence the campaign will emphasise their importance in achieving a decent standard of living for millions of pensioners across the UK whilst also highlighting the costs and barriers associated with means testing such benefits.

We know the reasons why pensioners need additional benefits such as the winter fuel allowance and the free bus pass. **It is because our state pension is so low.** Every year older people add an extra £40bn to the economy in taxes, volunteering and unpaid caring. So removing our benefits isn't about saving money or about stopping millionaires from getting a free ride on local transport. It's about undermining the Welfare State and the principle of services for people in retirement.

The 'Hands Off Campaign' has been backed by some of the most influential older people's organisations in the UK. We need to defend Universal Benefits and ensure that the benefits are maintained for today's and tomorrow's pensioners. Make sure that you sign the petition to defend Universal benefits which will be available at the meeting.

Sick of Waiting

For too long patient transport has been seen as a poor relation to hospital health care with poor standards of service. Transport for All (TFL) recently launched a campaign for improved patient transport services. and conducted a survey on patient transport.

The findings make grim reading. The survey found that many Trusts were handing over public money to private providers in return for an appallingly unreliable service .They were failing to hold the private providers to account. The result is that patient transport across London is failing patients, nurses and doctors and costing the NHS millions of pounds. Patients were regularly delivered late to appointments and therefore missing appointments. Patients were left for hours waiting to be collected. Patients were not allowed to take someone to accompany them to hospital. Very often they were not informed of patient transport and of Health care travel costs when booking an appointment. Patients were not aware of Patient user groups

Clearly a national solution was needed for Trusts to review their contracting process and for national standards to be introduced which will not only benefit patients and staff but would save the NHS money. In this regard TFL launched its Patient Charter which sets out national standards for patient transport. Patient Transport deserves recognition, adequate funding and quality. TFL therefore calls for every Trust and Clinical Commissioning Group to review and monitor their patient transport contracts and to ensure that the current inequalities become a thing of the past. The NPC and pensioner groups support the Patients Charter. (See Patient Charter attached.).

Celebrating Age and Black History event

May I say a **BIG** thank you to members and friends of LAMPAG for helping to make the event the success that it turned out to be. The spread of food was impressive, the atmosphere friendly and receptive and as is customary the support was great. Our next event is the Christmas Party and hopefully it will be just as good and filled with the warmth and cheer the season brings. (Ellen

Committee Meeting: Monday 24 November, Manor Court 11.00 am to 1.00 pm.

