**TUMU:** Hello. So, if you need closed captions then I would just like to invite you to please click on the, "cc", button that bottom of your screen. During this event please post any questions in the Q&A. We have Norma, kindly providing closed captions for us tonight, and Nicola and Clare will be providing the BSL, so a big thank you. So, warm welcome to everyone here tonight, members, supporters and friends of sister of Freda. My name is Tumu, I'm going to give you a visual description, so I'm a black mixed sister and a woman, wearing a knitted jumper with a patterned collar and pink earrings, I invite everyone comfortable to do so to also share a description when speaking and sharing a video this evening. We are so, so excited to welcome you tonight for the launch of our report, that aims to lift and amplify the voices of disabled women and spotlight our views on independent living during the COVID pandemic. We are sisters Freda an experimental collective of intersectional disabled feminists founded in 2014, we strive to build networks of disabled women, share experiences and explore intersectional possibilities in pursuit of our liberation. We are inclusive of all self-identifying women and girls, non‑binary and gender conforming disabled people. As a collective we do not claim to speak of all disabled women we value the rich tapestry of different disabled experiences and seek to lift our voices wherever we can. Tonight we'll share with you the findings of our report and we have some brilliant panellists who aisle introduce in a minute, they will share their reflections on our findings and we are then going to open the floor for a Q&A, we then have the pleasure of a performance from the brilliant Dennis Queen, then spending some time together discussing and imagining what next steps might emerge from this work. Firstly I'd like to introduce briefly our panellists who you will get to meet properly a bit later on. Msunnia, is a queer feminist and was the researcher on this project. So, they'll introduce the research to you shortly. We have Rachel, Rachel O'BRIEN, a member of Sisters of Frida, on the steering group and her day job is in public affairs for disabled people and campaigning on disabled rights. Unfortunately Martha can't join us this evening, so we are just sending good vibes to Martha and she'll definitely be missed. Dennis Queen is a queer disabled musician based in Manchester, been involved the movement from over 2 years, I'm Tumu, from Sisters of Frida and a trainee clinical psychologist. For the purpose of access we will have a comfort break at 7.20, I'll try mi very, very best to hold us to that time. So I'd like to first start by introducing Msunnia, who is going to share a bit more about the report and introduce you to some of the work that has been done.

>> Thank you Tumu. Hi. I'm the researcher on the project and umm... and I am a South Asian person with short black hair and behind me is half of, is my wall in my living room and half of the Pride flag at the back. I'm wearing a purple cardigan on a brown, on a brown dress. So I'm going to, I'm the researcher on the project as a disabled person I'd like to say that this pandemic has made me furious and extremely worried at the state of intersectional ableism and the inequalities in the UK. So as a queer person of colour with my own issues on health, housing and employment, I have been extremely worried and experienced marginalisation. So, doing this research and speaking to those who have been in a similar position, has meant a lot. We spoke to, we spoke with eleven disabled women and non‑binary folks on how access, inclusion and independent living have been for them since the pandemic began. The report brings together some of overarching themes that came from our participants, some around finances, so loss of employment, disability discrimination and importantly issues to do with the benefits system. Our participants have also struggled greatly with social care, so for example, some had no, some had zero peer support which meant that they struggled to live, to eat, to exist in a clean place and to look after themselves properly. Okay. That's feedback, could somebody mute themselves. (background noise) thank you. Yeah. Thank you. So, so yeah, so some of our participants really struggled some of them struggled with access food, medicine and basic items. Some relied on food banks so the mental health of our participants has been at a detriment and this is also backed up by statistics from the Office of National Statistics. The mental health deterioration is as a result of the systemic violence that disabled women have faced during the pandemic. This violence, gendered labour, financial worries, inability to leave the house inability to get basic household products this affected their impairments as well. We know that disabled people are also more likely to suffer with their mental health, it's due to the ableism we face on a daily basis. So the picture is bleak because there is an overall systemic break down across society on pretty much all of aspects relating to supporting disabled women from social care to pay in the workplace. So this is a structural issue and it's about policy. It is about local authorities, the NHS, education and other providers simply not delivering equitable services for disabled women, we need to ask ourselves why and look at what is creating these problems. In terms of social attitudes and culture, our participants reported that some non‑disabled people adhered to social distancing measures whereas others did not. So this caused distress, especially for those who are clinically vulnerable. We identified that there needed to be clarity in messaging, but we also observed that there was a stark lack of thought for disabled people in our lives. We simply don't live in a culture where marginalised people are valued, our struggles are neither heard nor understand. Non‑disabled people do not think of us, we have felt that our lives are easily disposed of and given the COVID death count, 6 out of 10 people who died from COVID were disabled, so we live it. In terms of special distancing, disabled people antagonised, those exempted from wearing masks were questioned, very little was done for other disabled people, for example, we had reports of blind people not being eligibility for online delivery for social distancing, that makes it difficult for them, so they struggle to social distance. In conclusion the pandemic has exacerbated all the ways intersectional ableism exists, and the past year has been very difficult for us. So going forward we need to work, work collectively to make demands from the government, this is going to be difficult given the government. At the same time we, we need to look at what is causing this extreme lack of care and thought from non‑disabled people, is it Brexit, is it the effects of Tory policies, neoliberalism, I think we need to understand this. Finally, by working collectively, I mean cross‑movement solidarity work with equality groups such as LGBT groups and anti‑racist groups, because disabled people are not homogenous. Disabled experience is not universal and different disabled women's voices need to be heard, for example, trans disabled women. So, how we work together with other groups and what tactics we employ to enact policy change are important steps to think about, because it is quite unlikely that this government will listen to us, so how do we create change, that's the question. Thank you.

