Thursday 24th March 2022

CARMEN: Ok let's start now. So again welcome everyone, and thank you so much for your time. So today will be talking a lot more about sustainability, we talk about climate change how does that make an impact for disabled women, with different kind of disabilities forms, today we have a lot of discussion, important panellists here with us. There are several things I would like to mention to every one of you before that, before that I would introduce myself. My name is Carmen I am currently working at University of Greenwich am disabled woman in wheelchair as well. So I want to set up housekeeping thing, before we share and to talk, I mean not only for panel, but also during our Q&A sections or conversations, we would like to appreciate you if you could first name yourself, so that everyone will know who you is talking, and for our panellists, I would like to invite you guys also, to introduce yourself not only where you come from, but also to describe a bit yourself because considering some of our participants may not be able to see you, you could describe a bit yourself so we have an image of you if we can't see your face. For myself you can use the initiative, you can call me she or her. So I am basically I am a Chinese, right now I have an eyeglasses with a mic and earpiece on my head. I am basically wearing, I have an eyeglass as well, and I am wearing yellow Japanese kimono, so that is what I am wearing. There are several housekeeping rules that we hope everybody can help. So that we can communicate smoother. There are several things, the first thing is we welcome you guys to come, and please mute unless you talk, especially when our panellist is sharing, so I hope everyone can mute your mic so we can focus on the sharing and the talk from our panellists.

    The second thing is if you would like to speak and to share your point, appreciate if you can use the function to raise your hand, and as a Chair I will be able to name, try to invite you and we will try to say a lot who is raising your hand so we will try to monitor that. Thank you again. Eleanor and Kirsty will help us with monitoring the chat as well.

So there are several more things is, that I want to remind everybody, that today we have a lot of different friends around the world so basically not all of us speaking English and some of us actually needs to depend on the captioning. The live transcript, so for that reason I would like to invite everyone to speak, I mean a bit slower, so that not only to let the live transcript be able to capture what you speak but for people who might not have who are not having English as their first language, they are able to capture to understand what you mean. Basically these are the several things I would like you guys to know, so there are several things more we need to do, is so we would like to do a recording, so before we do that, is it possible, I mean we would like to get your consent, is everybody ok to record this? Any objections?

    Ok I guess we are agreed to have this recorded, it will be very important for those who cannot attend today, I hope that will be the recording will be very useful for our archive and sharing. So for today, let me introduce, explain a bit the structure of the discussion. We are having four panellists to do their presentation, and then we will, each of them will be having about 7 to 10 minutes, and we will have an open discussion and we would like to welcome everyone to share your lived experience, and comments, particularly related to what the panellist shared. So this is, I mean basically that is the introduction as a chair, and to welcome everyone to join today. Ok. So without further ado, I would like to invite our first panellist to share, and so our first panellist is Khairani Barokka, and so we start recording now. I would like to invite our first panellist to speak for us, she is Khairani Barokka, Khairani is a Minang‑Javanese writer and artist from Jakarta whose work has been presented widely internationally and centres disability justice as anti‑colonial praxis. Among her honours she has been Modern Poetry in Translation's Inaugural Poet in Residence, and UNFPA, Indonesian Young Leader Driving Social Change and Associate Artist at the National Centre for Writing in the UK. Okka's books include Stairs and Whispers: D/deaf and Disabled Poets Write Back, as a co‑editor, Nine Arches. Her latest book is Ultimatum Orangutan, it's shor listed before the Barbellion Prize. Her most recent talk is on eco ableism for Women of the World Festival 2022 at Royal Festival Hall, so may I welcome Khairani to join us.

