

London Autistic Rights Movement UK (LARM UK)

How we use Political Action to
Benefit Autistic People!



During this presentation please....

- Ask LARM related questions at the end of each slide.
- Raise your hand (or write on paper your questions) then wait for my signal before asking them.
- Refrain from using flashing items in this presentation.



About the presenter

- Welcome my name is (last time I looked) 
- 28 years old Aspie. Graduate from Bath Spa Uni (DipHE) in July 2007. Co-author of “*Aspects of Aspergers syndrome*”, founder member of London Autistic Rights Movement (LARM UK) since its founding in 2007.



History of LARM

- Need identified at Autscape 2007 for autism led political campaign group in the UK.
- Planning meeting held on 12th September “Politics of Autism” at County Hall with the support of Dave Morris, a neurodiverse wheelchair user, and current senior disability advisor to the mayor of London.
- 1st meeting held at NAS offices 26th Sept 07, where we decided on rules, formed a steering committee and named our group.
- Oct 3rd “PoliticsOfAutism” internet group set up, other groups later followed suit.



Rules for LARM meetings

- These were decided at LARMs 1st meeting. All members and attendees must follow these rules.
- LARM rules are:
 - No interruptions
 - Attempt to keep contributions to 3 minutes
 - No loud noises
 - No shouting
 - Stick your hand up if you want to speak
 - Respect people's opinions
 - Please turn mobiles off.
 - We are non-violent and so no violence will be tolerated.



Aims of LARM

- Our Aims
 - Promote autism as a positive thing to have (Links to positive autistic identity).
 - Change Government policy to include us fully.
 - Change media and public attitude (more realistic and less negative portrayals, as in Waterloo Road, for example).
 - In all our dealings, avoid having our agenda co-opted, twisted, or hijacked.
 - Seek to form relationships with the wider social movements.
 - To increase communication between autistics and to facilitate their involvement.
 - Educate ourselves as part of our empowerment.



Principles of LARM

- Our Principles
 - Destroy stereotypes and anti-autistic bigotry
 - Against discrimination in all its forms
 - Positive autistic identity (including Autscape links)
 - For neuro-diversity and autism and anti-eugenics
 - We are part of the wider disability and social inclusion movements
 - We are inclusive of all autistics
 - We support the social model of disability.
 - For 100% autistic people control (of our movement).
 - We are non-violent.



Tactics of LARM

- Our Tactics include:
 - Political education events
 - The Slogan: “Nothing about autism without autistics”.[by which is understood our organisations as well]
 - People should be delegated to check on media, public events etc so we can respond to them
 - Committed to non violence
 - Issue press statements on current events
 - Make video for Channel 4 (I believe some people expressed an interest in getting together about that)
 - Put pressure on NAS to include autistics more e.g. autistic authors in recommended book list



How to set up your own political action group

- You will need in this order:
 1. A group of people determined to make a difference to autistics lives
 2. A room to meet in (you could hire a hall or meet at a members house)
 3. A way of communicating with each other to share ideas e.g. internet chat group (which  runs LARMs version).
 4. A set of agreed rules, aims and principles
 5. A constitution that everyone is prepared to follow (can be constructed at a meeting)
 6. Elected members to chair, write minutes, run membership (this can be done at your 1st meeting (best to have a separate list for political business if possible)
 7. To have the place accessible to autistic needs (see slide 10 for details)
 8. If you wish to set up a website please join in Rogers workshop. Details are in your autscape information packs.



Making meetings accessible for autistic needs

- Our members have various levels of ability to minimise problems we do the following;
 - People are allowed to leave the room at any time they feel
 - Sensory environment is adapted
 - Cue cards;
 - red for “stop talking”,
 - green for “resume talking”,
 - yellow for “I have a question”,
 - blue (or autism alert card) for “I’m leaving (this meeting) as I’m overloaded”.



LARMs internet groups

- LARMs lists include

- Politics of Autism
- Politics of Autism Chat
- autismcharities_LARM
- LARM steering
- arm_researchers



Summary

- London Autistic Rights Movement (LARM) aims to change the way society treats autistic people.
- We aim to do this by campaigning for the rights of autistic people, including the inclusion of autistic people in decision-making about autistic people, and for comprehensive and appropriate services for all autistic people.