

# **Quiet Riot**

**A voice that will be heard, a voice to be reckoned with!**

People who don't use the spoken word have a great deal to say about communication. People who do use the spoken word have a great deal to learn about communication from people who don't.

Quiet Riot is a group of young adults who don't use the spoken word. Quiet Riot had their first meeting four years ago. They meet in Manchester but come from around the UK, with members in Holland and Ireland.

They are:

Paul-Thomas Allen  
Judathan Allen  
Raphael Allen  
Danian Allen (1984-2005)  
Heathar Barrett  
Nadia Clark  
Gareth Donnellon  
Thiandi Grooff  
Josh Harris  
Anthony Kletzander  
Maresa MacKeith  
Dan Stanton

The communication used by many members of Quiet Riot is known as Facilitated Communication Training (FCT) a strategy introduced into the UK by Marion Stanton, who is currently lead UK Assessor and trainer:

,<http://www.candleaac.com/staff.htm>

Marion invited Rosemary Crossley, from Australia to meet with families in the UK almost fifteen years ago, who in turn introduced many of the Quiet Riot members to FCT.

<http://www.annemcdonaldcentre.org.au>

FCT is now used very effectively as a primary means of communication by many people around the UK. Using a keyboard on which to type, a trusted assistant (facilitator) supports the person to manage their body's motor movements, which can be impaired as a result of sensory overloads/invasions as well as a wide diversity of other body motor issues.

FCT has fundamentally changed the opportunities for members of Quiet Riot:

**" I am a man with no speech. I am a user of the pointing method of communication. I listen well and understand what is said... I am operating a perfectly weird body. I am wonderfully made.."**

*Raphael Allen*

**" I'm wondering if using Facilitated Communication will help to understand me better and give me some respect. I wish more people were given the chance to use facilitated communication it is great to be given a voice"**

*Anthony Kletzander.*

**"Having no voice is not great but at least I can type good things. Being in good company like kids who talk. Talking with me makes me happy."**

*Heather Barrett*

<http://www.heatharashley.co.uk/Home.html>

**"Trust your belief in your child. FC opens doors for those of us whose voices deny us use. People have to listen to our voices in the wilderness of disability. I can do things you elevate your expectation to. Look beneath the surface of appearance and see the qualities that are within"**

*Josh Harris.*

**I think FC is such a part of me that its difficult to think of it as an entity in it's own right. I feel very lucky to have been surrounded by people who respected my communication giving me a limited experience of negativity around FC. I do however know that there are those who dismiss FC, I see this in their faces and reactions. My concerns are for those young disabled people who, for whatever reason, are affected by such situations.**

*Blake Williamson*

**Too bad I was seen as dumb of mind as well of mouth. Words offer all the possibilities of fine choices switching from a non-being to educated in the eyes of the world. The route to my intellect is now open"**

*Paul-Thomas Allen.*

**" in the end the funny woman from Australia ( Rosemary Crossley) gave direct explanations, we ran away as slow as could be.**

***Facilitation was a map just to find out about going A.W.O.L. I was not seen as a thinker with reason until I used typing. I type to talk differently. It is very good being able to communicate."***

*Judathan Allen*

***" I am aware that you don't realise how I am able to type. I go to university. Perhaps one day I will have a part on T.V. And you will have the opportunity to read my fan's praises."***

*Danian Allen (1984-2005)*

***"To be able to express myself as full as possible, without the correct method my answers are limited " and "To be recognised as intelligent enabling me to live an independent life in my own home "***

[http://www.contactcandle.co.uk/about\\_dan\\_stanton.htm](http://www.contactcandle.co.uk/about_dan_stanton.htm)

**Dan Stanton**

***"(FC ) allows me to communicate ,to have a voice.  
Way in which it changed my life  
I gave my opinion on my medical treatment  
I Am Real  
I am Real  
Not a malfunctioning person with a confused mind  
Just a normal thinking person  
Who laughs, complains, shows sadness and happiness.***

***I am real"***

Gareth Donnellon.

Quiet Riot campaigned for three years with no funding. Members financed their own attendance at the meetings in Manchester. They were brought together by a commitment, to talk with each other in a safe place, to plan campaigns and enjoy their Right to Communication: a right for every human being. The long term aims of Quiet Riot are to change the ways in which society welcomes and values people who do not use the spoken word.