KHAIRANI: Thank you so much Carmen, thank you Eleanor and Sisters of Frida and thank you to the BSL interpreters and everyone else here. When I gave that talk on eco ableism I asked the room who here has heard of, or knows what, eco ableism is? I think I got maybe 3 very tentative hands. Nobody really had heard the term, but as many of us disabled women know it’s quite prevalent. I will give you a few examples. One is in sort of atomising the environmental crisis to personal decision rather than going after the hundred or so corporations that are responsible for the majority of greenhouse guess emissions, I know there are people in our community who have to use plastic straws to survive, to eat, have been targeted unfairly. Rather than having the companies attacked or you know like looking for alternative solutions. and acknowledging that disabled people need to use plastic straws as some of us, that's one example.

    And the second example is looking to a wider scope, more and more disabled people are created every single day, due to pollution, that is carcinogenic, and causes people to be born disabled, creates disability in later life. One example of this from Indonesia where I am from, there was a recent report that the, there's nickel mining in Indonesia that causes a disproportionate amount of a certain chemical, that was also the subject of the film Erin Brockovich, if you remember that, it's that chemical that is carcinogenic that causes health problems. I was thinking about ok well there's this huge push towards green energy and electric cars, and 'clean transport', but all of that requires mining. Lithium mining, nickel and copper mining, all of this mining activity is deeply destructive to indigenous communities. A third example I am going to give is that indigenous peoples are, a disproportionate number of indigenous peoples are disabled. And I think we can see this broadly across different marginalised groups, that in each marginalised group there is a higher number of disabled people than in non‑marginalised groups. So you are attacking, when you are taking indigenous people's lands from them and burning rainforest up, are also attacking large populations of disabled people which a lot of people don't necessarily think about. The fourth thing I would like to say I like to cite the book the Right to Maim, it shows that imperial practices like the West, China and even Indonesia claim we're going to give accessible facilities to our citizens, it comes at the cost of all the lives that are killed by war due to weapons manufacturing, by our companies, due to policies that maim and kill in places like Palestine. So when you think, the disability justice you need to think about where is the money going. And all of these wars, by the way the US military is the largest non‑corporate polluter in the world. All of these wars are also deeply, deeply environmentally destructive. Then the last thing that I just think I am going to end with is my book Ultimatum Orangutan, I'm trying to show the cover but you can't really see it's a purple cover. Oh and also, my apologies, I forgot to describe myself. I'm an Indonesian woman with a patterned house dress on, I have purple lipstick on and earrings and I have short black hair and the background is green grass that I have put on a virtual background, policies. So this last concept with regards to eco ableism how we're all interconnected and particularly in terms of disability and deafness, is that there is the tendency for environmental justice issues and climate justice issues to be spoken of from a very western, white perspective. So in my book I cite indigenous scholars, and communities who say that you know this concept of the word 'Anthropocene' is not new, it's not from hundred years ago, it's not from the industrial revolution. You need to count Anthropocene from the start of European colonization. We have lived through genocide and massive environmental destruction, that's what happened to native Americans and native Canadians, indigenous peoples in Australia, and all around the world. There are constant remnants of genocide and continued genocide and ecocide, not just recently but for hundreds and hundreds of years and there are people who have fought against the taking of their land to be used as places to make profits for colonies for hundreds of years. This resistance is not new. And the people who have been resisting all along, particularly indigenous peoples, need to be at the frontline, not just because the west is finally going to be impacted by climate change and then suddenly you know all the activists come from the west. No there are people who knew this was going to happen millions and millions of people, who have been fighting for hundreds of years. If there's anything that I would like people to take away from, it is that disabled people need to be at the frontline, disability justice is climate justice, indigenous peoples need to be at the frontline, and centred. Because in climate crisis, disabled people will be the most affected. It's difficult enough for us to survive in places that have not yet been hit by climate crisis, right? Imagine you know, and many of us do already live in places that have been hit by climate crisis, particularly in the Global South. We are already being disproportionately affected, we will continue to be disproportionately affected, and yet panels from the UN that are not accessible, climate change policies and plans and contingency measures that are not accessible and don't centre disabled people, are still the norm so I hope that all that can change. Thanks so much for your time.

