

[00:00:00.410] - Speaker 1

Hello. Beth Moulam, keynote speaker here at Communication Works. Paralympian. Yeah. Master's student and very impressive speaker. Thank you very much for your keynote.

[00:00:13.820] - Speaker 1

So, we got a couple of questions. For a start, what does inclusion mean to you?

[00:00:26.650] - Speaker 2

First, we need equality, so the opportunity to be equal to others. And that means having equipment, like a communication device. There is a popular quote, diversity is being invited to the party. Inclusion is being asked to dance. When I was in mainstream secondary school, I wasn't really invited to the party. I had the resources I needed, but not the opportunities. I certainly wasn't expected to dance. When I transferred to a special school who knew how to work with disabled students, suddenly I was an individual, welcomed, respected and included. Not only was I invited to the party, up and dancing, but I was choosing the music.

[00:01:29.790] - Speaker 1

It's really good. That's really powerful. Thank you for that. So, in your area of work, what does inclusion look like?

[00:01:45.530] - Speaker 2

Inclusion isn't just being able to be a Part of the Great Britain boccia squad at the Tokyo Paralympics, studying for a Masters or sat on at a charity board meeting. Inclusion is a move away from tokenistic representation to being at the table in your own right, being expected to have an opinion, being able to question and feeling that your contribution is as valid, equal and valued as everyone else's.

[00:02:21.990] - Speaker 1

Thank you. So, given that, can you give us some examples of when that's happened?

[00:02:32.390] - Speaker 2

I sit on the International Communication Rights Alliance committee. Our work is around operationalizing the United Nations Convention on the Right of People With Disabilities with respect to those with complex communication needs, I'm there alongside other professionals from around the world. As someone with a real interest in communication rights, I'm expected to apply my policy, knowledge and experience to take forward our shared agenda. I feel included and respected. The fact I happen to use AAC and I have relevant lived experience is secondary to the contribution I'm making.