

Mark Henderson

I became a T11 (complete) paraplegic following an accident in 2018. I have been an SIA Trustee since 2019. In addition to governance issues, my work focusses on campaign strategy, including building links with parliamentarians, and litigation strategy.

Friends I made in rehab were discharged variously to a one room “micro-environment” and a care home, and rehab came to a halt for most of us upon discharge. Returning to work has involved having to battle for adaptations and for access to courts. I am committed to fighting for accessible, safe housing, care, and support, and was inspired to do so via SIA.

I am a barrister of 25 years call at Doughty Street Chambers, currently specialising in defamation/media, public/political, and governance cases. Clients include individuals, NGOs, the Labour Party and major trades unions. I have run test cases in the UK and Europe impacting thousands of people, working in tandem with NGOs and public campaigns. Successes included overturning Government policy on Gurkha settlement, and I have been awarded Legal Aid Barrister of the Year. When I was paralysed, I was acting for 66 survivors and bereaved in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. I was previously an elected member of the Board of the Immigration Law Practitioners Association for 12 years campaigning on refugee and migrant rights.

I acquired a head injury and hearing impairment in the same accident as paralysis, and am committed to engaging on the interaction between SCI and other seen and unseen disabilities. I am also engaged on the intersection between disabled and LGBTQ+ communities through my work in ParaPride. I am also on This Is Spinal Crap podcast.

