

DBU members joined over 100 disability activists at Parliament last month to protest the right to travel. Firstly, we met in a Committee Room in Palace of Westminster for speeches and briefing with MPs then turned up at Abingdon Street bus stop at 4pm (opposite the Houses of Parliament) for the action.

<http://tinyurl.com/Right2RideZ8>

Over 40% of bus stops in some London boroughs are not fully accessible, meaning they are blocked by street furniture like litter bins, or the kerb is too low

or, like the bus stop in our demo, too high for a wheelchair ramp to operate successfully. (www.londontravelwatch.org.uk/document/14129/get). In Hackney, the figure is not that bad, with 12% inaccessible but that leaves 23 bus stops in Hackney needing height adjustment and 25 needing street furniture to be shifted before disabled people can use them.

The 'Right to Ride' day (June 19th) was organised by Transport for All and Disabled People Against Cuts. Participants invited their MPs to join them on the ride, to see the reality of travelling as a disabled person. One of our Hackney MPs, Diane Abbott, was unable to attend but is keen to join a similar bus trip we'll organise here in Hackney, sometime in the

DBU members protest the right to travel



near future!

We finished off the day with a bus trip to the Confederation of Passenger Transport, which represents the bus industry, in Covent Garden. We were met by two CPT managers, presented our letter and CPT agreed to meet with a delegation of disabled passengers to talk more deeply about the need for bus companies to take accessibility seriously. CPT were keen to point out that they supported many of our demands, including that when transport services are put out to tender, bus and train companies which consistently fail disabled passengers should be penalised.

<http://tinyurl.com/Right2RideCPT>