



# DISABILITY JUSTICE AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE:

A Starter



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# Disability Justice Framework

"All bodies are unique and essential. All bodies have strengths and needs that must be met. We are powerful, not despite the complexities of our bodies, but because of them. All bodies are confined by ability, race, gender, sexuality, class, nation state, religion, and more, and we cannot separate them".





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Disabled, Queer, POC  
activist organizing in  
2005

- Patty Berne
- Mia Mingus
- Stacey Milbern

Ableism in  
progressive social  
movements

# ORIGINS

Source: Project Lets. (n.d.). Disability justice. <https://projectlets.org/disability-justice#:~:text=The%20term%20disability%20justice%20was,radical%20and%20progressive%20movements%20to>

# DISABILITY JUSTICE AND SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION

"Disability justice recognizes the intersecting legacies of white supremacy, colonial capitalism, gendered oppression and ableism in understanding how people's bodies and minds are labelled 'deviant', 'unproductive', 'disposable' and/or 'invalid'".



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Source: Project Lets. (n.d.). Disability justice. <https://projectlets.org/disability-justice#:~:text=The%20term%20disability%20justice%20was,radical%20and%20progressive%20movements%20to>

# PRINCIPLES OF DISABILITY JUSTICE

Intersectionality

Leadership of those  
most impacted

Anti-capitalist politic

Commitment to cross-  
movement organizing

Recognizing wholeness



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Source: Sins Invalid. (2015, September 17). 10 principles of disability justice.

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

# PRINCIPLES OF DISABILITY JUSTICE

Sustainability

Commitment to cross-  
disability solidarity

Interdependence

Collective access

Collective liberation



Source: Sins Invalid. (2015, September 17). 10 principles of disability justice.

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



# DISABILITY JUSTICE AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE:

Why is it a reproductive justice  
issue?



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# WHY IS IT A REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE ISSUE?

*Autonomy, Dignity, and Justice*

Access to information

Access to info about pregnancy

Parenting child with disability

Strengthening social safety nets



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Source: Reproaction. (2018, April 26). Disability rights and reproductive justice [Video].

YouTube. <https://reproaction.org/resource/disability-rights-and-reproductive-justice/>



# Sex Education

Inaccessible and exclusionary sex education curriculum

Comprehensive sexual education as a right for disabled and able-bodied young adults

Disabled folx have right to make decisions about sexual health, parenting, relationships



Source: Advocates for Youth. (2016, February 8). Sexual health education for young people with disabilities-research and resources for educators. <https://advocatesforyouth.org/resources/fact-sheets/sexual-health-education-for-young-people-with-disabilities/#:~:text=Sexual%20health%20education%20materials%20and%20programs%20do%20e-xist%20that%20are,education%20taught%20by%20trained%20teachers>

# Health and Reproductive Care

Providers neglect to provide  
contraceptive counseling for  
disabled people

Providers neglect to provide STI  
screening



Source:International Women’s Health Coalition. (2018, December 3). Affirming disability rights in sexual and reproductive health care. IWHC. <https://iwhc.org/2018/12/affirming-disability-rights-in-sexual-and-reproductive-health-care/>

# Reproductive Coercion

"Choice" under ableism

Ableist consent laws

History of compulsory sterilization

Provider bias in reproductive  
health care

Denial of support to disabled  
parents



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# Pro-Life Co-Opts Disability

Weaponizing disability in  
opposition to abortion

Uses language of selective  
abortion as elective abortion

- Selective abortion-sex or disability
- Elective abortion-choice



Source: Sins Invalid. (2020, March 10). Reproductive justice as disability justice: Part 2: Shifting terms, shifting histories. [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmPWtGPKyIQ>



# DISABILITY JUSTICE AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE:

Beyond Choice: Systemic  
Barriers



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# BEYOND CHOICE: SYSTEMIC BARRIERS

Physical:  
Inaccessibility of reproductive  
health care services



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Source:Center for Reproductive Rights. (2017, March). Shifting the frame on disability rights for the U.S. reproductive rights movement. Reproductive Rights.  
<https://reproductiverights.org/sites/default/files/documents/Disability-Briefing-Paper-FINAL.pdf>

# BEYOND CHOICE: SYSTEMIC BARRIERS

Communication:  
Limited communication methods  
within reproductive health care



Source:Center for Reproductive Rights. (2017, March). Shifting the frame on disability rights for the U.S. reproductive rights movement. Reproductive Rights.

