



#CripTax
#DeafInPrison
#DisabilityJustice
#AbleismsAntiBlack
#DisabilitySolidarity
#DeafAccessToJustice
#DisabilityTooWhite
#ActuallyAutistic
#CripTheVote
#DeafEd

Disability Solidarity: Nobody's Free Until Everybody's Free

Vilissa Thompson, LMSW

@VilissaThompson
she/her pronouns



Dustin Gibson

@notthreefifths
he/his pronouns

Agenda

- Discussion of erasure & intersectionality
- Disparities disabled PoC endure
- What the IL community can do to become better co-conspirators and best practices

Vilissa Thompson, LMSW

- Digital Manager for Rooted in Rights
- Founder of Ramp Your Voice!
- Social Worker, Disability Rights Consultant, Writer, Advocate, Podcaster
- Boldly disabled – Ol, little woman, & hard of hearing
- She/Her pronouns

Keep in Mind...

- Being uncomfortable is expected during this keynote
- However, be mindful of your reactions to the speakers - your discomfort does not give you permission to be rude, disrespectful, etc.
- Recognize the unease, but also take time to process why you feel discomfort and what YOU can learn from what is discussed

Getting Free

- Space
- Communication
- Complexity
- Privilege(s)
- Comfort
- Content
- LOVE



We can disagree and still love each other, unless your disagreement is rooted in my oppression and denial of my humanity and right to exist.

- Robert Jones, Jr.

@SonOfBaldwin

Centering ALL of us



Junius Wilson, Jr.
North Carolina



Bruce Kelley, Jr.
Pennsylvania



Sarah Lee Circle Bear
South Dakota

What is Intersectionality?

Intersectionality is a sociological theory about how an individual can face multiple threats of discrimination when their identities overlap a number of minority classes, such as race, gender, age, ethnicity, disability, and other characteristics

The term was coined by legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw

What Are Microaggressions?

A microaggression is a statement, action, or incident regarded as an instance of indirect, subtle, or unintentional discrimination against members of a marginalized group such as a racial or ethnic minority

What is Over-whiteness?

The over-whiteness is seen everywhere, particularly in our advocacy spaces where White disabled voices are prominent in discussing topics of interests and fighting against inequalities, and within leadership roles of prominent and grassroots disability-centered organizations

What is Oppression?

Oppression is the systematic mistreatment, exploitation, and lowering in status of a group (or groups) of people by another group (or groups)

It occurs when a group holds power over others in society by maintaining control over social institutions, and society's laws, rules, and norms

What Is Privilege?

“Privilege exists when one group has something of value that is denied to others simply because of the groups they belong to, rather than because of anything they’ve done or failed to do.

Access to privilege doesn’t determine one’s outcomes, but it is definitely an asset that makes it more likely that whatever talent, ability, and aspirations a person with privilege has will result in something positive for them.”

– Peggy McIntosh

WHITE

COLORED

What is racism?



Self-Inventory: Erasure & Exclusion

Does your organization prioritize hiring disabled people of color, spotlighting diversity in disability history, & developing partnerships with leaders of color in your work?

Do you highlight the work and contribution of disabled PoC in disability history? Do you spotlight disabled PoC during heritage months?

How Disability Spaces Are Problematic

What does it mean to be a disabled PoC in disability spaces?

- Lack of visibility & diversity of the disabled experience
- Poor understanding of how intersections impact quality of life and ability to access resources and supports
- Harder time to build community/village among members that look like you/share similar life experiences



alice wong

@SFdirewolf

 Follow

Where are the disabled people of color? MT [#Disability and Beauty Are Not Mutually Exclusive](#) [xojane.com/fashion/disabi...](#)

1:30 PM - 18 May 2016



Don't Believe the Media's Lies: Disability and Beauty Are Not ...

Before I was diagnosed, someone who thought she was being supportive said to me, "Don't worry. Pretty people don't get MS."

