

# Supporting People with Disabilities



Alena Schaim, Executive Director

**While we wait for others to join, please change your name to include your first name and pronoun.**

***Ex: Alena, She***

# resolve

Resolve is a non-profit organization that prevents violence by building skills and inspiring individuals to be agents of personal, community and cultural change.

# Two Approaches: One Goal



Powerful People/ IMPACT: Ability, Educating Powerful People, & Supporting People with Disabilities

**What have you been taught about ableism &/or disability justice?**





**BOY**

?

or

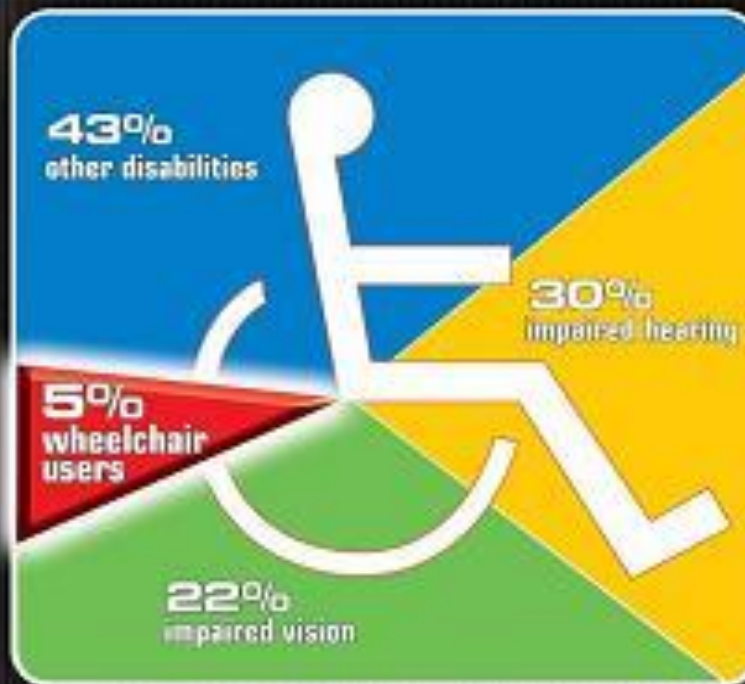
*Girl*

# Ableism

Disability:  
the familiar  
made  
strange.  
The strange  
made  
dangerous  
and then  
disposable.



# Symbols can be Misleading



worcestershire  
county council

UNIQUE

# Names & Stereotypes



re s ve

# Language: stereotypes and hate speech

- Inspirational, cheering
- Patience, understanding
- Brave, heroic, enduring
- Courageous, optimistic
- Gifted, special, sensitive
- Cheerful, happy, genius
- Great attitudes, positive
- Extraordinary, remarkable
- Intriguing, exceptional
- Incredible, savant, upbeat
- God's children, angelic
- Spiritual, ethereal, wise
- Innocent, intuitive, pure
- Differently abled
- Gimp, stupid, dumb, lame
- Crippled, feeble-minded
- Spaz, crazy, mad, psycho
- Freak, best contraceptive...
- Retard, vegetable, tragedy
- Monkey, slant eyes, insane
- Imbeciles, abominations
- Unfit, dangerous, volatile
- Non-compliant, difficult
- Irresponsible, risky behavior
- Incapable, unethical, lazy
- Incapable, invalids, deficient, defects
- Smelly, dirty, ugly, sad, sick
- Lonely, expensive, bitter



# Language Basics

Impairment: a physiological truth about a person's body and/or mind. A description about a difference or body/mind variation.

Ableism: a power-based system founded in the belief of the superiority of able-bodied people. The materials, social, & attitudinal conditions in the world that restrict, limit, and oppress people with disabilities. The name of the discrimination experienced.

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# Language Basics

Disability: a term of self-identity to community, history, culture, and pride. For some, also a source of advocacy and resistance against a value system that dehumanizes.