CARMEN: Thank you so much Okka, thank you so much. I am mindful of time and I would like to take this opportunity again, to thank our BSL interpretation from the Sam and Nicky thank you so much guys for your guys' help.

    Now I would invite our second panellist Asha Hans. So let me introduce Asha a bit before she starts sharing. Asha is a former Professor of Political Science and Women's Studies at other Utkal University India. She is a recent member board of UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, she's a Member Board Women Enabled International USA. She is the founder of SMRC, a disability organisation and Women with Disabilities India Network. She has worked with CEDAW and UNCRPD committee on women with disabilities in India. Her recent books are in 2021 and, Engendering Climate Change: Learnings from South Asia, and forthcoming, there will be a Forthcoming Disability and Climate Change, and in 2020, Asha Hans also had a book related to Disability, Gender and the Trajectories of Power in Japanese edition. I would like to welcome Asha to join us today.

ASHA: Thank you, I have already been introduced, but to say what I am today I am wearing glasses, I have very short hair, and I am an Indian so I am brown, and I wear a sari. You will have to stop me when I speak very fast because I have a tendency to do that! And thank you to Eleanor and all of you for inviting me, I am so happy to join you today because climate change has been a passion for so many years, and as Eleanor said, what is happening in Ukraine we're reaching a stage where already the IDCC report, the Secretary General, have called a Code Red, that there is no going back. That where climate change is concerned, we have reached a stage where we need to make drastic changes to our lifestyles. I won't talk about states because I know that it's very difficult to get them to move, though they say that they do it for us, the people.

    The IPCC report does mention disability 47 times, I counted it but it's almost it talks about daily or disability adjusted life years which means the burden of disease where disabled women are concerned not there at all, persons with disabilities a few times. So what we do and we are representing is what our learning are from our experiences, and our history.

    Many I spoke to a woman the other day, and I said I will visit your village, I live on the East Coast of India where there is a coastal erosion, she said don't come because my village is no longer there. It had already been swept away by the sea and the flooding that was there. So most of us, so through some generation or the other, must have been ecological refugees we have moved where we are today after a lot of change that has come into our lives. We see as says today the sea level rise, we see snow melting we see flooding, and we see arid zones. All over the globe. Which affects women with disabilities tremendously, much more than others because of the poverty they find themselves in.

    In Paris it was said that only 1.5 degrees should be allowed where emissions are concerned which lead to heatwaves but what we can see that is increasing. Where I live in India, it's said that it would increase to 3.3 to 4.8 and that will create heat to such an extent, that persons with disabilities and especially women, would be affected tremendously. I live on a delta, which is one of the areas where people move when they want food security for many, many years, but out of 33 deltas across the globe, 28 have been wiped out. 64,000 of area of acres has been lost, and where women with disabilities work as farmers, they have no more livelihood. As a result there has been immense displacement about 30 million people displaced with 15 billion loss that is a tremendous amount, and the agriculture loss where 75% of women from the areas of the Global South are concerned, they have lost their agriculture but by 2015, 70% of food more will be needed so where will it come from if there is no agriculture, we do not have livelihood. And the water has decreased, and as women with disabilities have very little money, they cannot use bore wells and that also affects the climate change. So most of them have to sell gold, the only asset they have, but we see gender roles also changing. Where women with disabilities were looking after the carriage of water, and keeping of water it's now men, because the market has dropped in and you have to buy water. Which again affects your economy, so you can understand that if you're a woman with disabilities, very poor, in a developing country, and you have to buy water, and you there's not enough money for food, then it becomes a challenge. So migration takes place in 2050, it is said that 200 million people will have migrated it's called the Great Climate Migration. Many of us will be migrating, whether you are in a wheelchair or whether you cannot see, but we have to be part of and we will be part of that migration whether we like it or not.

