



# Disability Justice



& applying it to our movement in  
Never Again Action & the larger  
Jewish progressive movement



# Land Acknowledgement

The land we are currently occupying belongs to Indigenous peoples.

This land is sacred, and does not belong to settlers.

Whose land are you on?

In the chat we have placed a link where you can find out.

# Communal & Access Norms

## **Access is a communal responsibility**

- Mindful chat usage
- Captions & corrections
- Visual descriptions

Take care of yourself **AND** be present

Take space make space!!!

Lessons leave, stories stay

# Agenda

- Definitions: Disability Justice, Impairment, Accessibility & Ableism
- 10 Principles of Disability Justice
- Social model of disability
- Ableism & Disability Justice in our movements
- Open Discussion

# Disability Defined

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**People are disabled when they have physical or mental differences or impairments while living in a society where their bodies and ways of thinking, communicating, sensing, or moving are not treated as “normal” or “natural.”**

“While divergent and diverse neurologies and physicalities exist in nature and in isolation of cultural, sociological, historical, and political context, disability does not exist in the absence of a society’s rhetorical and discursive constructions of it that create attitudinal, systemic, and institutionalized barriers to access for those whose neurological and physical variances are atypical.” - Lydia XZ Brown (Autistic Hoya)

**Impairment:** when someone has difficulty doing something that most other people can do easily.

Impairment may lead to disability (such as paraplegia), but does not necessarily (such as nearsightedness).

**Accessibility:** how well a person with atypical ways of thinking, communicating, sensing, or moving, can easily navigate an environment.

# Ableism a·ble·ism \ 'ābə-,li-zəm \ noun:

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1. **discrimination and oppression of disabled people; societal belief that being abled is “normal” and is preferred.**
2. “A system that places value on people’s bodies and minds based on societally constructed ideas of normalcy, intelligence and excellence. These constructed ideas of normalcy, intelligence and excellence are deeply rooted in anti-Blackness, eugenics and capitalism. This form of systemic oppression leads to people and society determining who is valuable or worthy based on people's appearance and/or their ability to satisfactorily produce, excel & “behave.” Importantly, you do not have to be disabled to experience ableism.” -a working definition by Talila “TL” Lewis

“There is no budget for interpreters/wheelchair ramps/Braille materials”

“There aren’t enough Deaf/blind/wheelchair using folks to justify these things.”

“Can you hire your own interpreter?”

-no wheelchair ramps

-no ASL interpreters

-no Braille materials

-no breaks

-requiring everyone to work in person

**Feels like gate keeping,**

**feels like no one envisioned you in the space, let alone leading**



# Ten Principles of Disability Justice

Disability justice challenges the idea that our worth as individuals has to do with our ability to perform as productive members of society. It insists that our worth is inherent and tied to the liberation of all beings.... -Nomy Lamm

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## 1. ANTI-CAPITALIST POLITIC

In an economy that sees land and humans as components of profit, we are anti-capitalist by the nature of having non-conforming body/minds.

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## 2. INTERSECTIONALITY

“We do not live single issue lives” –Audre Lorde.

Ableism, coupled with white supremacy, supported by capitalism, underscored by heteropatriarchy, has rendered the vast majority of the world “invalid”



### 3. LEADERSHIP OF THOSE MOST IMPACTED

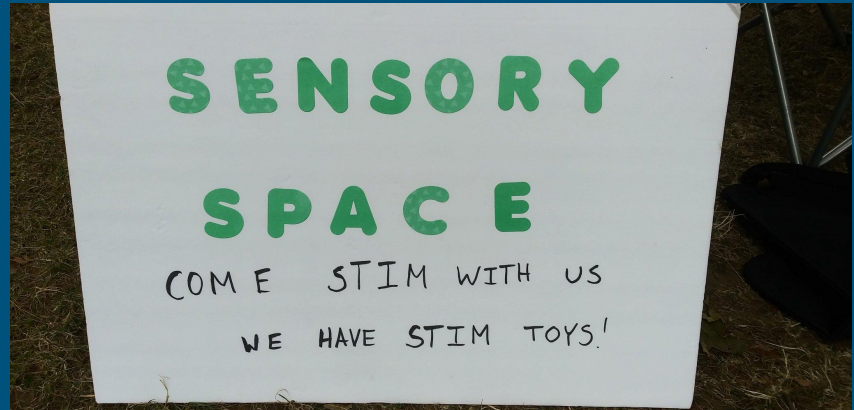
“We are led by those who most know these systems.”

—*Aurora Levins Morales*

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## 4. COMMITMENT TO CROSS-MOVEMENT ORGANIZING

Shifting how social justice movements understand disability and contextualize ableism, disability justice lends itself to politics of alliance.



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## 5. RECOGNIZING WHOLENESS

People have inherent worth outside of commodity relations and capitalist notions of productivity.

Each person is full of history and life experience.

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## 6. SUSTAINABILITY

We pace ourselves, individually and collectively, to be sustained long term.

Our embodied experiences guide us toward ongoing justice and liberation.



## 7. COMMITMENT TO CROSS-DISABILITY SOLIDARITY

We honor the insights and participation of all of our community members, knowing that isolation undermines collective liberation.



