



Derek Holliday (everybody calls me Doc) (he/him)

I am an Involvement Lead with the Homeless Network Scotland, but I was an active homeless and mental health advocate for others that could not find their voice or a service that would acknowledge them. I support genuine collective lived experience action research, providing platforms & safe spaces for those impacted to be able to contribute to better service delivery, planning and protections both at a local and national level.

I am a person of considerable lived experience. I have been homeless, I have been lost, and I have been trapped in systems that should promote equality and positive health choices but instead inspire suicide ideations and disconnectedness from oneself. I was a volunteer Advocacy worker with Navigate, a 'welfare mitigation' enterprise. This was set up to offer support to some of the most vulnerable citizens in Glasgow with regards to supporting them through the aggressive inhuman landscape of welfare support, especially challenging for those experiencing homelessness, rough sleeping, poor mental health, and asylum seekers.

I am here today as I passionately believe that everyone irrespective of your journey or current circumstances in life, you should always be included, supported, and given every chance to be part of their community, society, life, and health. Everyone has something to offer, share or untapped potential waiting to be opened. No plight should ever be a continuous wall to shut you out and exclude you from hope. Bringing your authentic self to work can help with feeling included, supported and allow someone to truly connect with their work and the people they serve.