    And usually when people migrate, it leaves ‑‑ mostly where I live its men who migrate leaving behind women. Women head of households increase. Now if you want to deal with climate change, what to do women with disabilities do? They set up cyclone centres, they trust they could find shelter and all the cyclone shelters are disabled friendly. They are accessible, the using universal standards. There are solar driers, there are self‑help groups, but what said aligned with that that where climate justice is, it cannot be there without the lived insights of women with disabilities, our insights need to be included in confidence about climate change that why I am glad today that Eleanor has brought this meeting about that we need to be heard to provide that inclusive view, and invisible spaces that we live in will come to light. Thank you so much.

CARMEN: Thank you so much Asha, thank you so much. I think the point about migration is something that we should think about that because we are as people who have the lived experience actually we are able to share and to inform the world how the world people with lived experience adapting in the climate change, now the third panellist we are having is Rhine Bernardino, let's welcome her. Rhine it's an artist, independent curator and researcher with a background in filmmaking. They hold an MA Fine Art degree in sculpture, from the Royal College of Art, for which they were awarded the highly regarded Abraaj‑RCA Innovation Scholarship. Rhine has curated and exhibited work internationally, especially in Europe and Asia. They have been invited to take part in several international art residencies, and programmes most recently as part of the Australia Arts Council's Future Leaders Programme, and Office of Contemporary Art Norway International Visitors Programme and Tokyo Arts and Space, TOKAS, research residency in Japan. She has been doing extensive field research and mapping of art collectives, alternative spaces, and community‑based projects across the globe. In building on this work, they have been looking at a myriad of possibilities of working with communities through art practice in driving societal change and highlighting marginalised voices. So today we have Rhine to join with us, welcome.

RHINE: Hi everyone, I am happy to be here. I won't be able to show my video at this moment, I hope that is ok, I am still recovering from COVID so please bear with me I don't want to miss it I am just going to try and see if I am being coherent and you can just call me out if I am not making sense.

    So, I would firstly want to echo what two of the panellists said before me, and how a lot of responsibilities actually go to women and people who are disabled, especially I mean in a disaster situation especially caused by climate change. It's always the burden of survival and taking care of the family and the massive duties that fall on women and mothers and girls and those are the ones that are also are prone to a lot of abuse and sexual abuse, in trying to fulfil these duties. I have I have seen it first-hand. I am from the Philippines, just to give a bit of context where we are hit by typhoons, record high strongest typhoons now almost every year. And I experienced this growing up and maybe not as crazy as the ones that have been battering the country in the recent years, but the way to deal with it is really difficult because those already have especially multiple marginalisations in society are, it doesn't get better in situations like this, like it's likely 10 times more to be harder.

    So I think for what I want to contribute to this discussion is my one aspect of my work where I talk about access to nature, by women and POC. And people with disabilities, including queer people as well because I am queer in nature and the countryside because when we talk about the environment and climate change, it's hard to separate that from our access to nature and the issues that exist in how we embody our existence with nature. And having lived in the UK and being based in London, and environment, I find it, you know, like, it's quite an alienating experience for me when I go through the countryside, or spend some time in nature, where I feel a high level of alienation, because people of colour it's a feeling of being unwelcome, it's not the place for you in places like the UK and generally in the west because of our invisibility in these places. I think this is a conversation that we need to have and like how this space is and this idea of exploration is mainly attributed to very white, male experience you know and there's always like this extra kind of threat of women going to nature and people of colour, going into nature, and feeling our invisibility gets highlighted so much that the discrimination is really heightened in these spaces and why is that. There's a big issue in that, because it's, nature should be neutral, it's also a place of refuge for people, for our mental health, and it's been proven a lot, as well as especially for women. I actually read that access to nature affects women more than men. Scientifically proven. So we get more benefit from spending time in nature and doing forest bathing so our access to this space and openness and sense of security, and should be there, and we should provide this for people with, for women, for people of colour, and people with disabilities. So, I think this is the, what I wanted to open up in this discussion, and how climate, all this should encompass a lot of a suspects of our lives, to know it's not just far from you know an area where there are typhoons, also they are happening now, it's flooding here all that stuff, it's not just that aspects of our lives. This has to do with how we have that relationship with each other and the places that we belong in in the natural world. So yeah. That I guess is the provocation that I have for this. Thank you.