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Access: the practical implementation of universal access, the societal attitude of full inclusion and engaged anti-ableism.



Truman State University. Noncommercial, educational use only.

Ringling Circus c. early 1900s

## STATE CRITERIA FOR LEGAL EUGENICAL STERILIZATION

STATE	TYPE OF PATIENT
Alabama	"Feebleminded."
Arizona	"Inmates of Hospital for Insane."
California	"Feebleminded, habitual criminals, insane, idiots, mental defectives."
Connecticut	"Feebleminded, insane, idiots, imbeciles and those with inherited tendency to crime."
Delaware	"Mentally defectives, insane, feebleminded or epileptic persons."
Idaho	"Feebleminded, insane, epileptics, habitual criminals, morally degenerate persons."
Indiana	"Hereditary insane, feebleminded or epileptic."
Iowa	"Feebleminded, insane, syphilitic, habitual criminals, morally degenerate persons."
Kansas	"Feebleminded, insane, habitual criminals."
Maine	"Feebleminded."
Michigan	"Mentally defectives, insane."
Minnesota	"Feebleminded, insane."
Mississippi	"Persons with hereditary form of insanity, feeblemindedness, idiocy, epilepsy."
Montana	"Feebleminded, insane, epileptic."
Nebraska	"Insane and feebleminded."
New Hampshire	"Feeblemindedness or certain forms of other mental diseases."
North Carolina	"Mentally defective persons."
North Dakota	"Feebleminded, insane, epileptic, habitual criminals, moral degenerates and sexual perverts."
Oklahoma	"Habitual criminals, hereditary feebleminded, insane, idiots, imbeciles, epileptics."
Oregon	"Feebleminded, insane, epileptic, habitual criminals, moral degenerates and sexual perverts."
South Carolina	"Hereditary form of insanity, idiocy, imbecility, feeblemindedness or epilepsy."
South Dakota	"Feebleminded."
Utah	"Habitual criminals, insane, idiots, imbeciles, feebleminded, or epileptics."
Vermont	"Prevent procreation of idiots, imbeciles, feebleminded or insane persons."
Virginia	"Hereditary insanity, idiocy, imbecility, feeblemindedness or epilepsy."
Washington	"Feebleminded, insane, epileptic, habitual criminals, moral degenerates and sexual perverts."
West Virginia	"Insanity, imbecility, epilepsy, idiocy, feeblemindedness."
Wisconsin	"Insane, feebleminded, epileptic and criminal persons."

# JUSTICE FOR MARIO WOODS

OVER  
50%  
of people  
KILLED by  
POLICE are  
DISABLED.\*

\* No comprehensive federal data is collected, but available reports show at least half of those killed by police have psych disabilities. These statistics do not include people with mobility, sensory, or developmental impairments or people who are otherwise neurodivergent or sick/chronically ill.

DISABILITY  
JUSTICE  
NOW

#BLACK  
DISABLED  
LIVES  
MATTER



**HOPE**  
**FOR THE CRIPPLED**

U. S. POSTAGE **6** CENTS

- Who wrote the text?
- Who is it supposed to inspire?
- Would it seem different if it was an able-bodied person doing it?
- How do our standards for people with disabilities differ than those for others?

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<https://thewheelchairteen.home.blog/2020/02/03/inspiration-porn-vs-actual-inspiring-people/>



"That quote, 'the only disability in life is a bad attitude', the reason that's bullshit is ... No amount of smiling at a flight of stairs has ever made it turn into a ramp. No amount of standing in the middle of a bookshelf and radiating a positive attitude is going to turn all those books into braille."

— *Stella Young*





“Inspiration porn is the portrayal of people who experience disability as inspirational solely or in part on the basis of their disability.”

re





<https://www.meriahnichols.com/what-is-inspiration-porn/>

We have particular, not special needs. We are not a “special needs” people. We are people who have disabilities and learning differences: so, just people.