[xojane.com](#)

“White Privilege is the other side of racism. Unless we name it, we are in danger of wallowing in guilt or moral outrage with no idea of how to move beyond them.

It is often easier to deplore racism and its effects than to take responsibility for the privileges some of us receive as a result of it.

Once we understand how white privilege operates, we can begin addressing it on an individual and institutional basis.”

– Paula Rothenberg

To Be Disabled & Of Color: The Disparities

- Healthcare
- Transportation
- Employment
- Education
- Police Violence & Incarceration

The School-to-Prison Pipeline

The "school-to-prison pipeline" refers to the policies and practices that push our nation's schoolchildren, especially students of color in low/no income areas, out of classrooms and into the juvenile and criminal "justice" systems

The racial disparities are even starker for students with disabilities



THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE



KIDS WITH DISABILITIES

Are entering the
juvenile justice
system at a rate

5 TIMES

higher than

YOUTH IN THE GENERAL POPULATION





US Dept of Education @usedgov · 25 Jul 2015

The number of students suspended in 1 yr could fill 45 Super Bowl stadiums 1.usa.gov/1gDTBIO #RethinkDiscipline



175



84



Disability Justice & Juvenile “Justice”

- Black Disabled students are 16x more likely to have police called on them. (NBC, 2017)
- Of the 85% of children in detention eligible for special education services, only 37% received services at their schools. (SPLC, 2007)
- 65% of boys & 75% of girls in juvenile detention have a mental illness. (NIMH, 2002)
- Black children represent 18% of preschool enrollment, but 48% of preschool children receiving more than one out-of-school suspension. (DoEDCR, 2014)
- Up to 85% of children in juvenile detention have at least one disability. (SPLC, 2007)

Normalization of Violence

- In 2013-2014, 1.6 million students attended public school with police and no counselors
- Students with disabilities are 23 times more likely to be mechanically restrained
- Black students with disabilities arrested at a higher rate than any other student group data has been collected on
- Black teens with disabilities are 16 times more likely to be arrested at school than white students without disabilities
- Only 11 states have outright prohibitions on carrying handguns on campus



HUFFPOST

The Woodland Hills High School-to-Prison Pipeline

12/16/2016 02:33 pm ET



EDUCATION RIGHTS NETWORK

Image of a group of protestors outside of a school building holding signs to show solidarity to the injustice committed to a disabled student.

Over Policed & Under Protected



Signs created to protest the death of Jeremy McDole.

Over half of the people killed by police have a disability and/or are deaf.



Freddie Gray



Korryn Gaines

INCARCERATION RATES

AMONG FOUNDING NATO MEMBERS

INCARCERATION RATE
(per 100,000 population)



Angola Prison, Louisiana: THEN & NOW



1870's



2015

So... how cheap is prison labor?



DG

@notthreefifths

In Colorado, incarcerated women must work for 2 weeks to afford a box of tampons.