CARMEN: Thank you so much Rhine, I mean you raised something very interesting about you know, gender, as well as disability and the connection with the forest and the nature, considering say forest bathing is so important, not only about the access but also related to our wellbeing, to our reconnection with the nature. So I think that might be a lot of feedback or comments will be coming in when we have the discussion open floor. But before that, I would like to invite our fourth panellist, to share with us. Our fourth panellist is Harrie Larrington‑Spencer, and Harrie is a researcher in Healthy Active Cities at the University of Salford and has just submitted her PhD in human geography at the University of Manchester. Harrie's research and personal interests focus us upon sustainability and inclusive active travel and ensuring that the needs of disabled people are centralised within environmentalism. Harrie is a disabled cyclist, and along with her dog Frida, uses social media to demonstrate how brilliant and inclusive cycling can be, as well as highlighting the specific barriers their specific barriers that disabled cyclists face in their everyday travels. Now Harrie recently has been recognised as one of the Shaw Trust Disability Power 100. Welcome Harrie for joining us today.

HARRIE: Thank you. To describe myself my pronouns are she/her, I am white British, I have shoulder length brown hair and brown eyes. I am wearing a green dress with pink and white stars on it. I tend to talk quite quickly when I get nervous so Carmen, please interrupt me if I am going too fast. So disability, gender and the environment is something that brings together my past research with my present research, so thank you for the opportunity to start thinking through this and I am really honoured to be on the panel with such brilliant speakers. So my past research focused upon the gendered impacts of climate change and the predication of climate mitigation often on women's free labour within the home. In my current work as researcher at the University of Salford I focus on inclusive active travel, so this is walking, wheeling by wheelchair for example, or using a different any kind of form of mobility aid or all the different types of cycles that are available, and also sustainable transport. Of course this work is happening within a policy context, that's focusing upon active travel to reduce transport emissions and achieve Net Zero necessary for meeting the responsibilities of the Paris Agreement. Within this work, I support the design and implementation of interventions to support people to travel actively, to connect with public transport for longer journeys. Accessibility and inclusion is particularly important within this, as disabled people within the UK but also more widely, are less likely to have access to a household car than non‑disabled people. But disabled people are commonly spoken over, and spoken for within transport discussions, not to mention common perceptions that disabled people are not and cannot be active, so my work tries to central centralise disabled people's voice at needs in these discussion. I will talk about cycling, one reason because I love cycling, and that's how I get around but also because in these discussions of active travel, cycling comes to the forefront. And often comes to the forefront from a very masculine perspective. In terms of confidence of cycling. When I am talking about cycling I am not talking about just two-wheel bikes, there's many different types, there's bikes, trike, hand cycles, recumbent, wheelchair clip on, can be a hugely adaptive mode of transport. But there are many gender barriers participating in cycling and then these become much more enhanced when they intersect with disability. So there's a cost of adaptive cycles which extends into thousands of pounds, women already earn less than men in the UK and taking into account both the disability pay gap and the disability price tag, it makes it even more difficult to afford cycles. Women are also less like to cycle than men when there's not protected cycling infrastructure. This becomes even harder when cycling the and non‑standard cycle such as a trike, they won't even fit into cycle lanes for example. Another factor is gender ableist abuse, as women we're experience abuse for existing when we're existing in a visible way such as cycling this can increase the levels of abuse. I don't want to be just talking about the challenges, because personally, I cycle a trike and it's really helped me with my disability, by staying active and also allowing me to have the lower carbon lifestyle that I have really been trying to have, but when I do this I cycle all my local journeys, it's made me a lot more locally focused in terms of shopping and socialising but this localisation makes me consider in my work how disabled people are often have much lower impact lifestyles than non‑disabled people, but we tend to bear the unequal burdens from environmentalism, the eco ableism that Khairani was talking about and focusing on in the straw ban. And basically I just want to echo other speakers in the panel as a conclusion, that there is no climate justice without disability justice, and that this will need to include transport justice in it. Thank you.

