

Dear Friends,

Firstly, having read this plea for help, please do pass on to your friends and contacts – crowd funding may really help us.

2018 marks the Guernsey Disability Alliances' (GDA) tenth anniversary. In those ten years, the GDA has done much to raise awareness of disability in the community through our "We All Matter, eh?" brand, but the major focus of our work, which goes largely unseen, is our work as the voice of disabled people to government.

The GDA is a collective voice for forty member-charities who between them support thousands of people affected by many different conditions. Importantly, so that no one is excluded, and no voice goes unheard, the Alliance also welcomes individual membership. Approximately 100 islanders, whose conditions are not necessarily represented by another local group, have joined so far.

This Alliance has been successful. The States of Guernsey have introduced the island's first Disability and Inclusion Strategy which includes a commitment to realising the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. After a sluggish start with the Strategy, there is now real momentum, and we are on the brink of achieving further significant change.

The next two years will be particularly important; In this time, we expect disability discrimination legislation to be introduced, an Equality and Rights Organisation to be established and for there to be a major push to raise awareness about disability.

We are staffed mostly by volunteers, but we are struggling to fund the communications, research and small part-time staff, vital to our work and needed to support and co-ordinate our member volunteers. We need approximately £60,000 a year to operate effectively.

Please may I ask you to dig deep and give whatever you can afford?

Donations can be made by following the donate link on the GDA's website <http://disabilityalliance.org.gg/>. If you prefer to donate via bank transfer, or if you are willing to set up regular payment the GDA's account details are:

Sort Code 60-09-20

Account No. 74612166

Account name: Guernsey Disability Alliance

If you feel you might be able to help set up, or be an active member of, a "Friends of GDA" group, I would love to hear from you.

With best wishes



Rob Platts MBE