**TUMU:** Thank you so much Msunnia for that brilliant, yeah, that brilliant kind of explanation of some of the findings in the research, and the issues that it has raised. So what we're going to do, we're going to hear now from our panellists, we're going to hear their reflections on the report. So I'm going to introduce each panellist. Then invite them to share briefly around their thoughts. So, the first panellist that I'd like to introduce, you just heard from, is Msunnia. Msunnia, like I said, has done a brilliant job on this research, on this project and is a queer crip feminist with a background in campaigns and organising, and an organiser of Criposium on intersectionality, maybe people can turn on their cameras as I introduce them, I hope that will work tech rise, so yeah, Msunnia. We have Rachel O'Brien, who like I said is a member of the Sisters of Frida steering group, she works in public affairs for a disabled people's organisation and campaigns to improve the rights of disabled people. Also a workplace rep for Unite the Union. So we will turn, if you can turn your cameras off. I'll just introduce Dennis Queen, if you are there, Dennis is a queer disabled musician based in Manchester. She has been involved in the Disabled People's Movement for over 20 years, which is huge. Campaigning, performing and volunteering at Disabled People's Organisations. As well, as being a panellist, as I mentioned, Dennis will perform a piece of us tonight. I'm Tumu, Sisters of Frida steering group member as well. So I'm going to start by introducing Dennis are, you okay to go first, and share some of your reflexions with us, thank you so much.

**DENNIS:** Thank you so much. My reflections on the report umm... dreadful, but not surprising, I suppose, with it being a summary, that would be the summary from me. I'm Dennis Queen, eye pronounce are she, or anything. I'm a mother, spouse, musician and activist, I'm white, I am disabled, I'm bisexual and I'm in a queer family. I'm transgender, I'm gender queer. This means I don't see myself as a man or woman and I forgot to describe myself properly. I'm sporting a pink and blue short back and sides at the moment, and a... and a Polka dot shirt with a tee‑shirt underneath. So I don't see myself as a man or a woman, but I still face sexism because it affects everyone who isn't a man. The pandemic, for me as a disabled person, has ‑‑ it's led to all... it was ‑‑ seeing the report was very frustrating because it reflected the individual stories that we have been hearing right through the pandemic and it's really important that this are studied further. I could tell you more about me and how I've been affected by those things, but I think, I think for me there are three or four main things that come out of this for me, so first of all was the avoidable carnage and how that's affected our communities. Umm... in March last year, in 2020 it was obvious that tens of thousands of people in institutions were likely to die as a Disabled People's Movement we were organising around that knowledge. The other thing was the statistics that were coming out of government, I feel like they won't deliberately tell us things we really want to know. Thing like when they quote how many people died were people of colour, and they quote how many people who died were disabled people, but they never ever give us the figure of everyone who is both. So we need more information I think and we need more intersectional information, I feel that's being held back, simply because we know that when we get those figures they are going to be you know, uncomfortable, unconscionable, high. The government needs to act to save our lives, that certainly reinforced that for me, through supporting our cry for independent living. I pray to Dan's memory that soon as we can take to the streets about Free Our People we are going to be doing that when everyone is, you know, when enough of us are vaccinated. I support all of Sisters of Frida's recommendations to government and the only thing that I think hasn't been covered, in much detail, is the more sort of the harm and refuge and I think I would very much like to see a few different kinds of refuges dotted around the UK that are accessible to all disabled people but also everyone that isn't a woman. There are big issues around the ability to escape for us, when many of us may depend on those who harm us for our very lives. So I think that concludes everything that I want to say and just mainly I really want to see those statistics and I want them analysed and I support you in fighting for these demands which I hope will be taken to government.

