

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NORTH WEST FORUM OF
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HELD 12 JANUARY 2023 IN
DISABILITY ACTION, GORTFOYLE HOUSE**

CHAIRPERSON ADDRESS

I am delighted to welcome everyone today both in person and online. This year 2023 was the year we started to emerge from COVID. As a group of people with disabilities we have been further marginalized by COVID however given the commitment of our Committee and by the support of technology (Zoom) we have worked continuously since 2020 to continue to achieve Human Rights and Equality for disabled people living in Northern Ireland.

We have kept up to date with all the committees meetings, networks and organisations that we work with and are represented on. A special thanks to Tony who has worked tirelessly to provide information, advice and support to people with disabilities who come to us for much needed help and advice.

The Forum is represented on the following Committees and Fora:-

Disability Action – Board of Directors,

Disability Action - Strategic Advisory Board

Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Disability Housing Forum and
Central Housing Forum

Regional Health and Social Services Committee

IMTAC

Disabled People Against the Cuts (DPAC)

Disabled People Coalition for NI

NI Consortium on Human Rights (Chairperson)

Equality Coalition

North West Community Network

NI Union of Supported Employment

UNCRPD Independent Mechanism for Northern Ireland – Disability
Advisory Forum

Disability Employment Network

Disabled Peoples Coalition NI

We hope in this incoming year to meet again regularly and continue the work and representation that is required to ensure disabled peoples achieve their human rights in all aspects of their lives.

Thank each and every one of you for your continued support and work.

Patricia Bray

Chairperson