Response to Winterbourne View from People Who Have a Learning Disability at CHANGE

We were very angry and upset about the bullying at Winterbourne View.

It made us feel sad and fed up that people have been treated so badly.

People who have learning disabilities often get bullied and this is wrong.
No one listened to the disabled people at Winterbourne View when they spoke up about the bullying. Many people who have a learning disability are not listened to.

An important part of helping to get equal rights for disabled people is to listen to us and respect us.

At CHANGE we have volunteers and paid staff who have learning disabilities.

We have also been bullied like the people at Winterbourne View.
Some of us have been bullied at work and college. Things like being kicked and punched, tied up and called names.

Some of us have had our children taken away by Social Services instead of getting the support we need to look after our children.

Some of us have been abused by people who have pretended to be a friend. We call this ‘Mate Crime’.

We often get bullied when we go out. People often say bad words to do with being a disabled person and make fun of us.
We all feel we do not have the same choices in our lives as non-disabled people.

Working at CHANGE is very different because we have more choices in our lives.

We can come off benefits and have a proper wage for our work.

We feel good about ourselves because people respect the work we do.
We also feel good because we are doing important work which will help improve the lives of many disabled people.

This gives us hope that the future will be better for all disabled people.

Since 1993 here at CHANGE we have been making new ways of doing things which are accessible to people who have a learning disability.

We work all over Britain with people who have learning disabilities supporting each other to have a voice.
We are examples of what people who have a learning disability can achieve. Our achievements inspire others to see what people with learning disabilities can do.

We use a Peer to Peer way of working. This means that people with a learning disability work with others who also have a learning disability.

A big part of our work is making information accessible.
We want accessible information to be really good. This means using illustrators and employing experts with learning disabilities to spend time making sure the easy words and pictures really work.

We want people to understand that people who have a learning disability have made this way of working.

So using CHANGE resources is a good way to show respect towards people who have a learning disability. Supporting the work we do at CHANGE is a way to change things in Britain so that disabled people have rights and choices.

Like Fair Trade chocolate the money you pay goes towards fair wages for people with learning disabilities to make information accessible.
Is your organisation Not Equal, Still Not Equal or Equal?

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