**TUMU:** Thank you so much. Rachel, would you like to share next?

**RACHEL:** Yeah, great, thank you Tumu. I'm Rachel O'Brien, I am a white woman with mid‑length, long, somewhere in between, blonde hair and I'm wearing a... tiger print black and orange jumper. So I think having read the report I think talking about independent living, like what this report is kind of discussed in relation to independent living has really, is really important, because Sisters of Frida views independent living in its broadest sense, whilst social care and personal assistants are important aspects of independent living, umm... I think often they are viewed in, basically to the exclusion of everything else. So, there are 11 other pillars of independent living, so everything from transport to employment, to sexuality and we think it's incredibly important to consider all of these pillars, so that all disabled people can fully participate in their communities. We've also concentrated, and this report concentrates on looking at independent living through an intersectional lens, focusing on the experiences and needs of multiply marginalised women, necessarily this includes looking at systems like disabled women and their inability to live independently. This includes things such as the criminal justice system and the hostile environment, looking at how normative gender roles interact with disablism. Whilst we have not, maybe, managed to do that all in this report, largely due to practical barriers like the lack of access to women living in prisons, one of the things that come out of the pandemic is a lot of people who are currently in prisons are effectively living in solitary confinement, you know, the government just chose to go down that path rather than things around compassionate release or releasing people earlier, which made accessing those groups of people in order to hear their views and think about how if ‑‑ independent living affects them very difficult. We hope experiencing the experiences of a wide range of disabled women through an intersectional lens we can start the process where we can broaden the disabled and women's movement understanding of independent living and common visions of independent living. So that all disabled people are able to have choice and control over their lives. So, as a result of this and I think something that is really reflected very well in the report, we just don't need to break disabling barriers we need to fight to break down, sexism, ableism and queer phobia, so there is the possibility of independent living for all. I think quite often our various movements are siloed, disabled movement, women's movement, LGBT movement various black and ethnic minority movements it's quite often in the spaces in between where you hear the stories of those most marginalised and most in need of solidarity and liberation, these are often the most neglected portions of our movement. I think that Msunnia has done an amazing job at like beginning to draw all these things together and so I would like, we are really hopeful that it's the start of something far bigger and that thing is absolutely needed and necessary in order to achieve independent living, as a goal for, for disabled people of all backgrounds and that's me! Thanks.

**TUMU:** Thank you so much Rachel. Like hearing a thread linking back to what Msunnia was saying about cross‑movement solidarity and tennis you mentioned wanting more statistics on people who are multiply marginalised, and the need to like broaden our kind of, our understandings and therefore our kind of how we intervene and things and what we are doing. Msunnia would you like to add your reflections as well, at this point?

**MSUNNIA:**  Yeah I think I was write when I was writing this report, I was also looking back umm... looking back from the 2008 onwards and what has happened in terms of services for disabled people, but also the sense of, the loss of rights of disabled people in the UK and the ‑‑ I guess the State's attitude to this. And... and in finding the solution I, you know, we, the report has policy recommendations to the government and to various bodies, however how that is done and how we work in getting sort of like umm... getting our rights back. There were not a lot of rights but they were some rights. Furthering those rights I think that it's, it's a complicated discussion to have. Given the state of the government and how difficult it is to make that, to make these arguments and I would be quite interested to sort of hear from the other panellists and perhaps the attendees as well, in how to sort of like move forward from then on, because what has happened in the pandemic is the result of, of the culminating policies from 2008 onwards. Thank you.

**TUMU:** Okay, thank you Msunnia hopefully that's something we can explore a little bit more in the Q&A. I guess just to kind of add, it's Tumu speaking, just to add kind of some of my reflections. I think something that really struck me was the finding at the disabled women had become more reliant on partners and family members and friends for example, in terms of like support needs but also financial support and I think it, you know, similar to what tennis was raising around like that that can be very risky for us. It just highlights how much of our experiences are invisiblised and not seen, so like the complexity and nuance. I guess the richness of our lives in a way has been erased, you know, through narratives of like very categorised, distinct groups, like the 'vulnerable' people for example, but nothing with any more depth. In a way, whilst on one hand like this kind of patronising idea of vulnerability has also hidden a lot of the need because the need has just been associated with like a clinical, very medicalised understanding of, yeah like what it is that's at risk I guess. The report found that, you know, particularly like single, queer disabled people were talking a lot about kind of feeling lonely and isolated and, you know, disabled mothers being expected to fulfil like normative gendered kind of parental roles but with absolutely no support and so how do we make sure that those stories and those experiences are, are kind of there for everyone to see? Yeah. I think the general, there is a line, there is a part of the report that talks about like the lack of consideration for our lives and how that's reflected in policy and decision‑making and how people are feeling insecure and scared and abandoned and ultimately there is a really something that stood out for me, was that it was quite painful to read I guess, is around how people felt that their lives were unworthy and disposable, I think that's been a theme throughout, you know, from when they started to now, but equally just acknowledging how long that's been the case, that not a new thing and how much of this report umm... is speaking about things that already existed and have been made worse. So I think there needs to be a lot more done to kind of explore the gendered experience of independent living for disabled women in the broadest terms like Rachel mentioned, not just as a focus on care, personal care for example. You know, thinking about multiple, multiply marginalised people and... yeah. How, how kind of organisations that are more well‑resourced can support. So organisations who will be describe themselves as feminist, anti‑racist can work towards kind of furthering the work that we have started. I guess my final reflection is just that in a lot of the conversations that we have had, and I've been, in some of them, not all of them, there is already lack a lot of knowledge, like we know that this stuff is happening, so we really, really need kind of more support to highlight it and do something about it. That that doesn't always fall on the smaller groups that consist of the people who might be, consist of the people who might be at the real sharp end of this. Yeah. So, I guess now thank you so much everyone. We're going to kind of open the floor for a Q&A. Yeah, answer some of your questions and just sort of open the floor so we can have a bit more of an informal conversation. Just to invite the panellists to chip in wherever you want. I'm going to start off by asking a question and then we can see where we go from there. So the first question is: why now? So, why was this report, why was this project looked at now? What was kind of the motivating factor to do this work at this time?