Deborah Golden

@DebGoldenDC

Following

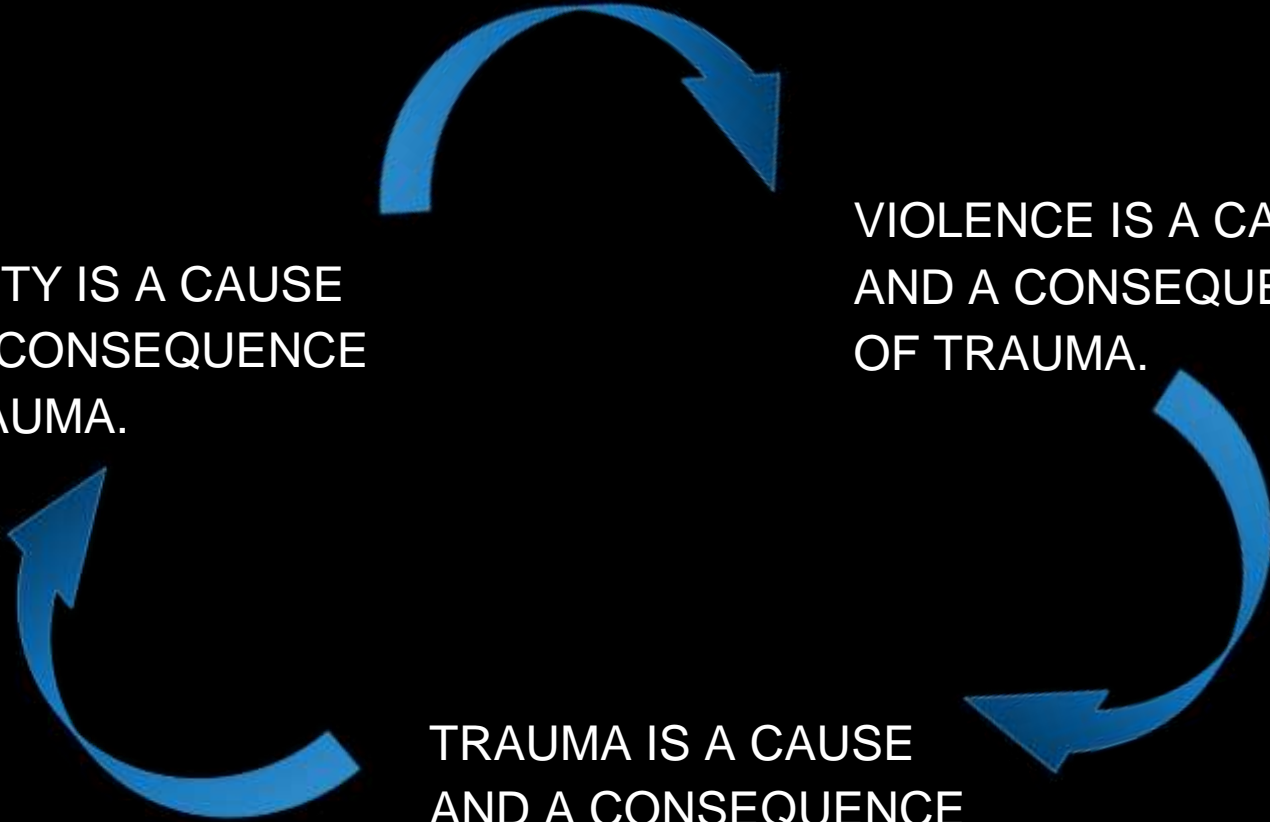
At the common federal prison wage of 12¢/hr, my client had to work 86 hrs to send me this letter. #BOP #PrisonReform



POVERTY IS A CAUSE
AND A CONSEQUENCE
OF TRAUMA.

VIOLENCE IS A CAUSE
AND A CONSEQUENCE
OF TRAUMA.

TRAUMA IS A CAUSE
AND A CONSEQUENCE
OF DISABILITY.



What Can You Do?

- Remove “ally” from your vocabulary
- Stop denying your privileges & how it affects your experiences
- Start calling out problematic people
- Take responsibility as to how you have been complacent in the culture and dynamics manifested in our spaces

More of What You Can Do...

- Though we may be in the struggle together, we DO NOT struggle the same way
- The demand for emotional labor & expectation of educating you
- Support the work of disabled PoC

How can you disrupt injustice?

#DISABILITY SOLIDARITY

"DISABILITY SOLIDARITY HOLDS THE
DISABILITY COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABLE FOR
#INTERSECTIONALJUSTICE & HOLDS ALL
COMMUNITIES ACCOUNTABLE
FOR #DISABILITYJUSTICE."

-KI'TAY D. DAVIDSON

HEAD HEART FEET

No one is actually independent.
We are all interdependent.

The difference between the needs that many Disabled people have and the needs of people who are not labeled as disabled is that non-disabled people have had their dependencies normalized.

• -Ki'tay D. Davidson



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