I would like to speak with somebody about the fact that public transport is inaccessible to me for reasons not a lot of people seem to relate to.  May I apologise in advance if I come across as intense on this e-mail.  I am more open to hearing the views of others who might not agree with me than will come across in this e-mail but after years of invalidation and gaslighting I find I've had to repeat my lived experiences constantly and over time this has caused me to come across more and more intense so apologies for that.  I have really struggled speaking out on this and a similar issue because of the constant invalidation and abuse I have received for doing so and I don't feel able to advocate for myself so am wondering if it would be possible for someone to advocate on my behalf or advocate with me.  I am an autistic transwoman and a victim of childhood sexual abuse.  As a result I have a lot of issues with my body.  When body scanners became compulsory at UK airports I became too scared to fly to India to visit an elderly relative.  So I tried to speak out about my situation but found myself on the receiving end of a 10-year online hate campaign with people making sexually explicit remarks about my body and gender identity.  People accused me of putting people's safety at risk and even facilitating terrorism just for questioning government policy on security, something I have every right to do in a democratic society.  Someone once even phoned me anonymously and left an obscene message on my voicemail.  All this coupled with the fact I was separated from a close relative I feared I would never see again resulted in me developing some serious mental health issues, I ended up having a nervous breakdown and seriously considered suicide.  I did finally find a few people who advocated for me and got me a meeting at Manchester Airport who was able to make the reasonable adjustments I needed to respond but airports in India refused to respond to my advocate so I was unable to make the trip before the relative I was trying to see died last year.  I no longer need to make the trip as a result of her death but now I need support to speak out about another similar issue.  On Monday 16th September 2019 there was a report on BBC London News saying that body scanners were being trialled at Stratford Station.  Unlike body scanners at airport they can scan people covertly from a distance so people are unaware they are being scanned, the thing that concerns me most.  They claim that these scanners are not detailed and can't tell a person's sex (i.e. their genitals) but after the detail of the backscatter body scanners and the way people were forced through them I do not trust what the authorities say.  The trials which were implemented to tackle knife crime were, I believe discontinued.  Presumably this was because they were considered to be ineffective although the Conservative Candidate of the London Mayoral Election 2021, Shaun Bailey who almost won promised to introduce body scanners at transport hubs in London.  The fact there was no public consultation on the trials of the scanners at Stratford Station in September 2019 and the first I heard of it was on the evening news the day the trials begun makes me feel unsafe using public transport.  Where I used to use public transport I now drive everywhere, something I don't like to do because it is not environmentally friendly but I have to put my bodily integrity first.  Ideally I feel that these covert scanners should not be rolled out again but if they are there should at the very least be more public consultation.  The public should know in advance when and where they are going to be in operation so that they are aware of whether they are being scanned or not.  That is the bare minimum I would need to feel able to use public transport again.  In an era where climate change is a major concern more needs to be done to encourage people to use public transport, not discourage them and this discourages me.  I appreciate I am only one person but I feel that barriers that prevent people using public transport do need to be listened to and addressed if possible even if the barriers are not common barriers.  But as part of the disabled community I know that a lot of disabled people face a variety of barriers and I feel we can tackle them all if we work together.  So I am proposing we launch an intersectional campaign to address barriers to using public transport that the disabled community faces as a whole - I would ask for assistance in helping tackle the barrier I face and in return I will work with others to address barriers they face to using public transport as well.  I have noticed a lot of obstacles myself that are not barriers for me personally but I know are for many.  Examples of this are the gap between the train and platform at Edinburgh Waverly Station.  I have no issues with sight or mobility but though I could manage myself with luggage even I felt quite uneasy stepping between the train and platform and vice versa.  To someone with sight or mobility issues I felt it could be dangerous.  A friend with anxiety told me how she was prodded by a fellow passenger and shamed into giving up her seat on a bus by a passenger who decided she didn't need a seat.  She ended up having a panic attack and getting off early without a coat in the rain.  She has not used the bus since.  It is not possible just by looking at someone who needs a seat and who doesn't because some people have hidden disabilities but there is not enough education on these issues.  Whilst these issues are not issues I am affected by personally a lot of my friends are and I would be only too happy to campaign for these barriers to be addressed because I am of the belief that public transport should be accessible to everyone, everyone deserves to feel safe on the public transport network and that aside it is better for the planet if more people are encouraged to use public transport.  With this in mind I wonder if any climate activists or pressure groups would be interested in assisting an intersectional campaign to address the barriers that make it harder or impossible for disabled people to use public transport?  I am linking a post I made on the Transport for All facebook page which explains some of my concerns.  There are several comments on the post from people who are also concerned by the body scanners on the rail network.  Transport for All didn't respond to the comments but I appreciate they may have received a lot of correspondence and just not seen the comments.  But I feel that if we as a community address all barriers disabled face to using public transport and advocate to tackle barriers others in the community face we stand a bigger chance of getting all barriers addressed.  Sorry again for the intensity of this e-mail.  As I say I find it very hard to advocate for myself which is why I need support.  Thank you.  I link the facebook post I made to Transport for All here.  [(1) Transport for All – Posts | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/transportforall/posts/2155454547893377)