**RACHEL:** Can I come in on that?

**TUMU:** Absolutely.

**RACHEL:** So, it Rachel. I guess I spend a lot of time looking at reports about disabled people and there is now been dozens of reports on like different aspects of how disabled people have experienced COVID. One thing that has been missing is the kind of, like, understanding that not all disabled people will be affected in the same way by COVID. Some people experience different things, some people experience things more or less than others. I feel like a gendered analysis has been incredibly lacking in all the reports that I've read. So I think... yeah. Like one of, one of the things Sisters of Frida does very well is to kind of move into that space that has been traditionally neglected by mainstream women and Disabled People's Organisations, this report was incredibly timely and incredibly necessary in order to bridge the gap between those two different movements. It also provides a greater understanding of the experiences of disabled women during the lockdown, during the pandemic. Just to pick up on something that Msunnia just said, actually Tumu said, around vulnerability and rhetoric around vulnerability, there is this rhetoric by the government, by public bodies, disabled people, people with 'underlying health conditions' are vulnerable to COVID‑19. I think, well first of all it's patronising to call people vulnerable, I really hate that word, but to describe a population as innately vulnerable, it makes it seem inevitable, it was never inevitable, Msunnia said what happened in the pandemic, was the result of years and years of policy decisions. I saw it somebody up very well on Twitter a scientist at imperial who, who said that, that your susceptibility to something may be more biologically driven, you might be more susceptible to having like ill effects of a virus but your vulnerability to something is like socially and politically driven it's the fact that actually we don't have enough nurses, we don't have enough ventilators, housing in this country is incredibly poor and parts of the population are more likely to live in overcrowded housing and have to work in the gig‑economy and things like that. My understanding, the separation of those two things susceptibility and inevitability, it moves away from where the deaths were concentrated in the pandemic, this report does like tie into that, we talked about how disabled women in the report, like how they have been more likely to lose jobs or have to take on additional caring responsibilities, or be more umm likely to face gendered violence. I think, yeah, it's, this report was incredibly necessary, incredibly timely to combating a lot of the rhetoric around kind of the inevitability of the situation which ended up happening.

**TUMU:** I **guess to add to that this vulnerability rhetoric this kind of functioned to justify a lot of the medical responses which were actually eugenicist in their very nature. The salience of this idea of vulnerability meant that when there weren't enough ventilators, that was the thing looked at the socially constructed idea in order to decide who was being provided with healthcare, as we know, disabled people were completely deprioritised for support across every aspect of kind of the healthcare system during the pandemic. Does anyone else want to come in on why now. Rachel has given a real strong reasoning for like why it was really needed and urgent. Does anyone else want to add to that?**

**DENNIS:** We needed this any way in a lot of ways, I'm going to speak a little bit to the point about our history I guess. I absolutely agree that since 2008 we have seen a lot of the things that disabled people, many of them disabled women in fact, fought for. We have seen a ‑‑ if we go back to 2008 I was still protesting with the disabled people's direct action network, DAN. That was, I think the last year that we organised any sort of national action. Momentum had gone at this point because gradually we had stopped fighting as we had gained ground. I joined a shrinking movement in the late nineties, I didn't join in its heyday. So, we were kind of facing a bit of ‑‑ it felt like we were trying to go the wrong way up a conveyor belt and then within ‑‑ so that was our last protest. We were warning of the cuts that would come in 2010 and in 2010 or around that time when the cuts started to happen we found that there was so, they, between then and now it's like they have been slowly dismantling everything at the supports us like, like the foundations. So they could be in a position now, in 2020 and 2021, when they can create hospital policies that are absolutely eugenics and create, continue to do things that they know will lead to tens of thousands of deaths. So this is not, I suppose why, not why now, it's because like because the time has absolutely come to start looking at how this affects disabled women in particular, because almost women, girls and other gender non‑conforming people like myself, how we are all also affected as that is never looked into and I think, well it's clearly really important. I think, you know, I think probably everyone here who has even just read the brief synopsis of the report here is that, I think most of us can probably go down the list and say, oh yes we experience some of that, some of that, some of that. I think that's, it's very alarming and I think maybe Sisters of Frida hopefully will lead the way to encourage others with gendered aspects of what we might face when we are doing research, there has been other research, a lot of it doesn't really look at how that affects us, those of us here. I hope that answers it.