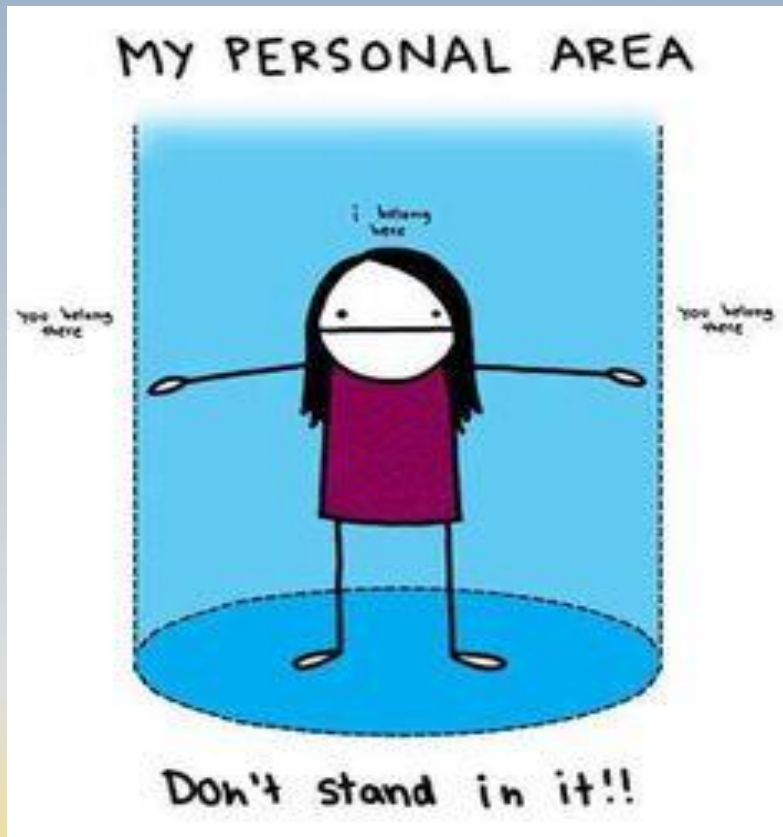
I am not “special.”

I am an employee, friend, brother, rock star, volunteer, customer, rancher, teacher, advocate, comedian, painter and poet. I have a disability, that doesn't make me special.

<http://ddcouncil.state.wy.us>

educate seek advocate

# We all have body boundaries



# Okay, but what about personal assistance needs or accommodations?



- What are my body boundaries like then?
- Is it hard, easy, or the same to ask for assistance?