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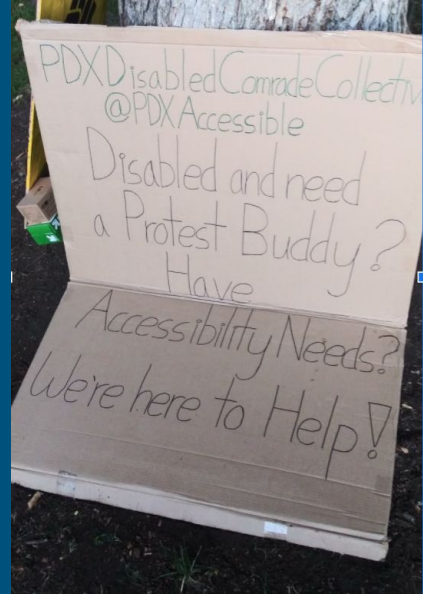
## 8. INTERDEPENDENCE

We meet each others' needs as we build toward liberation, knowing that state solutions inevitably extend into further control over lives.

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## 9. COLLECTIVE ACCESS

As brown, black and queer-bodied disabled people we bring flexibility and creative nuance that go beyond able-bodied/minded normativity, to be in community with each other.



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## 10. COLLECTIVE LIBERATION

No body or mind can be left behind – only mobbing together can we accomplish the revolution we require.

# The Social Model of Disability

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The social model of disability diverges from the dominant medical model of disability, which sees the body as a machine to be fixed in order to conform.

The word disability is used to refer to the restrictions caused by society when it does not give equivalent attention and accommodation to the needs of individuals with impairments.

In our view it is society which disables physically impaired people.

Disability is something imposed on us by the way we are unnecessarily isolated and excluded from full participation in society.

# Example

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If a person is unable to climb stairs, the **medical model focuses on making the individual physically able to climb stairs**. The **social model tries to make stair-climbing unnecessary**, such as by replacing the stairs with a wheelchair-accessible ramp.

According to the social model, the person remains impaired with respect to climbing stairs, but the impairment should no longer be considered disabling in that scenario, because the person can get to the same locations without climbing any stairs.

“...[I] wasn’t ‘arguing for our mere right to exist, but instead assumed that we are whole beings’”

*Patty Berne, via Nomy Lamm*

Access is a communal, collective responsibility.

We do not have to reproduce capitalism with each other, there is enough to go around.

If it feels like there is not enough to go around, we can redistribute resources, making things more equitable. We must not sacrifice each other.

5:09



Tweet



PDX Disabled Comrade Collective  
@PDXAccessible

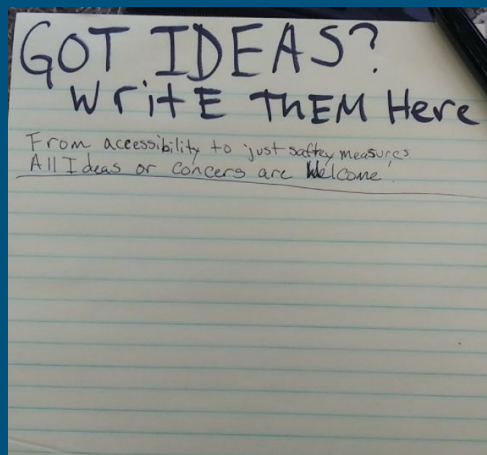
Come say hi to us at Laurelhurst park! Tell us how to make protests more accessible. :) or just come make friends!



Tweet your reply



Here are  
some examples  
of how to make  
accessibility  
more accessible!



# 100 DAYS 100 NIGHTS PDX SIT-INS ACCESSIBILITY INFO BLACK LIVES MATTER

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2020

LENTS PARK & KING SCHOOL

12:00 - 6:00 PM

**ACCESSIBLE LOCATIONS:** LOCATIONS CHOSEN BASED ON  
PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

**ASL INTERPRETERS:** PROVIDED FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
COMRADES

**REPRIEVE TENTS:** FOR SENSORY AND HEAT BREAKS, AS WELL AS  
SHADED REST FOR THOSE IN NEED

**FOOD ACCOMMODATIONS:** SNACKS AND FOOD WILL BE  
AVAILABLE THAT ARE SAFE FOR A VARIETY OF FOOD AND GLUTEN  
ALLERGIES

NO USE OF STROBE LIGHTS OR NEURO-TRIGGERING EVENT  
ELEMENTS

**FOR SPECIFIC ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS NOT LISTED HERE,  
PLEASE CONTACT PDXCOLLECTIVE@PROTONMAIL.COM**

# #NoBodyIsDisposable

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## Campaign Against Discrimination in Triage

### WHO WE ARE

We are people targeted by triage plans during the COVID-19 pandemic -- people with disabilities fat people, old people, people with HIV/AIDS or other illnesses -- and our loved ones who don't want us to die. We partner with social justice and civil rights organizations, as well as medical professionals to demand policies that avoid triage and avoid discrimination in triage.

# Why Us, Why Now

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The holocaust began with the systematic extermination of disabled folks

Nazis drew up ledgers where they calculated the amount of money they would save when disabled folks were no longer eating

Deciding disabled folks are the line item in the budget to get cut because “there is not enough to go around” is and has always been eugenics.

#NeverAgainForAnyone

Disabled folks have historically been institutionalized. State run homes are no environment for survival in a pandemic -- just like detention centers