CARMEN: Thank so much Harrie, very interesting I think there will be lot more, I think some of our participants will be interested to know a lot more about your cycling as well as how to live a low carbon lifestyle. Especially among us, I think that will be something very interesting for us to share. I am mindful of time, and we would like to invite everybody if some of you would like to share or giving us some feedback or you know to have a discussion, I would like to now go to the, we move to the general discussion. Now before we start having this general discussion, I would like to invite you guys to start by sharing your pronouns, and then give us your description of yourself, and then your name, your location, and the interest of in a topic as well as any kind of feedback you guys would like to share with us. Ok. And I would like to invite everyone if you would like to share, please raise your hand so that we can invite you. We're mindful with the chatbox too, so if anyone who does not feel like they want to share feel free to also type your comments on the chat group, we will be able to read them too. So anyone who would like to give some feedback? Or maybe before that, I mean maybe some of you might need some time prepare, maybe I should start first as the Chair.

I mean, Asha actually you mentioned a lot of interesting I mean there are some issues that related climate change making an impact on disabled women in, I mean developing countries considering the safety of water, the clean water is making a very big impact isn't it. How, I mean in that situation, what kind of things that we can do, or is there anything Government or UN, what can we do to advocate so that I mean disabled women, I mean the clean water or even climate change impact, can lessen the impact on disabled people.

ASHA: Thank you Carmen. I think the first thing we need to do is the IPCC is coming out with a gender report, I think we should tell them to include women with disabilities, because I am sure they are not going to do so. I have written to them, but on a large‑scale as a group if we like it would make a change. And that means that the UNFC all of them would be paying attention to it. The second is that since in the developing countries it's not really India, it's Philippines, I am sure, and it's Indonesia the same situation with water, it is declining, and we need to conserve and there are methods of conservation in climate change, and that is what we need to adopt. That water has to been conserved, there is no other way but even then, if the rain ability is there and the rain does not come on time as it's not coming now you know the situation is still really difficult, so the only thing that can be done is a large, massive scale, we need to bring this to the attention of governments. And to the people involved in that, in conservation. Thank you.

CARMEN: Thank you so much Asha. I mean, based on research and article it do mention that you know because of climate change and also a lot of unexpected you know, environmental crisis and issues, disabled people do faces a lot of challenge in having adaptive lifestyle, and that will create a lot of different kind of challenges as well. So I guess that will be related to some of the questions that we see from the chat box that will be related to how do environmental issues affect disabled people, in particular disabled women, so I do believe Asha they mentioned and try to explain that. How about the other question is can anyone share experience in their own countries, of the effects that's has I don't know disabled women, is there anyone can, or any panellist can share that with?

RHINE: I just want to bring this to attention, it's important to raise this in this discussion, how women's reproductive health is actually a conversation that people don't talk about in disaster situations and especially when typhoons hit, like disaster hit areas where women tend to sacrifice not struggling to have access to sanitary products for instance, and it becomes like non‑important priority when you have food and water for your family. And also, access to like protection, reproductive health issues where a lot of a lot of women and girls are sexually abused as well in these situation there's a lot of high pregnancy level that happens in families because of lack of support for reproductive health so maybe along with water which is essential but sanitary products is also important and reproductive health of women is also important and how this should be included in that discussion and especially more so with disabled women.

CARMEN: Thank you so much Rhine. Related to sanitary you know products, that related to disabled women, I think that is something we work to think about that as well. Imagine a lot of this design actually might be in a perspective of able‑bodied, think about how this is I mean I do aware that there are more sanitary products that are more environmentally friendly but it seems like the new products design might not consider disabled women isn't it so maybe these are some issues that we could also raise. I see there are several hands that been raising up, maybe shall I invite Kirsty to share with us, thank you.

