

TechShare Pro

Speakers:

Ian Stuart, CEO, HSBC UK
Viscount Younger of Leckie, Minister for DWP of the Lords
Sarah Herrlinger, Apple
Joseph Clark-Jones, Accessibility: Promotions & Advocacy, Sony
Dr Shani Dandha, Inclusion and Accessibility Strategist
Sumaira Latif, Company Accessibility Leader, Proctor & Gamble
BlindWarrior Sven, E-sports champion
Malintha Fernando, Group Head of Digital Experience and Accessibility, HSBC
Robin Christopherson, Head of Digital Inclusion, AbilityNet
Jessica Rafuse, Accessibility Leader, Microsoft

Ian Stuart: We are here today hosting TechShare Pro 2023, Europe's largest digital accessibility event.

There's a real cross-sector of business here today.

And they are sharing ideas, to make sure that everyone is in an inclusive society.

Viscount Younger of Leckie: This is an important meeting point of the leading minds on digital accessibility, gathered with the potential to make incredible changes to the lives of every person on the planet.

Sarah Herrlinger: I've been coming a long time to this and I think there is a change of tone from 'How do we do this?' to 'This matters, we should all be doing it.'

Joseph Clark-Jones: We really just want to share some of the great accessibility initiatives. And it's a very good way of getting the personal stories of people in relation to accessibility and technology.

Dr Shani Dandha: It's quite exhausting living in a world that isn't designed for you.

I think businesses and brands are way more influential because they can shape how communities and groups of people, like us disabled people, live our lives.

Sumaira Latif: When technology is designed accessibly, it's phenomenal. Whatever we build, design, create, we need to create it with people with disabilities.

BlindWarriorSven: Hello. I am Sven, and I am the Blind Street Fighter Master.

When I'm in the digital world, most of the time I can completely forget that I am blind.

I cannot say that about the real world because there are so many things that remind me every day that I have a disability.

Malintha Fernando: For us, inclusive design is just within our DNA.

So whenever we create a digital product, platform or service, we make sure that our disabled, neurodiverse and older customers and non-customers, as well as our own staff, have a seat at the table.

Robin Christopherson: As a blind customer of HSBC, I was able to take advantage of the best mortgage deal.

We're going to be saving hundreds of pounds every year with a bank that has prioritised digital inclusion.

Jessica Rafuse: Disability is innovation. People with disabilities bring innovative ideas to everything they do.

And so bringing that talent into the company creates more inclusive products for everyone.

Malintha Fernando: We have a training course for every type of digital professional, whether you're a designer, a developer, a tester.

We're giving away our training, our platforms, our systems, our learning to the whole world for free.

We're training 1,000 people in digital accessibility outside of HSBC and we've had nearly 100 companies from around the world sign up.

Robin Christopherson: I think if you haven't yet started on the journey of accessibility, where are you?

It's been absolutely everywhere. It's been at conferences such as this, it's a legal requirement.

Come to the party and please, like HSBC, start to prioritise and be passionate about accessibility.