

ORAL HISTORY RECORDING SUMMARY

'Fighting for our Rights' project

Surname	Kashmiri
Given name	Ali
Date of birth	1972
Place of birth	Clapham, London
Date of interview	27 June 2017
Length of interview	01:09:37
Number of tracks	1
Name of interviewer	Jen Kavanagh

Track 1 of 1 [01:09:37]

Ali Kashmiri (AK) was born in 1972 in Clapham, London to parents Akram and Carmen. Mother a housewife and father a caterer. Attended Bedelsford School. Talks about school experience, feeling left behind. AK has spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). Diagnosed age 18 months. Talks about mother's battle for diagnosis, almost sectioned as result [00:05:25]. Talks about attitudes to treatment. Mentions new headteacher who pushed students. Explains qualifications achieved. Went to Pakistan. Wanted to study electronic engineering. Talks about colleges not being able to accommodate access needs. Barriers to career [00:11:00]. Talks about involvement with disability movement. Mentions Ann Macfarlane and Jane Campbell. Joined Access Committee of Kingston Association of Disabled People (KADP). Explains name change from 'for' to 'of'. Attended college in Epsom. Talks about joining KADP as employee. Explains Ann Macfarlane's role in this. Mentions involvement with Greater London Association of Disabled People. Campaigns, direct action. Explains role as Project Officer for KADP [00:17:25]. Mentions Kingston Community Transport and KADP's car. Talks about other roles at KADP including relationship with Director, Liz Orton [00:24:25]. Talks about working two jobs, became property owner. Talks about Renny Wodynska, social worker. Supported AK to move out of family home [00:31:30]. Moved to Chessington. Talks about challenge of finding accessible home and making adaptations. Explains misconception of disabled community getting everything for free. Talks about negativity and prejudices from neighbours [00:38:40]. Mentions applying for disabled facilities grant to make adaptations to flat. Talks further about work with KADP. Change to Kingston Centre for Independent Living (KCIL). Worked as Access and Information Officer [00:43:25]. Left to work as Access Officer for London Borough of Harrow. Explains challenges of role. Mentions London Plan of 2004. Became Microsoft certified, freelance work. Became accredited in access and inclusive design [00:49:40]. Talks about involvement with Campaign for Accessible Transport, evolved into Direct Action Network [00:54:20]. Mentions being arrested in demonstration on Oxford Street. Charges dropped. Talks about success of direct action regarding accessible transport. Talks about privilege of Kingston leading the way with Direct Payments [00:59:05]. Mentions concerns about current care system. Describes it as state of flux. Talks about current work with housing sector. Ends with reflecting on need for momentum again and campaigning as a united group.

End of recording [01:09:37]