

WILL PIKE INTERVIEW ON “YES I CAN... IF” VIDEO

Transcribed by: Adrienne Smith & David Widman - Humber College

WILL: You know, we made this film. It really does need the compassion of people who kind of understood what we were saying to share it on Steemit, to post it on Twitter, to knock it through YouTube, to just like it as much as possible because really, we're just trying to do a good thing here. You may not notice the differences but trust me, they will be noticed by a real core.

The thing is, is that it's down and it's the responsibility of the individual disabled person who's got the problem with the establishment to raise a legal claim against that establishment. That's crazy. That's crazy. Legal aid has been cut. How many shops are there that are inaccessible at the moment? Thousands. How many lawsuits do you expect these disabled people to raise? People who have already had their benefits cut, people who are probably already finding it difficult to raise an income, people who are already low on confidence. So... at what stage are those people who are frustrated with the layout of their community gonna find the wherewithal, the resources and the legal aid to challenge companies, like big, high-street chains?

I think it's important to show that for a lot of people, every day can feel a little bit like an Olympic event and we meet that challenge head-on, with gusto but the whole “Yes I Can” notion exists within a framework of “If.” “If” I'm accommodated, “if” I'm allowed to have integrity, “if” I'm given the space or the dignity, be with my friends, all those things, then yeah, actually, I can. I can engage, I can go shopping, I can buy a pint, I can go to a football match. I can do everything that anyone else can and there shouldn't be a problem.

I can guarantee you there are people in wheelchairs or mobility scooters, or whatever, that walk up to a place and they don't even bother interacting. They go, you know what, I haven't got the emotional energy for this right now. I can't do this. I'm just gonna turn away. So, the amount of people they're not even embracing just plummets and I think it would spare everyone's blushes and just boost everyone's morale if inclusivity wasn't a token gesture for three weeks out of the year, once every four years. Like you cannot just have this tokenism and we are beyond the point of acknowledging these things and then just going, “Oh, well, that was nice for a bit,” and “We did our bit,” but actually, nothing's changed.

Let's ask the question. Could we be doing more to level the playing field? Yeah? And if you want to share this video and help raise awareness and do everything like that, then brilliant, thank you so much.

Learn more at the website:

www.change.org/accessforeveryone

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