Quiet Riot has been hosted and given hospitality by Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People(GMCDP), since the first meeting. ACE North, have also provided a venue for larger gatherings, again free of charge.

In our fourth year the The Edge Fund, a creative and democratic funding body, offered funding to Quiet Riot\* which is being used to enable Quiet Riot to develop a customised website where they can reach out to local and global connections giving more people an understanding of FCT and an opportunity for the many people around the world who are needlessly denied their voice.

Funding for groups, at the "cutting edge" in societies, like Quiet Riot, is an important political issue. Given that the very existence of Quiet Riot provides a powerful reflection of people who have been failed within their own society. Quiet Riot has emerged despite statutory organisations who have failed to serve their legitimate support requirements.

The name of Quiet Riot appears to be a challenge for some, which was illustrated when Quiet Riot considered making a funding application to Office for Disability Issues (ODI), a government, established body to orchestrate the voice of disabled people in the UK. Quiet Riot was invited to change the name, to one less controversial ! - perhaps F--- O-- might be more appropriate! We have no funding from any government agency, which allows a freedom to critically question and challenge government and it's agents, which has to be an essential feature of any campaigning group.

Quiet Riot members now in their twenties and thirties have each had the powerful support from their families, to have their voice heard, often

against significant opposition from schooling authorities. An important lesson for schooling services to learn is that labels attached to any individual cannot convey anything of value about an individual. Such labels lead teachers into a cul-de-sac about an individual, requiring a great deal of time trying to find a way out.

Meaningful appreciations of another person's skills, contributions and qualities will emerge via a mutual and respectful relationship. Such relationships can start with mutually respectful communication. The early schooling experience for many QR members was in segregated settings and very far from respectful :

***"Special education is a cruel solution to educate people like me. I had the label (PMLD ) evil! I asked real people if they are aware of atrocities in school. Ask and ask again was anyone aware how awful it was doing stuff in special school. Emphasise it. The school system was a a vert (lawn) where seeds of alarm flew away. No one sussed what a serious affaire was swept away under the alters of Abraham . I was a walled prisoner in my own world dying slowly. When I returned from school each hour I sat thinking- give me a tool to communicate"***

*Judathan Allen.*

***"Special school you think is bad. It is the nondescript way they teach is dull. They only had lots of detritus to share."***

*Paul-Thomas Allen.*

The health service starts the process of diagnosis, and categorisation of disabled people by creating labels that the schooling system uses to segregate and devalue disabled people. Authorities engage in convoluted assessments, measuring and testing the "capacity" of individuals. The disabled person is incidental to this process: it is an institutional response to legitimise prejudice and discrimination against a disabled person.

**"I have no sex no gender apparently I only have this alleged affliction. reports and labels are the sum of my parts. There was never a label beyond disabled.i am just punk I am just an allocation of resources."**

*Paul Thomas Allen*

Institutions continue to segregate and devalue the human being as they have done for many decades.

**" I have sorrow in my heart for you not learning the proper inclusion of me."**

*Heather Barrett*

Segregation at school age will tend to lead to more segregation in adult life - feeding the "services" that exist for the maintenance and protection of the institution and its processes. Labels of "deficit" are attached to the individual and reflect the approach of an institution. We need to shift these labels away from the individual to the institution. Therefore, the constant need for institutions to measure and categorise people could be described as Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). Some Schools, Colleges and Universities have Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD) because they have failed to welcome and learn from people they continue to reject and exclude based upon the negative differences the institutions have determined and cultivated. This is particularly true of people who do not use the spoken word for their communication.

**"In my pupil days at home I learned children whose bodies operated differently were not welcome really anywhere in the high schools in the myopic time we lived in. I thought then real choice was just for those talking people"**

*Raphael Allen*

## **"Being alone I feel Dead"**

Heather Barrett

It is soul destroying to continually have your contributions and efforts for participation thwarted by systematic indifference, ignorance and rejection. Such an approach to people is abusive and a total denial of their human rights. There continues to be a disturbing amount of confusion around the language and practice of inclusive education. We cannot give people inclusion, people have to *Feel included*.