**TUMU:** Go ahead.

**MSUNNIA:**  Yeah I think there has been a lot of discussion about gendered labour and... and feminist care, what feminist care looks like during the pandemic, but in, you know, in feminist academia. However, however it is, it has consistently been lacking in terms of including disabled women and our understanding of care and our understanding of gendered Labour. Gendered labour for disabled women is quite different. So, so I think that it was important to touch on that. I mean the themes were coming out so umm... so touching on that was quite, you know, was quite important because there are already research, there has been, it's been released on women during the pandemic in terms of work, salary, and what it is to be at home. The one thing that I, I also noticed in, is that there are, you know, as I say, the disabled community is not homogenous, we are quite complex, we are quite, you know, we are quite, there is multitudes of just we are diverse, multitudes of us, but the policies in society they don't, they don't cover that, they tend to be blanket policies, so I thought that this research has to be here right now, when a lot of work is being produced, other reports are being produced on disability and on gender. There are silences in these, in these reports and I think that our report also has a lot of silence. I think we need to question that, we need to query that, we need to reach through and say who is now presented there. There is a picture in the report about Seander who is a black, disabled woman who prior to the pandemic was arrested and imprisoned by the, because she, she was trying to defend herself. She's a taped black woman who is trying to defend herself from racist attack. The police did not listen to her, nor investigate her issue and she's in prison right now during COVID. There is an appeal on her case. So Rachel was talking about, you know, these women in prison like, I think it's important that we, we echo that, that there are a lot of silences and these silences need to be sort of looked at and looked into. At the same, the same for refugees and an asylum seekers, the conditions that they live in, we need to query all of that through the notion of disability justice, what is it that we mean by disability justice and disability care and independent living. Why are we not, as a disabled community looking at these, or why isn't the feminist community looking at that, there could be others, but you know.

**TUMU:** Thank you Msunnia. Yeah, so really important kind of, although our report might be better than others in some ways, really important to be critical of ourselves and remain curious and remain kind of in a position where we want to know more and we want to, like you said, reach into the things that aren't there. Like we haven't reported on say the silences and yeah just echoing, kind of considering some of the people that you have mentioned that Rachel mentioned, women in prison, refugee and asylum seeker women, we definitely need to do more. I just wanted to read out a comment from one of our attendees called Silvana, which I think links to this part of our discussion. She said, "That for some (central Government and supporters) bureaucracy is a useful tool to prevent action whilst appearing to be supportive, hence so many reports and regressive lived experience. We need to be aware of policies like this so we can force constructive change that improves our lived experience properly", she said, “They are referring to commissioned reports not once like this that come from those that are affected." So thank you Silvana for that comment. Just to ask another question. So I was going to ask about why it's important to use an intersectional lens when looking at the experience of disabled women. I think you have spoken to that a little bit. I'm going to ask a different question, a more specific question that we have. So: How has the pandemic affected lives of LGBT disabled women. Would anyone like to answer that?

**MSUNNIA:**  Yeah, it's a difficult question, it's a very difficult question, because from my experience... the queer community as a whole has umm... that is not from, I'm not taking this from any tail or any papers I've read or anything of that, that is from my perspective, my viewpoint, my narrative. So, I keep saying this to other queers, I've never lived in such a heterosociety a very conservative society, this past year has been quite dystopian in terms of the focus on the family and what kind of family. It's all, it's always almost the heterofamily, the father, the mother and the child. Certain portrayals of masculinity in public and the normativity of hetero behaviour in society. The past year has, like the disabled community been fairly invisiblised by the pandemic and I don't think there is another there, out there that is actually looking at specifically disabled, like I haven't seen the specifically disabled queer women's experiences. I too know, in terms of accessing healthcare, for LGBT, from the LGBT or queer community it has been difficult, especially like, like trans people have struggled a lot during this pandemic and there has been a massive increase in terms of, in terms of LGBT people kind of trying to seek and to get access to mental health support and knowing how the mental health support is, there is a huge demand and there is a struggle to access these resources. So, I think that more needs to be done on this. I think, yeah I think I'll leave it at that. It would be useful to hear from the panellists, what the panellists have to say about this, but also you know, the audience.

**TUMU:** Thank you Msunnia, I think that's a really important point about access to mental health care and for specific, for different groups and, you know, difficulty in accessing services already, for example, transphobic so, yeah, kind of, I think it's important to remember the context that we were in before, we were already, you know, people were already hugely, hugely struggling with our existing healthcare services, mental health healthcare services for example. So, trying to access already discriminatory contexts, but now we're even less resourced. So we've got two minutes left of this part of our evening. I just wanted to see if anyone wanted to add a vinyl comment, before we have a comfort break? So, does anyone have kind of a speedy last minute comment. We have got two people. Yes. Would you like to go for it.

**RACHEL:** Dennis, you go for it.

**DENNIS:** Just to echo what Msunnia was saying really, it's difficult to get a full overview, but the things I've seen amongst people I know have focused a lot around isolation, because there is a lot of people still living on their own and access to healthcare, especially for young trans people who, who completely lost some of their healthcare during the pandemic. So, yeah, healthcare has been a massive problem.

