

## NATIONAL INCLUSION WEEK 2016 BLOG POST

The House of Commons is committed to being a diverse workplace. As the seat of our country's democracy, it is vital that we are representative of the whole of society. As part of this commitment we have always been big supporters of National Inclusion Week.

Inclusion is not simply one of those cosy, fluffy afterthoughts here in parliament, it is at the very heart of who we are and everything we do. We want all employees (and all potential employees!) to know that we not only welcome diversity, we celebrate it! We are lucky to have a fantastic champion for diversity and inclusion in Mr Speaker, John Bercow MP. His passion and determination to fight for inclusivity is an inspiration.

In past year's we have celebrated National Inclusion Week with sessions and presentations from a wide variety of organisations, on a huge number of topics. We've had sessions on everything from dementia to foster care; from gender sensitivity to how to handle cancer in the workplace. We've hosted quizzes and held creative writing sessions all aimed at celebrating, and championing equality and diversity.

### WHAT ARE WE DOING THIS YEAR?

The Diversity and Inclusion Team has put together a packed programme of events this year, which will be open to all staff and all Members' staff to come along and enjoy.

This year's theme for National Inclusion Week is "everyday inclusion" and we hope to highlight some really important issues as part of this. We have been lucky enough to secure some brilliant speaker's for this year including:

- Andrew Douglas, chief executive of Parallel London, who will be coming along to tell us how his organisation is championing inclusivity in sport;
- There's a presentation from Melissa Morbeck, chair of the Corporate Alliance, who will be discussing the impact of domestic violence on the workplace;
- Dr Clare Barlow from Tate Britain will be here giving us a sneak preview of the gallery's amazing "Queer Art" exhibition which opens next year;
- Macmillan Cancer Care will be discussing how being a carer affects people's everyday lives;
- We will be hosting a free screening of the Oscar nominated movie "TransAmerica" for any pass holders on the estate.

These are just a few of the events we will be hosting here in Parliament to celebrate National Inclusion Week. We hope that these events will shine a light on some really important issues, and that staff will be inspired to help us make Parliament the best employer we can be.

Whilst we love being part of National Inclusion Week, we know that these are issues that matter every single day of the year. Our aim is to use National

Inclusion Week to highlight and showcase the work we do, and encourage people to embed D&I principles in everything they do.