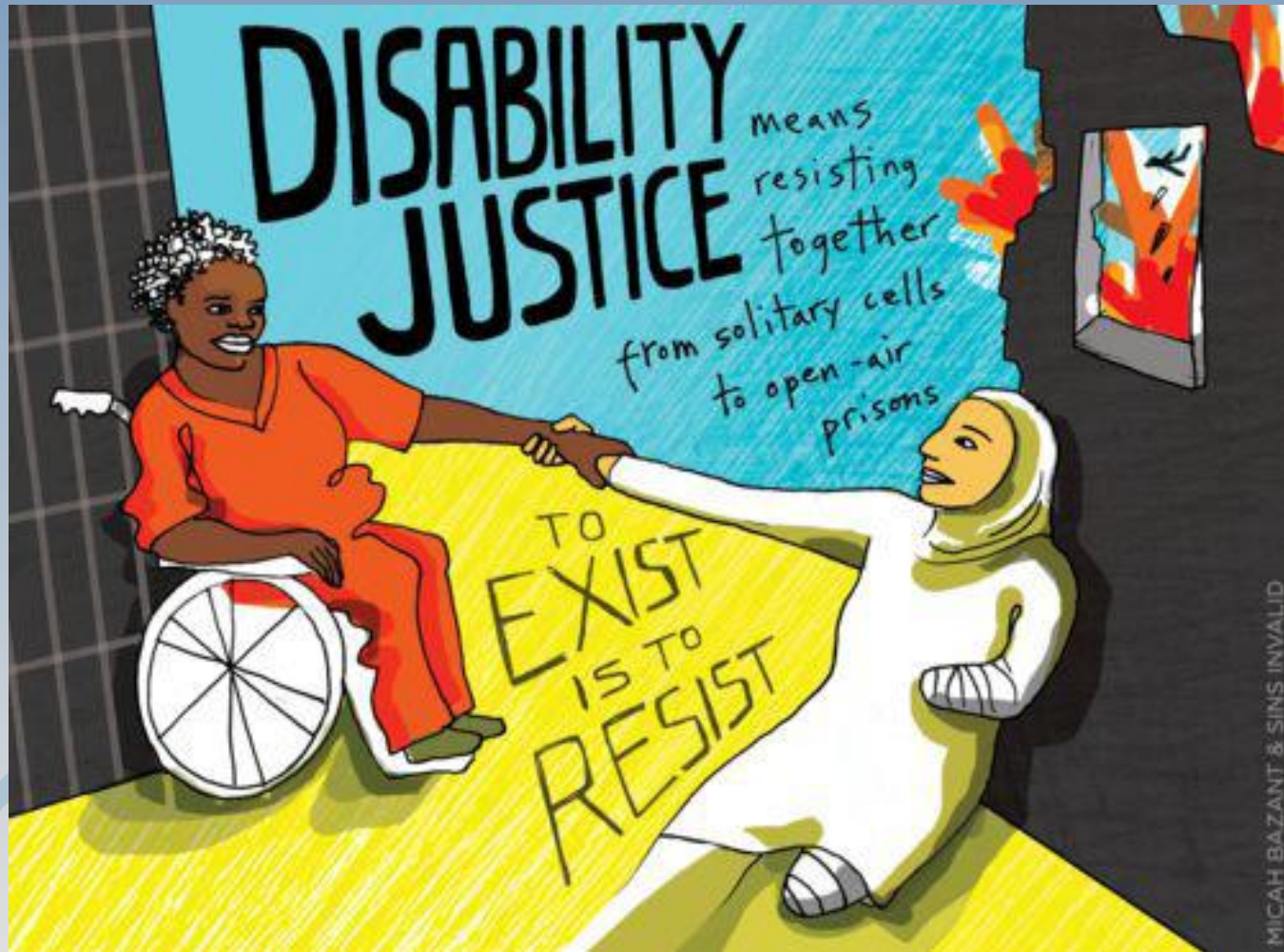
## Types of Aggression

- Exclusion
- Microaggressions
- Indirect Verbal Aggression
- Direct Verbal Aggression
- Physical Aggression

**NOT EVERY  
DISABILITY**



**IS VISIBLE**



## The Movement

# Principles of Disability Justice

- Intersectionality
- Leadership of those most impacted
- Anti-capitalism
- Cross-movement solidarity
- Recognizing wholeness
- Sustainability
- Commitment to cross-disability solidarity
- Interdependence
- Collective Access
- Collective Liberation

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“People who feel good about themselves, who feel wanted and powerful are poor potential victims.”

- Social Model of Disability
- Risk Factors
  - Compliance, Nonconsensual touch
- Protective Factors
  - Disability as Identity vs. Disability as Failing

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We are ourselves  
enough.  
Pivot this way.  
Shed your fear.  
Stop your flight.  
Learn towards  
disability and illness.  
Turn back this way,  
turn back towards  
us,  
turn back towards  
yourselves and your  
kin.



Sebastian Margaret

# Reducing Risk Factors: How all programs can help

Two words to work on

One thing you'll read about disability  
justice

If you're on social media, follow a DJ  
activist or group

Practice speaking up

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**THANK YOU FOR  
PARTICIPATING!**

preventing violence  
transforming communities

Follow Us On Our Social  
Media!

Facebook: **Resolve-Violence  
Prevention  
in New Mexico**

Instagram: ***NEW!* @resolvenm**

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