**RACHEL:** Yeah, I just wanted to, I think Silvana's point, going back a bit like about bureaucracy, and the constant commissioning of reports and audits by the government is like, is... I like data as much as the next policy person, but there is a point at which reports being produced for the sake of producing reports and absolutely who is producing reports should be interrogated on how they, why they are producing a report rather than actually doing something. An excellent example of this, when the government, I can't remember what it was called Race Audit, you know it came out and it horrific, they knew they had to produce something, they produced the most cynical and frankly, in and of itself racist that they could have done, they did that instead of doing anything that would make anyone's lives better. We are at a very real risk of this happening again with COVID, more specifically COVID and the disproportionate impacts on different demographics of people, we need an inquiry that's not on the government's terms a public inquiry, it's the same piece of legislation that governs it as did the public inquiry like with Grenfell, where actually it's independent of government. The government have done dozens of their own inquiries, dozen, I've submitted throughout the last year dozens of responses nothing has changed. Dozens, hundreds of responses from other organisations, I think we need a public inquiry but the inquiry can't be on the government's terms and things need to be improving and changing in the meantime. So absolutely, I agree with Silvana's comment basically about bureaucracy being used as a means to stop actually any material changes.

**TUMU:** Thank you Rachel. I think that's, that kind of set the scene for the next part of this evening, where we are going to be talking more about what next steps are, what the future holds and what we can do together to translate some of these findings into actions. So, I'm going to honour the ten‑minute break, am sorry we are a couple of minutes of. We will come back together at 7.32. So there is a ten‑minute break now, we'll come back together at 7.32. Thank you all so much.

(Short Break)

**TUMU:** Welcome back everyone, I hope you enjoyed your break. And just given a moment to make sure all the panellists have managed to come back. We have got some waves from people. Okay. Yeah so much to think about during that break my mind has a lot of different thoughts, very grateful for such a rich discussion so far. I think that, the sentiment around moving from kind of, moving into action so thinking about how we can move forward and together, make change, what happens, what needs to happen next has been highlighted as a very important conversation. So this next part we are going to focus on that. So the question for the panel is: what do we want to see happen next and do you have any further comments around this? Again, I'd just like to invite anyone to chip in and share their thoughts, you know, sometimes these thinking aren't fully formulated yet, and that's okay, this is also a space for us to imagine. But yeah, what do we need to happen next, what do we want to see? Would any of the panellists ‑‑ would anyone like to go first? I might have, I've made a mistake in the agenda. I'm so sorry. Would we like to, shall we do the discussion or shall we have a song from tennis. Apologies tennis. I mixed up the order. What shall we do? Does anyone have any thoughts. Msunnia?

**MSUNNIA:**  Shall we ask tennis what they're happy with.

**TUMU:** Is tennis there?

**DENNIS:** Yeah, I don't know, I don't mind but I think with the song I'm going to do is the kind of the answer to that question for me. I've been thinking about what are we going to do since the pandemic hit. So I can either do that before or at the end. It might be nice to give other voices space first. So, I'm really don't mind.

**TUMU:** It might be nice to open the discussion with a song, that's a different way to do things. Would you be up for that, shall we open, if it is, it fills quite related, yeah is that all right. Thank you so much. Okay, so yeah, I'd like to introduce Dennis, thank you so much.

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Long live our movement, while we must fight.

Long may we resist what is wrong, for what's right..

Til all our descendants can live in the light ‑

Not locked behind doors ‑ out of range, out of sight.

Know the cause of oppression's not inside me, or you.

Our bodies, our minds, or our senses ‑ it's not true.

Let's fight for change 'til the world is for you.

For me and for all who come after us, too.

All now, pull together ‑

Find those who are missing, so that we may grow.

Even now, it's just the beginning.

We've come so far, but there's further to go.

Let our shared experiences generate change.

Leave nothing undone, fight in all of our ways.

Leave no‑one behind, use well all of our days ‑

Until we pass over and go to our graves.

Times once again are becoming so rough.

These social distances feel pretty tough.

The carnage our people face is more than enough.

We'll rise again soon ‑ for justice, with love.

All now, pull together ‑

Find those who are missing, so that we may grow.

Even now, it's just the beginning.

We've come so far, but there's further to go.

Hold on to your dream of a bigger new world.

Where we all belong and are seen and are heard

Keep that vision growing ‑ invite others in:

The more we come together, the more we will win.

Remember activists gone before us.

Powerful traditions entrusted to us.

Tell radical stories so no knowledge is lost.

Our emancipation is waiting for us.

All now: pull together ‑

Find those who are missing, so that we may grow.

Even now, it's just the beginning ‑

We've come so far, but there's further to go.

All now: pull together ‑

Find those who are missing, so that we may grow.