>>: Somebody has messaged me a question which I would like to put forwards, to the panellists. Touching up on the topics of climate change and its specific impact on women and people with disabilities, do you think that planetary health should become a feminist issue. I don't know if anyone has responded, would like to respond?

CARMEN: Okka has feedback, so maybe we could invite Okka to share with us.

OKKA: I just want to say going along with understanding a longer history of environmental struggle in places like Indonesia and the Philippines, environmental justice has always been a women's issue you have always seen village women, farmer women, indigenous women at the frontlines of resisting environmental destruction, it already is a feminist issue and feminisation of poverty, doing all these factors we have talked about impacting women disproportionately and disabled women even more, and if I will just add one thing that I wanted to say earlier, is that judging by how disabled women have been treated during this COVID‑19 pandemic, I mean in the UK we're 6 times more likely to die and over 60% of the people who have died from the COVID‑19 pandemic have been disabled, so it's a genocide, it is a genocide of disabled and ill people. Especially women. I want to say that in looking at scientific projections for how infectious diseases will rise as a result of climate change, I really think that disabled women's voices in particular, have to be taken into account, because a lot of us have co‑morbidity, a lot of us already have the symptoms associated with things like COVID, and we cannot afford to risk death or further disability by a rise in infectious diseases. That's just something I want to say, thank you.

CARMEN: Tank, so much Okka, I mean you raise a very, you are raising another issue that related to COVID‑19. And considering that not only COVID‑19, imagine that climate change is not only about a few specific countries or places isn't it, it's related to the globally, imagine for the past few years there's been a lot of environmental crisis in like tsunami, like earthquake and these sort of things we can see according to research that people with disabilities are usually the ones that suffers and struggles the most, so you did raise a very, you know, important issues and I think one of the things that we have been thinking about is how we can help, I mean through the advocacy we do, and as well as countries, how we can facilitate the kind of adaptive behaviours or solutions, to support people with disabilities to face this sort of climate change and environmental crisis. I think these are important issues. So there are one more questions I probably would like to see if the panel can respond to is that, so we have been talking about families as well so is there any way we could work together to you know, to create a bigger voice by generating and collaborating together to talk about and share the lived experience of disabled women, related to this area? Is there anyone who would like to have a feedback, how we can work together to share or to empower the lived experience so that we can make an advocacy or social change? Anyone would like to share? Or Harrie would you like to share with us, I mean I know that you have been doing a lot of work with, you know, disabled cycling and then you have been sharing a lot of lifestyle, which you know, social media and advocacy is there any way we can do to empower more people to do the kind of lifestyle you have.

HARRIE: I am always a bit, I wouldn't call it a lifestyle, I just I wouldn't even say it's not just about trying to get disabled people cycling for example, it's because there's cross benefits of it as well in terms of social mobility. But I use social media a lot, and actually I think that comes a lot from both the pandemic and also having low energy as I find social media is a really, and Twitter in particular, I found really helpful in terms of connecting with a wider group of people. So I don't know if there's, kind of there's downsides to social media but for me I found it really helpful in connecting with the disabled community. Both in terms of active travel but in finishing my PhD as well having access to that disabled community was really important to me.

CARMEN: Thank you so much, it's really important to build the network to together and stay connections with the disabled communities. I just want to raise that there is a feedback in the chat room for Myra, saying that we are aware that many of you guys might be members of the International of Women with Disabilities, but others who would like to join the community, and join us, and there is the information where you can click on the links, and apply for membership in this group. Myra will send you information on how to join that list and we do welcome women with disabilities as well as allied women to join us. So there are several more comments and feedback, and Myra would you like to share or do you want to speak to us as well?

MYRA:    Thank you, and thanks for this fantastic panel, especially in the context of CSW, it's really important that we as women with disabilities are visible here and I really appreciate what you're doing.