***" I invite experts to ask how we feel and our opinions. Autism really offers the world a fine lesson in humanities We require understanding, respect trust and love. In return we test the worlds ability to accept differences that exist between people "***

*Josh Harris.*

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/2008/01/16/josh-harris-autism-and-the-ambition-to-become-a-rabbi/#>



We know inclusion is working up and down the country in schools, colleges and universities for people with the diversity of impairments. We know people are included when we change the way we offer support in response to an individual's particular requirements and when there is a welcome of difference and different voices for people to participate and contribute to the learning environment they are an integral part of.

*" I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your accommodating and satisfying subject in question. There was very much calm and confident re-assurance surrounding me when in your real lecture of thought and wisdom. For me acceptance is from within a massive heart. Please have diversity bring you good joy in real life. With very fond and great thoughts for life - To Lesley Groom University Tutor from Heather Barrett.*

*Hope and acceptance are a luxury I do enjoy. I feel very immense greatness about the university of my love and life in the making of a good great free future. We are moving forward.*

Heather Barrett.

*My School  
By*

*Maresa MacKeith  
"Taking The Time"  
[www.inclusive-solutions.com](http://www.inclusive-solutions.com)  
<http://www.one-for-all.org.uk/>*

*The thought of starting was ecstatic,  
I wanted to learn so much.  
To me the building was magic,  
With life in its crumbling husk.*

*The thought of being ordinary,  
Filled me with a joy I can't tell.  
Still the thought of that building keeps memory,  
For me of pure water: a well.*

*It was because I had ordinary teachers, who recognised that I had skills, that I am where I am now, doing English at university. The special education system did not do that for me; it endlessly measured my incompetence.*

Maresa MacKeith

However, when a school refuses to change, to welcome and accept different ways of learning, it cannot be overstated just how oppressive it is to be seen as different, when your difference is devalued by the organisation that claims to be a place of learning!

**"It should be perpetuated that I have no differences. I just need really cool people to understand my ways. I am in my difference the despoiler of your pattern"**

*Paul Thomas Allen.*

**"I'm really tired of being different"**

*Anthony Kletzander*

For people who do not use the spoken word there can be a continual and exhausting struggle to have your voice heard. For many people with the label of autism who use FCT, there can be a massive amount of time and energy required to overcome or manage their bodies' sensory changes in order to type each and every word.



*Heather Barrett-*

communication board in hand doing ordinary things like buying an ice cream. This does not require a "transition plan" or "a service delivery audit" Or a specialist training programme to create a team of " Whippy Therapist"



*Heather using her communication aide on a walk across the moors.  
Again no "specialist service" getting in her path.*

***I am finding it very hard to be a free fast user of FC when I am not"  
Focused on feeling anxiety free.***

HeatharbBarrett

***"I am an individual with my own wants. Sometimes my neurons do screw up and it takes time to fix them."***

*Paul Thomas Allen*

***" being autistic causes sensory problems like bright lights which makes me feel dizzy and they burn my eyes. I also have problems with loud noises. They really scare me and make me feel really nervous"***

*Anthony Kletzander.*

***"People inspire me all the time. It's the easy things I envy like people who are pain free"***

*Josh Harris*

The only way we can get near to understanding what is required for an individual to type whilst having to manage the permutations of sensory invasions, which could relate to all the senses and more within any given learning environment, is by being respectful and responsive to the individual. Having a mutually respectful communication is essential.

***As for what we can do to encourage change in Universities, I think there is a wider issue here. If FC is not accepted as a means of communication during examinations, as it was when I did my GCSE's and A levels, then the next generation of disabled academics are thwarted in accessing university through such academic routes. The universities are poorer places for not having a fair representation of all students in their Halls and of course where we are never seen we are never easily accepted nor understood***

*Blake Williamson.*

Professionals have a responsibility to shift their lack of understanding or toleration of ignorance about different ways of communication and recognise that the denial of a person's communication is not simply the denial of a learning experience but the consequences can be life threatening.

