



AUTISM - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

Does it conjure up images of children, unable to even talk to their own parents, rocking backwards and forwards in a world of their own? Does it conjure up a nightmarish world where people are trapped inside themselves, unable to participate in the world outside? Does it suggest dangerous and disruptive teenagers and young adults living out their lives in group homes, only able to 'communicate' by screaming and aggression?

Or does it instead make you think of socially inept geniuses, or individuals with a phenomenal memory or prodigious talent at maths, or painting, but who are unable to talk or behave normally?

The LONDON AUTISTIC RIGHTS MOVEMENT was set up to challenge these stereotypes, whether negative, or supposedly 'positive' and to change public perception of autism and autistic people. We believe only by teaching society to accept autistic people as we are, and to celebrate autism as part of human diversity, without romanticising autism, can the very real problems faced by autistic people and their families and carers be overcome.

WHO ARE WE?

The LONDON AUTISTIC RIGHTS MOVEMENT is controlled entirely by autistic people, unlike other autism organisations, which are by and large controlled by parents, carers and professionals working in the field. We believe that we, as autistic people, deserve our own independent campaigning voice, and shouldn't rely on others speaking for us, no matter how well-meaning those people are. We are a democratic organisation, where each members' opinions count as much as everyone else's. We intend to campaign in every way possible to both change public opinion about autism and to push for the full rights of autistic people in society.

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE IN?

The LONDON AUTISTIC RIGHTS MOVEMENT believes that:

- Every autistic person deserves an education that will enable them to fulfil their potential
- Every autistic person has the right to a suitable job if they wish to seek employment
- Every autistic person has the right to live the kind of life they want to, no matter how strange their choices may be to others
- Every autistic person has the right to independent living and to the support they need to make that possible
- Every autistic person has the right to medical treatment for any illness they have, and to refuse treatment as any other person can. *In particular, every autistic person has the right to refuse treatment for their autism.*
- Every autistic person has the right to be accepted as they are, and to be seen as a whole person, not as a disordered person needing to be shut away from the rest of society

WHO CAN JOIN US?

Every person on the autistic spectrum, as well as those with related neurodiverse conditions such as Tourettes, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia and forms of brain damage that produce autistic changes to the individual's personality, plus anyone who self-identifies as being autistic, whether or not they have a formal diagnosis or are able to get one.

Parents, carers, professionals and other supportive individuals can also join as associate members, so that they can support the work of the organisation in winning the civil rights of autistic people.

HOW TO JOIN US?

For more information contact the LONDON AUTISTIC RIGHTS MOVEMENT by writing to:

London Autistic Rights Movement
PO Box 63703
London
SW3 5SW

or by emailing: larm2008@gmail.com.