Even now, it's just the beginning ‑

We've come so far, but there's further to go.¶¶

**TUMU:** Thank you so much, I'm sending you a virtual round of applause, it's such a shame that we are not in‑person, but thank you for such an uplifting call to action and solidarity. Very, I feel very hopeful after that. Yeah, you are absolutely right it's definitely a great opening for this, for this discussion, thank you. Owe on that note, what do we want next? What do we want to see happen? Do any of the panellists ‑‑ okay, Rachel.

**RACHEL:** Yeah I think, I mean it's a big question. I think that ultimately the pandemic exacerbated a lot of issues, it did not create the issues, the issues and the oppression and marginalisation were always there and the pandemic shone a light on them and made them a lot worse, but it didn't create them. So I think actually to concentrate purely on the pandemic would be a mistake, we need to concentrate on, we need to look at all the things that‑led up to the pandemic and see how, see how things can change, because actually over the, the sad truth is that this will not be the last pandemic, we live in a state of like environment and climate disaster. So I think, we do need, I agree what was said earlier about disaggregated data and like, actually having the data we need in order to understand the issues, they can't stop a data collection, they can't stop at data collection it needs to manifest into real, tangible change. So I think umm... actually there are a lot of like organisations out there calling for an independent inquiry, I knew the Trade Union Congress is as well, as lots of other organisations, I think getting behind that is really important, but again as I said, I, independent, like inquiry on our terms and like making sure that the terms of reference actually include the needs and experiences of marginalised people and most importantly like multiply marginalised people to ensure that like people aren't left out of the solutions going forward.

**TUMU:** Thank you, Rachel, yeah, I totally agree with that. I guess when we are talking about the need for disaggregated data and kind of making sure that experiences don't get left out, I guess, I was reflecting on the real factors that this project was kind of borne out of a bit of a disappointment I'd say, certainly from my point of view in our kind of our inability to get funding, larger pieces of funding for a larger project related to disabled women and independent living. I think there is a sense from some people, myself included, that kind of the need, the urgent need to look and act on this is not there, or it's not in the minds of a lot of organisations, perhaps. I think it speaks to what somebody mentioned earlier you know, how feminist movements, organisations over there dealing with certain things and anti‑racist movements over there doing certain things the disabled movement, it can all feel quite separate at times. So, yeah, I think like, it's really important for, like for this type of research and for this type of work to be funded and to be acknowledged by funders and by organisations who are saying that they want to do this work. Then, perhaps, not giving enough opportunity to groups of people who have lived experience or who are able to, or are in community with people that we want to speak to and that we want to hear from. So, I just kind of wanted to point that out as well. Does anyone else have any ideas that they would like to share? I'm wondering if anybody in the audience would like to share in the Q&A anything they would like to comment or questions around next steps. I'll just give that a little, a minute and if not we also, I guess we do have some next steps from our point of view as Sisters of Frida, but it would nice to hear from anyone who would like to contribute. Go for it, yes Dennis.

**DENNIS:** Hiya, I feel like the obvious next step is to see at last what we can do in terms of getting maybe other organisations, women's organisations and Disabled People's Organisations to support the recommendations that you are making and perhaps get back, back your campaign in that sense, maybe in some of the things that some of us are involved in. Thank you Tumu.

**TUMU:** From my personal perspective, definitely, it speaks to what like Msunnia was saying about cross‑movement solidarity. I guess like, yeah, perhaps feeling like... umm... in a lot of spaces like there is kind of a little bit sometimes of a single issue focus or perhaps certain experiences might be thought about, but again like we've said throughout this event this evening, it's not rich enough, there is not enough depth. We need to constantly be making it more complex because it is complex. Kind of really making room for, for real lives and real people's experiences and that includes the nuance and the richness aren't that we're not a homogenous group and that any feminist space should also be addressing ableism, thinking about the experiences of disabled women and gender non‑conforming people in everything that they do. That's not always the case. I don't think. So, yeah, I think partnering with other organisations makes it kind of, solidarity in this work and working with, with the various groups would be really, really important. That's my personal view. I wonder, does anyone else have anything to add before we move, before we move on?

**RACHEL:** There is some stuff in the Q&A Tumu?

**TUMU:** Okay brilliant, is anyone able to read that out?

**RACHEL:** Yeah, I can. So Louise says: how can we all work together to campaign for funding for organisations led by disabled people? Someone else says: in terms of what needs to happen next, I wonder if the panel has any thoughts on nuance to the discourse that everyone vaccinated equals back to normal life? There is still quite a lot of concerns around vaccination might not be as sufficient with people with certain conditions or taking certain medication. Thandi says: I think we must get together internationally. Yeah, I guess picking up on that last one, I think that's incredibly important. Due to a number of factors, largely to do with money ‑‑ [*Laughter*] ‑‑ this report does concentrate on the experiences of women in the UK and, we know across the world you know, this has been a global pandemic and the impact of it has not been like equally felt across the world and we can see that even now when vaccine patents still aren't being gotten rid of, so that like countries in the global south can produce their own vaccines rather than having to pay exorbitant amounts to vaccine manufacturers and that's an injustice in and of itself, on a more kind of self-interested note, if we don't sort the pandemic out globally well everyone around the world will continue to experience the effects of it. I think international solidarity, especially when our government is so complicit in like vaccine patents is like incredibly important as well.