    Yes I thank you for reading out what I wrote in the chat about the International Network of Women with Disabilities, I just wanted to encourage people to join us and to think about how the network, how we can network together to help each other in this context. It's not something that the network, I call it 'in‑ward', or INWWD, INWWD has focused yet on climate change, Asha I already texted with her directly but yes the more we can work together, the more like we are to be successful and this is a venue that INWWD, a venue where this can happen so please anyone who is interested you are welcome to join us and we appreciate your expertise, thank you.

CARMEN: Thank you Myra. Thank you so much. There is a note in the chat box that I want to read it for everybody. So that you can know it's from Nick because Nick shared that it's very interesting talk from the panel, there are two questions and thoughts the first one is regarding to the comments on active travel, it's important to remember that it's not an option for all disabled people. People with energy disability, cannot cycle with their arms more than their legs so it's important to campaign for access to power chairs and mobility scooters and for access for things like solar panels to help the cause of charging this. In addition, in the UK's most CCGs who do not offer power wheelchair to most disabled people. Meaning that people like her, like Nick who can walk a bit but not walk the 400 metres to the nearest bus stop is forced to drive. Finally, buses in the UK are still not accessible for most mobility scooters limiting the green ways these disabled people can travel. Now the second feedback is that about the other main eco ableism, so Nick have encountered is the lack of understanding that not everyone can go vegan. I have even mentioned this in inclusive event, for environmental organisations, only for you know, they have tried. So I am not, I would like to invite if any panel would like to give any feedback on this area as well. I think while we are waiting for our panellist might have some feedback, Nick raised at a very interesting issue about the accessibility to the nature. Isn't it. So Harrie I see you raise your hand, would you like to share with us.

HARRIE: I completely agree with Nick that we do and we are trying to advocate for that, I think there's also each person only needs a limited amount of what they can do as well, so whilst my work focus on inclusive active travel, it has to be limited to some extent so that's kind of what I am focusing on but there is some excellent work a going on exponentially round transport in learn down the things like only being able to have one wheelchair user use a bus at a time what if you want to go out with your friends? It's about the sociality of that as well and not just about it being a transport practice, so that is coming out from other people, but yeah it's always something that's in my mind.

CARMEN: Thank you so much. Harrie I mean when we talk about accessibility to the nature, I guess there are several areas that we should also look at, beside of having a smooth pathway that wheelchair users or even walking in a route that is safe for people with visual impairment as well. And other issue about accessibility which should be looked into the public transport, how does people can travel to this nature, these are important issues. Just to share with you yeah the transportation, right now we're having is probably just one space for wheelchair user, but in some place. Like in Hong Kong or Asia countries, these buses actually have been renovated and they could spare wheelchair space officially for each bus, especially for buses that travelling to country area or even further nature. So there are a lot of different kind of work that we can do in lobbying to address the needs so that we can continue with working on you know, how we can interject disabled people's voices into the advocacy for climate change and environmental friendly. So I am mindful of time, as we're being late starting, and thank you so much for everyone for staying with us today. So what we will do afterwards, is we will be sending a post event email with some of our reading and information, and some input I mean useful information and kit for you organise to take a look at Myra said if there's, there's lots of way of staying in touch and connection with the community with disabled women. So please do join us. Again, I would like to thank you, our interpreters, for all the hard work tonight, and Sam and Nicky thank you so much. And thank you so much everybody for attending this event. Thank you.

>>: Before everyone logs off quickly it's Kirsty talking, would it be possibility for everyone to pop their cameras on? It would be really great to get a final picture but thank you again to our panellists to Eleanor, thank you very much Carmen for chairing. But if everyone could put their cameras on and I will do a quick screenshot. If you don't that's completely fine too. Ready, 3, 2, 1. [*camera noise*]. Perfect.

CARMEN: Thank you everyone, thank you so much.