



Dr Ann Craft: Safeguarding Pioneer



ACTing against abuse

Dr Ann Craft's work on disability was ahead of its time throughout the 80's and 90's. Ann was a passionate advocate for people with disabilities to be seen as people first with the same hopes and dreams as others in society. She engendered huge respect from the people she worked with, an incredibly knowledgeable and generous person who helped inspire many organisations and professionals.

Dr Ann Craft helped create a wealth of resources and training tools that are still used today across the United Kingdom whilst anecdotal evidence suggests that her unassuming and gentle nature once created a confusing conundrum for airport customs when bringing her more revealing pictorial resources through passport control. The social worker from Hampshire who championed the rights of people with disabilities and pulled services, with a quiet enthusiasm, into the future was a well-respected professional and leading light in her field. She was known across the world as a well-respected writer and educator on disability rights, with an emphasis on sexuality issues and safeguarding, who offered her time freely to those who needed it.

Dr Ann Craft was known for her sense of humour and passion, being a persuasive force and an inspirational figure for those following in her footsteps.

But who was Ann Craft? Below are just a few of the testimonials from family, friends and colleagues about someone who helped to shape and redefine the theory and practice about supporting and safeguarding people with learning disabilities.

"There was something refreshing about any encounter with Ann. She brought with her a broad-minded view of the world, a wide world without boundaries, full of enriching experiences if you look at it in the right way. In this area I think she has definitely influenced me." **Chris Burkimsher**

"It was such a privilege to work with Ann and to have spent time with her as a friend over so many years, she would have been heartened to see how her work has progressed. I miss her but am inspired by her in my work and I have so many good memories of our travels and working life together." **Hilary Brown**

"I feel that without her expertise, dedication and unswerving determination the development and teaching of health and sex education in Nottingham probably would never have happened. Ann inspired me and other people who worked with her with her depth of knowledge, professionalism and ability to communicate and understand people on all levels under all circumstances."

Michael Collins

"At every meeting when sexuality is discussed without a twinge of embarrassment, when women with learning disabilities are supported in their decision to have or not to have children, when sanitary protection discrete from incontinence wear is offered to a woman with learning disabilities, Ann's influence on our attitudes and practice is evident" **Caroline Downs**

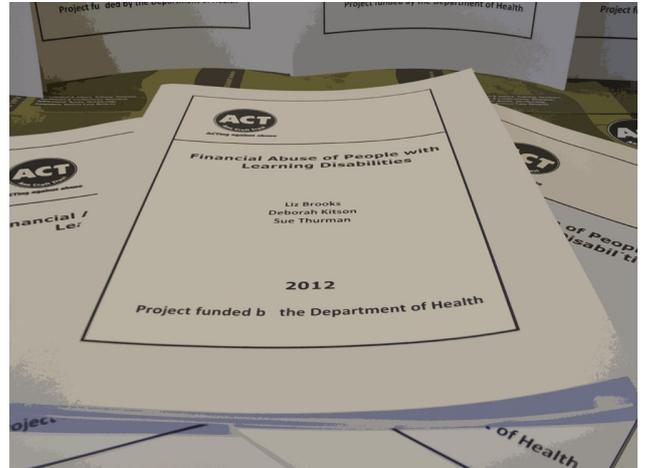
"Ann was my inspiration, my mentor and my friend. She encouraged and supported me to follow my aspirations and to specialise in the work that we both felt a great commitment to. Ann is remembered by so many because of her passion for her work and her generosity, kindness, humour and compassion to those who came in contact with her. She continues to be missed by all who knew her well." **Deborah Kitson**

"People rightly remember Ann for her pioneering work around education and awareness about sexuality and relationships for people with learning disabilities, and about abuse. But how many people remember that she was one of the very first people in the UK to write about the rights of adults with learning disabilities to be parents – and to publicly support them in their unequal battle over the fundamental human right to have, and hold on, to their children, and to be supported to do so successfully?" **Linda Ward**



Who we are...

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At ACT we believe that every disabled child and every adult at risk deserves to be treated with the same respect and dignity as everyone else in society.

For over 21 years our independent research has tackled the key issues for safeguarding disabled children and adults at risk.

We are a leading provider of:

- Safeguarding Training
- Safeguarding Seminars
- Consultations & Policy Reviews
- Safeguarding Adult Reviews