<https://reproductiverights.org/sites/default/files/documents/Disability-Briefing-Paper-FINAL.pdf>

# BEYOND CHOICE: SYSTEMIC BARRIERS

## Education:

Limited sexual health education  
No info on consent, pleasure, STI  
prevention, healthy relationships,  
unintended pregnancies



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Source:Center for Reproductive Rights. (2017, March). Shifting the frame on disability rights for the U.S. reproductive rights movement. Reproductive Rights.

<https://reproductiverights.org/sites/default/files/documents/Disability-Briefing-Paper-FINAL.pdf>



# BEYOND CHOICE: SYSTEMIC BARRIERS

Economic:

Disproportionate rates of poverty  
and unemployment

More likely to utilize Medicaid-  
limited provider options and  
inaccessibility



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Source:Center for Reproductive Rights. (2017, March). Shifting the frame on disability rights for the U.S. reproductive rights movement. Reproductive Rights.

<https://reproductiverights.org/sites/default/files/documents/Disability-Briefing-Paper-FINAL.pdf>

# BEYOND CHOICE: SYSTEMIC BARRIERS

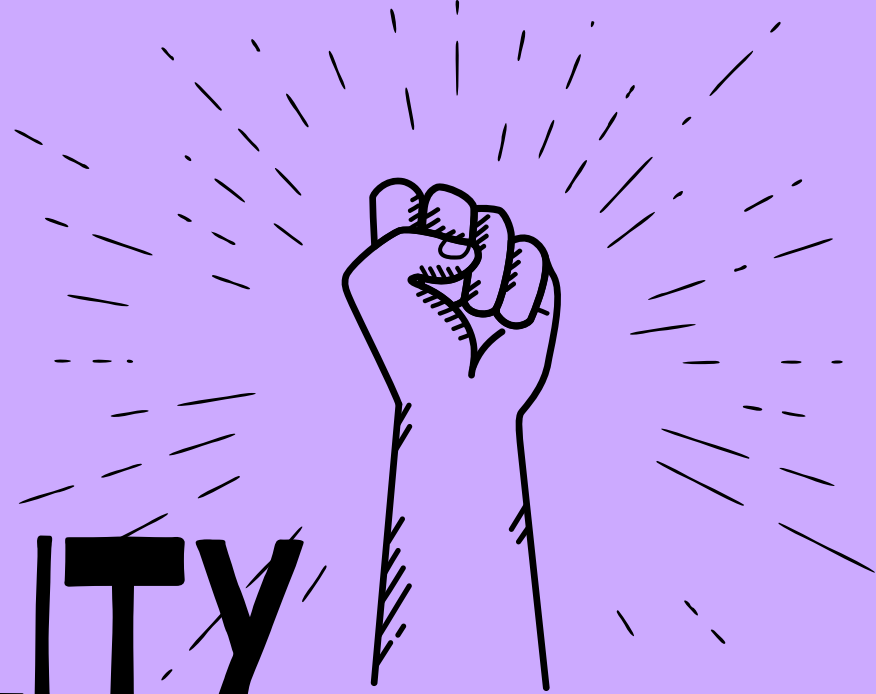
Discrimination:  
Social stigma and provider bias  
Insufficient training around  
disability



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Source:Center for Reproductive Rights. (2017, March). Shifting the frame on disability rights for the U.S. reproductive rights movement. Reproductive Rights.

<https://reproductiverights.org/sites/default/files/documents/Disability-Briefing-Paper-FINAL.pdf>



# DISABILITY JUSTICE AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE:

Addressing Disability Stigma  
and Impact



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# STIGMA AND DISABILITY

Ableism:

- Discrimination that favors able-bodied

Asexuality

Hyper-sexual

Vulnerability

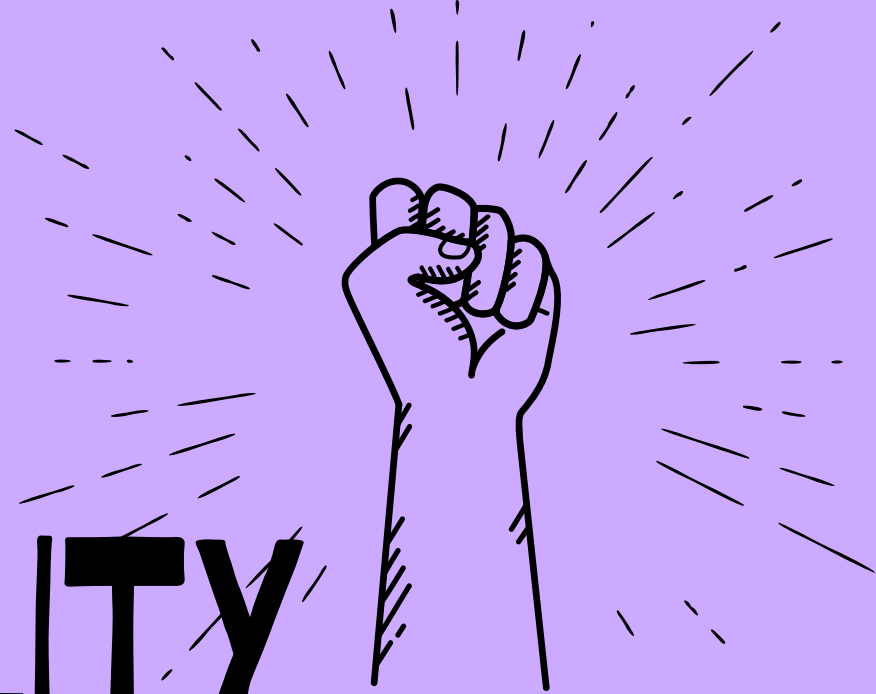


# STIGMA AND DISABILITY

Impact: Limited parental and  
reproductive agency



Source: Reproaction. (2018, April 26). Disability rights and reproductive justice [Video].  
YouTube. <https://reproaction.org/resource/disability-rights-and-reproductive-justice/>



# DISABILITY JUSTICE AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE:

Incorporating Disability Justice into  
Reproductive Justice Organizing



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# ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN



Be intentional!

Consider accessibility in event  
design and movement organizing

Source: Reproaction. (2018, April 26). Disability rights and reproductive justice [Video]. YouTube. <https://reproaction.org/resource/disability-rights-and-reproductive-justice/>  
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# COMPREHENSIVE SEX ED

Healthy romantic and sexual  
relationships  
Sexual health



Source: Reproaction. (2018, April 26). Disability rights and reproductive justice [Video]. YouTube. <https://reproaction.org/resource/disability-rights-and-reproductive-justice/>  
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# IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING

Self-reflexivity of medical  
professionals and clinicians



Source: Reproaction. (2018, April 26). Disability rights and reproductive justice [Video]. YouTube. <https://reproaction.org/resource/disability-rights-and-reproductive-justice/>  
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# PROGRESSIVE HEALTH POLICY

Medicaid, Medicare for All and  
social services expansion



Source: Reproaction. (2018, April 26). Disability rights and reproductive justice [Video]. YouTube. <https://reproaction.org/resource/disability-rights-and-reproductive-justice/>  
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# COALITION BUILDING

Integrate concerns of disabled  
folks

Abortion advocacy-issues of  
access

Dismantling bans around abortion



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# Sources:

- Advocates for Youth. (2016, February 8). Sexual health education for young people with disabilities-research and resources for educators. <https://advocatesforyouth.org/resources/fact-sheets/sexual-health-education-for-young-people-with-disabilities/#:~:text=Sexual%20health%20education%20materials%20and%20programs%20do%20exist%20that%20are,education%20taught%20by%20trained%20teachers>
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- O'Connell, K. (2016, August 24). We need to talk about disability as a reproductive justice issue. Reproaction. <https://reproaction.org/we-need-to-talk-about-disability-as-a-reproductive-justice-issue/>
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- Sins Invalid. (2020, March 11). Reproductive justice as disability justice: Part 3: Abortion framings. [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osaa9tmPYOI>
- Sins Invalid. (2020, March 10). Reproductive justice as disability justice: Part 2: Shifting terms, shifting histories. [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmPWtGPKyIQ>
- Sins Invalid. (2020, June 16). What is disability justice? <https://www.sinsinvalid.org/news-1/2020/6/16/what-is-disability-justice>
- Sins Invalid. (2015, September 17). 10 principles of disability justice. <https://www.sinsinvalid.org/blog/10-principles-of-disability-justice>

# MORE INFORMATION

Check out SisterSong and Sins Invalid's "Reproductive Justice as Disability Justice" Web Series, Sins Invalid, and Project Lets



**UPCOMING  
DISABILITY JUSTICE  
SERIES:  
DECRIMINALIZING  
DISABILITY AS  
REPRODUCTIVE  
JUSTICE**