**TUMU:** Yeah. Does anybody else want to add to that?

**MSUNNIA:**  Yeah, I really like and I really agree with Rachel's meant on vaccinating people, vaccine justice. Especially for the, for the global south. When you look at how many people are being vaccinated in European, American, North American countries in comparison to the global south it's... I mean the stark injustice is, can be... it can be felt. I think equally Canada and other countries, other ways turn countries, the US and the UK, I can't remember exactly what other European countries are sitting on a lot of vaccines that they don't need to, there is a vaccine surplus in the west and that is just selfishness and greed and waste and it's quite uncalled for. Yes, I do, I do agree, no one is supposed to pay for COVID vaccine. The other questions have disappears.

**TUMU:** That's okay, we are quite close to time, so yeah.

**MSUNNIA:**  Okay.

**TUMU:** Is it okay if we slowly start to move on a little bit. I think, as well, just thinking about the things that are going to get in the way of us, for example, the Police Crime and Sentencing Bill which will criminalise protest, you know, how are we going to challenge things if we are not allowed to protest, if we're not legally allowed to gather and resist? So, things like Kill the Bill are very, I think, connected to our struggles, yeah. Rachel and I are going to share of the suggestions from Sisters of Frida for the next steps. Obviously they're not exhaustive, we know there will be like lots and lots of ideas among all of us. But some of the ones we wanted to share. We just really hope that, we think that we need to continue to raise the voices of disabled women on this issue, so this work has really, is really just a starting point, it's the beginning. It is kind of the beginning of a strand of work, hopefully, so something at the will spark a lot more to come. We want to, we think it's important to work with equalities organisations again to build across movement, lots of cross‑movement work. That specifically looking at the inequalities of this pandemic and what has, what it has exacerbated. We also would like to take the report to funders to kind of illustrate the issues further, so to make it explicit and to lobby for further funding on disabled women and independent living, in whatever kind of area at the needs to be done. So, yeah, Rachel would you like to add some suggestions as well?

**RACHEL:** Yeah. So, we're also going to continue pushing for like versions and ideas around all twelve pillars of independent living, rather than resorting to just a narrow definition of independent living at the focuses on personal assistants and social care, actually for many disabled women it's the system is under which they live is restricting their choice and control, as well, as the lack of personal assistants available to them (restricting) we'll also continue pushing for the Disabled People's Movement to take a gendered and intersectional analysis to their work, to make sure that their work reflects the needs of all disabled people, rather than often defaulting to like a white male perspective that doesn't actually meet the needs of multiply marginalised disabled people. We want to work with decision makers and coproduce solutions to the issues we identified in the report as well, so hopefully we can start to make change to ensure that disabled women can live independently.

**TUMU:** Thank you. Just to add we did have a question on kind of how to make social justice movements more intersectional in their approach instead of focusing on single issue and I mention that, you know, they are often kind of siloed and splintered, that's from Priscilla, the how is still up for debate, there are lots of people working tirelessly already, so we are so interested in hearing from everybody and hope that you will get more involved with us in the future in thinking about ways that we can go forward in practical ways. So, there is couple of things that we need to share with you. I might ask the others, as well, so I'm not entirely a sure, but we have video testimonies some, it's from people who have also contributed to this research project, speaking about their experiences that we are going to release after this event. Does anyone have a date for that or is that yet to be confirmed?

**RACHEL:** Yet to be confirmed, it will be soon.

**TUMU:** That will be amazing. So, yeah look at for those and we'll definitely announce it on social media and on the website. Also the report itself, so the kind of, the thing that has brought us together this evening. When will people be able to look at the report?

**RACHEL:** It will be uploaded on to the website following the end of this webinar and we'll make sure to put it on our socials so keep an eye out for it.

**TUMU:** Thank you so much. So they are the two things yet to come. So the report itself which you will be able to read and also videos, video contributions, generously provided by people offering their thoughts and perspectives to the research. So, time has flown, and the only thing left is to thank you all for generously spending your evening with us. So I just want to thank everyone who his attended tonight. Know, we are over the moon that so many of you wanted to spend time listening to our thoughts and contribute I would like to thank our brilliant panellists, Msunnia a special shout out to you for all the work you have done on this as a researcher. Rachel, tennis you have been incredible as well, Dennis, just sending extra good vibes to Martha. Alice the project coordinator who has done loads of behind the scenes work, massively helpful the Sisters of Frida steering group and the trust and the National Lottery for funding our project, lastly and by no means least, a heartfelt thank you to every disabled person who shared their experience with us and that has enabled us to share that with you today. So we are finishing slightly early, I hope that's okay, we are about four minutes ahead of schedule. But I hope you have a wonderful evening and please be in touch with us for any thoughts, comments or if you want to be involved mid‑we'd love to have you. Thank you so much. [End].