

Imperial College Union

Union Council / 7th of November 2023

Title: Disability History Month Union Engagement

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Union Notes

1. UK Disability History Month spans from November 16th to December 16th
2. UK Disability History Month (UKDHM) is an annual event creating a platform to focus on the history of disabled people's struggle for equality and human rights. First running in 2010, DHM has become a huge success, running events, providing resources and giving a voice to disabled and differently-abled people across the UK. <https://ukdhm.org/what-is-ukdhm/>
3. Disability History Month is supported by a wide range of disability groups, unions and voluntary organisations, and aims to promote disabled people's rights and their struggle for equality now and in the past.
4. The College have marked Disability History Month with training, talks and other events. For example in 2019 the College tried to focus attention on invisible/hidden disabilities, with one event being a talk by Elizabeth Takyi, Founder and CEO of [Aspire2inspire Dyslexia](#).
5. Imperial College have highlighted the significance of Disability History Month on their webpage titled "Why is Disability History Month important?" <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/equality/events/disability-history-month/>
6. The Disabilities Network have organised a guest panel of speakers scheduled for Wednesday, the 29th of November at 2 pm. This panel will feature diverse voices and perspectives, offering valuable discussions and insights into the challenges and triumphs of living with disabilities. It's a an opportunity for the disabled student body to come together. A blurb of the events (including a bio for each speaker) has been produced and is ready to be publicised. There are also plans to run a "takeover" of the Union Website. Blogs exploring the disability rights movement, Neurodiversity and invisible disabilities will be shared. Templates have been made and await approval.

Union Believes

1. Disability History Month is a huge opportunity for the Union to engage with the disabled student body, encourage conversation and build a sense of community. It provides a platform for us to highlight some of the success stories nationally and the

improvements made by the College to increase inclusivity and accessibility for students with disabilities.

2. Disability History Month also provides space to encourage students with disabilities to share their lived experience and reduce the stigma surrounding disabilities.
3. Through events and surveys, the Union can identify area in which it can improve to better the experience for all student.
4. Disability History month also provides an opportunity for us to review and amend the structure in place to support students with disabilities (E.g. Disability Advisory Service, mitigating circumstances and welfare support)

Union Resolves

1. To support/not the support the advertainment of forementioned events on Union platforms
2. To encourage/not encourage Clubs and Societies to advertise the forementioned events on their respective platforms.