

How can you be a politician without a cause?

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One of this blog's more regular commentators, Andy Crow, [said this on the blog overnight](#), talking about [the submission I made](#) to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee:

What more can you do but attempt, daily, to change hearts and minds ?

You ARE winning some. Lots actually. We just lack major influence. Some of us don't actually have even minor influence, but we like having a voice speaking for us. It does make a difference. Particularly on the really dark days.

I have some of those. I expect you do too, but you don't let on. Brave... or clever.....? I've no idea. But the cover is good. It fools me. (I am prepared to be fooled) And supports me.

Thank you for that.

In reply, I said this:

Do I have dark days? Of course.

Do I worry? A lot.

How do I cope? By doing something. It's the only way I know.

But does it make all the worry go away? Rarely.

So, I keep going.

I think that is worth sharing. If it ever comes across that I do not have my doubts, worries, and concerns, that might be good stage management on my part, but that's not the truth. As my family would tell you, I am both a worrier and a short-term catastrophiser (which they have learned to ignore because it always passes quickly).

I most certainly do not think I am possessed of all the answers. Precisely because I wish

I were, which hope is based on a belief that those answers must exist, there is always more to do.

And because I am probably neurodivergent (or what is called ADHD, although I have no diagnosis), I find sitting still and doing nothing about what concerns me very hard.

I call that a strength, by the way, and not a weakness. I happen to think being 'normal' is rather oversold as to its desirability in our society. Neoliberalism might wish us to be just that, so that we are profoundly compliant with its wishes, but that is not my desire. And as a matter of fact, my experience is a very great many of us don't even vaguely approximate to that version of normal, and I don't and do not want to.

So, I react to the events around me by writing and talking about them. It is what I can do.

I think we all need to react in whatever way we can. The way we do need not be the same. And that's a strength.

But what we most definitely do not need to think is that disagreeing makes us abnormal. It does not. It makes us critical thinkers, appraisers of the truth, seekers after justice and campaigners for those in need. Progress has always been dependent on those willing to be such things.

The only oddity is that it seems that every single person in Labour seems to have forgotten that these days. But that makes them the oddity: how can you be a politician without a cause, and yet they do not seem to have one?

In that context, I am pleased that I know why I am here and what I am trying to do. That's one thing less for me to worry about.