

Bristol artist draws on Nazi past to defend disabled rights

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An artist and activist from [Bristol](#) sat in her wheelchair dressed in a Nazi uniform on the [Fourth Plinth](#) in [Trafalgar Square](#).

[Liz Crow](#), 45, chose the outfit to draw attention to a hidden history and its relevance today

Liz, of Redland, who works for media production company Roaring Girl Productions, said:

"Seventy years ago, the Nazis instituted their first official programme of murder.

"It targeted disabled people and became the blueprint for the Final Solution to wipe out Jews, gay people, gypsies and other social groups.

"Today, the development of pre-natal screening and a rush to legal rights for newly disabled people to assisted suicide, show that disabled people's right to life still needs to be defended.

"With a rise in hate crime, disabled children still excluded from mainstream schools, and over 340,000 disabled people -more than the population of [Cardiff](#) - living in institutions, disabled people still experience those historical values as a daily threat."

Liz was lifted into place covered in a white shroud. After ten minutes, she pulled off the sheet to reveal the Nazi uniform, and sat motionless, overlooking the Square.

Ten minutes later she lifted a flag, bearing the words 'First they came for the sick, the so-called incurables and I did not speak out -because I was not ill', taken from an early version of the anti-Nazi theologian Martin Niemoeller's much-quoted statement.

She then pulled off the Nazi regalia, throwing away the swastika armband, and took up the flag again."

Liz said that 24 hours earlier she had nearly pulled out of her hour on the plinth as she was afraid of the reaction she might get.

But a huge crowd of people gathered, interested to find out about her message.

Below 40 - 50 supporters handed out leaflets explaining why she was dressed in a Nazi uniform.

She said: "People were debating the issue in the street. It was quite extraordinary."

Writer Allan Sutherland said: "Many of the plinthers have used their hour to espouse favourite causes, be it children's charities, bee preservation or understanding of chess.

"But few if any have produced a piece of work as compelling as this, which will undoubtedly remain one of the most significant contributions to Gormley's project.

"Apart from the importance of the content, it presented a series of memorable images, carefully choreographed to take advantage of space and time"

The provocative image stopped people in their tracks.

A spokesperson for One & Other said Twitter had "gone ballistic".

Disability rights activist Clair Lewis said: "The values that the Nazis used to justify murdering

quarter of million disabled people are just as strong today.

"We are not tragic or burdens, yet you only have to read the newspapers to see how deeply embedded those ideas still are. "As the BNP is elected to the [European Parliament](#), it's up to every one of us to be vigilant and to speak out against hate and injustice in all its forms."

Video of Liz Crow's hour on the plinth can be viewed at www.oneandother.co.uk/participants/Liz_C.

Conceived by artist [Antony Gormley](#), the aim of the One&Other project is to create a living monument that captures modern [Britain](#).

Every hour, 24 hours a day, for 100 days without a break, a different person will make the plinth their own.

Read more about

[Cardiff](#), [Antony Gormley](#), [Liz Crow](#), [European Parliament](#), [Britain](#), [Bristol](#), [Trafalgar Square](#), [Fourth Plinth](#), [disabled](#)