Anthony Kletzander, one of the founder members of Quiet Riot lived independently in Dublin in his own flat, with his own 24hr support. Because people, uninvited came into his life and chose to deny his FC, he was forced into an institution after he had experienced a full life living independently, with his own support staff. Within days he was given antipsychotic medication against his wishes, this resulted in emergency hospital treatment. Anthony's voice continues to be denied at the institution.

***"Tell them to stop giving me medication. I have no choice it makes my head feel strange"***

**"I would love to be in independent living. It is much better than residential."**

**"Really trying to be accepted into society is very difficult and I am really saddened by this"**

**This is the clip about Anthony's desire to return to study at university.**

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/oxh98ewgf54qthq/MVI\\_0121.MOV](https://www.dropbox.com/s/oxh98ewgf54qthq/MVI_0121.MOV)

**Nua Health Care in Ireland refuses to accept Anthony's communication. They have also refused his right to independent living. Anthony was hospitalised as an emergency patient, twice from this institution, over a period of three weeks? Anthony's struggle continues made more difficult by Nua Health Care continuing to deny Anthony's voice.**



*Anthony Kletzander. Typing with Marion Stanton just half hour after meeting with her.*

*Fear*

*A poem  
by  
Maresa MacKeith*

*He watches, and you are scared.  
Mute and Flalling  
If he could talk he would tell.  
So you silence him.*



Maresa on her graduation day at Nottingham Trent University.

People who are prepared to deny a person's communication when they don't offer a meaningful alternative are abusing a person's Human Rights. It is an abuse of the power and authority of a psychologist or therapist to \* deny a person's means of communication, then have the effrontery to accept, a large fee, to carry out an "assessment" and make judgements and recommendations about the person's life with whom they insist they cannot communicate!

**" I have spent every day since birth when people think my head is bad like my body. Top physicians from all over came to inspect the Allen family, every one of them you imagine a certified genius. They ran me through their tests prosecuting me with steel augers. Pain like real despicable pain. Played with and investigated all facts collated their only conclusion was to find I was guilty. I was dense and better as a doorstop. I inhabited my own head just watching, I had to live the isolated life. I had to wait .... It did not occur to the world I am not retarded and a vicious anger I was cultivating. In my egg I stayed. In my soft manner to wither, it was sometimes insanity"**

Paul -Thomas Allen.

**I am unable to pronounce what thoughts are in my mind. When I use facilitation I am able to let others know how I feel. This is undoubtedly beneficial for my peace. Past appearances of the disabled are wrong. What people pronounce does not show how clever they are. I think it is because writing allows people to say exactly what they want. People make assumptions**

Damian Allen ( 1984-2005)

Quiet Riot is an organisation that offers a much more powerful future for the person who does not use speech but insists that their voice is heard. There is also a growing new network of organisations of disabled people in the UK and internationally who are challenging the oppressive practices and asserting the human rights of disabled people. It is co-ordinated by Disabled People Against the Cuts (DPAC) This New

Democratic and transparent approach is not seeking to justify the participation of disabled people around the UK but fundamentally challenging the powers and practices that seek to prevent their contribution and participation.

Facilitated Communication has enabled members of Quiet Riot to challenge the powers and practices that seek to silence people that do not use the spoken word.

<http://www.centreforwelfarereform.org/who-we-are/fellows/nadia-clarke.html>

Nadia Clarke

Quiet Riot are engaged in subjects like: Biology, English literature, Creative Writing, Poetry, Philosophy, Jewish Religious Studies, Music, Geology, Ethics and Human Rights at Universities around the UK, Ireland and Holland. Thiandi Grooff a member of Quiet Riot and uses FC is in her final year of undergraduate study at a University in Amsterdam. She has been engaged in a detailed qualitative study into group identity.

*"This study shows that a safe place for discussions is very important: the participants are welcomed, without threat by opponents who reject their way of communicating or the State, and every effort is made to overcome barriers to speaking. In this study the benefits of the collective identity for the members of the group ( Quiet Riot) were clear: a more powerful personal identity and self-esteem that led to more courage to speak up and to engage in relations and actions outside the group."*

Thiandi Grooff

FCT is used by increasing numbers of people around the world and with whom there is a growing connection via the internet. A powerful collective voice is emerging and demanding their space to be heard. It is a voice to reckon with

Joe Whittaker April 2014

