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What is a Site of Conscience?

Sites of conscience are a worldwide network of historic sites, museums, and initiatives dedicated to remembering past struggles and addressing their contemporary legacies.

Around the world People living with Disabilities and their families started to advocate to stop Institutionalisation of people with disabilities, along with new social theories of support, a new dawn arrived of hope, dignity and respect for people with disabilities.

Formalised by the United Nations (<http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>) and signed by the Australian Government this is now being embedded into law in Australia.

Sites such as Willow Court lay abandoned and have fallen victim to vandals and arsonists.

Local authorities have been give the huge jobs of utilising these old structures, some buildings have been sold to developers and have been destroyed in the name of progress. A small part of Willow Court remains.

There are plans to utilise those structures

([http://www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Willow_Court_Business___Development_Plan_\(final_copy\).pdf](http://www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Willow_Court_Business___Development_Plan_(final_copy).pdf)).

This group believes that this site should also become a site of conscience, a place to remember the struggles of the past and a place of healing and education. We do not want this site to be used for anything that will take away anymore dignity of the people who lived there. (Do no more harm)

This group understands and acknowledges that the local community and individuals within it all have their own stories to tell and possibly, their wounds to heal.

Education and learning is the key to understanding our past and knowing our future, it's not about "cleansing the past" but knowing what was normal practice in isolating, incarrassating and in some cases abusing fellow human beings in the name of "medical treatments".

A site of Conscience at Willow Court will engage ordinary citizens in an ongoing national dialogue on social issues to build lasting cultures of human rights.

We encourage membership from people in all works of life and with mixed abilities.

We stand beside People living with Disabilities.

Signed

Mark Krause & Janet Presser

Willow Court Tasmania. A site of Conscience Advocacy Group.