

# Disability Justice:

## Heart and Center of the Movement

with Melissa Kelley Colibrí

*Special Thanks to:*

Jeni and Darryn (ASL interpreters)

Bayanihan (Captioner)

Lauren (Host)

+ ASC's Political Ed Committee



JOIN US FOR A

**MONTHLY  
VIRTUAL  
GATHERING**

#ASCSOCIALSOLIDARITY

WED.

**OCT. 7  
12-1PM PT**

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[bit.ly/  
ASCDisability  
JusticeHeart](https://bit.ly/ASCDisabilityJusticeHeart)



### THIS MONTH:

#### Disability Justice: Heart and Center of the Movement

Join us in community with Melissa Kelley Colibrí, a Deaf queer mixed latinx femme and a full time activist advocating for accessibility within the LGBTQ community in San Diego.

Live ASL interpretation and a transcript will be provided.

# What is Disability Justice?

- Disability Justice was coined in 2005 by Queer Womxn of Color/Activists including: Patty Berne, Mia Mingus, Stacey Milburn, Leroy F. Moore Jr., Eli Clare, and Sebastian Margaret
- Disability Justice was built to centralize the needs of folx experiencing intersectional oppression such as disabled people of color, immigrants with disabilities, queers with disabilities, trans and gender nonconforming people with disabilities.

# 10 Principles of Disability Justice

<https://www.sinsinvalid.org/blog/10-principles-of-disability-justice>

## 10 PRINCIPLES OF DISABILITY JUSTICE

- 1 **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."
- 2 **LEADERSHIP OF THOSE MOST IMPACTED**  
*"We are led by those who most know these systems." --Aurora Levins Morales*
- 3 **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.
- 4 **COMMITMENT TO CROSS-MOVEMENT ORGANIZING**  
Shifting how social justice movements understand disability and contextualize ableism, disability justice lends itself to politics of alliance.
- 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.
- 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.
- 8 **INTERDEPENDENCE** We meet each others' needs as we build toward liberation, knowing that state solutions inevitably extend into further control over our lives.
- 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.
- 10 **COLLECTIVE LIBERATION** No body or mind can be left behind  
-- only moving together can we accomplish the revolution we require.

www.sinsinvalid.org

SINS INVALID 2015

# **LESSONS TO UNLEARN AND TANGIBLE STRATEGIES:** **to center disability justice and improve accessibility in our movements**



**LISTEN!**

- Reach out to deaf and disabled folx to let them share their own access needs - they know their bodies and needs best
- Promote events ahead of time (at least 2-weeks in advance) and include accessibility information on flyers
- Include appropriate payments for ASL Interpreters and pay QTPOC folx for their labor, energy, and time

**"It's important to understand you are working with people with multiple access needs that may clash with one another"**

# **LESSONS TO UNLEARN AND TANGIBLE STRATEGIES:**

**to center disability justice and improve accessibility in our movements**



**LISTEN!**

**When planning an event, ask questions like...**


- Is there a cost? Can low-income communities afford it?
- (for in-person events) Is this event accessible by public transportation?
- (for virtual events) Can the chat feature be turned off so it doesn't interfere with screen readers?
- (for virtual events) Is there a separate page for live transcription services?

**In these current unprecedented times, what are some things that people need to be aware about that people with disabilities are currently facing?**

- A lot of disabled folx are immunocompromised. Self-isolation is difficult and can lead to loneliness and disconnection from their communities - it's important to include these folx in your events.
- It's important to be intentional when coordinating access. Ask questions like:
  - *Is this the **right** interpreter for my audience? Is the interpreter queer, BIPOC, disabled? Do they represent any of those communities?*
- Some interpreters may cause harm to the deaf community.

**Reaching out and asking deaf and disabled communities who they prefer for their accessibility needs is important.**

# Considerations for Planning Actions and Centering the Disability Justice Community



**“Deaf and disabled people want to be a part of the action.”**

**Reach out to these communities to ask what they specifically want for their access.**

**Review Drago Renteria’s “[15 Tips for Providing ASL Communication Access to the Deaf Community](#)”**

**([http://deafqueer.org/handouts/15\\_Tips\\_ASL\\_Interpreter.pdf](http://deafqueer.org/handouts/15_Tips_ASL_Interpreter.pdf))**

# What does solidarity mean to you?

- Intentionality in everything they do:
  - handpicking ASL interpreters and captioners who are queer, trans, BIPOC, and disabled.
  - connecting this community with mentors
  - creating a leadership team for San Diego Pride and inviting people with intersectional identities to lead
- Not pretending to know every access needs from every identity and instead building partnerships and collaborating with others in the community.
- Working with community organizations who serve people with various disabilities that partner with others.



# Resources for Deepening Your Understanding of Disability Justice



**“Connect with them  
[disabled communities],  
ask and speak with them,  
ask for their stories, do  
the reading.”**

- Sins Invalid: <https://www.sinsinvalid.org/>
- “Care work: Dreaming Disability Justice” by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha
  - <https://www.akpress.org/carework.html>
- “Emergent Strategies” by adrienne maree brown
  - <https://www.akpress.org/emergentstrategy.html>
- “Beyond Survival” by Ejeris Dixon and Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha
  - <https://www.akpress.org/beyond-survival.html>

# Upcoming work with Melissa

## #MeToo LGBTQ Conference

- hosted by SD Pride
- Online on October 15 - October 17, 2020
- <https://sdpride.org/metoolgbtq/>

To contact Melissa for accessibility requests, email them at: [Melissa@sdpride.org](mailto:Melissa@sdpride.org)