

**AUTISTIC WOMEN &
NONBINARY NETWORK**

**2021
YEAR IN
REVIEW**



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2021 SUMMARY

2021 marked a year of progress, nourishment and internal growth at AWN, as we focused intensely on making sure that we were fully living the values we profess, including, and most importantly, truly centering autistic BIPOC gender minorities. As the pandemic raged around us, and we saw yet again that governments and society at large were not going to value our lives, we renewed our commitment to each other, and to the radical work of inclusion.

For us, this meant taking the time to be deliberate, and to examine the work we are already doing. We asked ourselves hard questions this year, and spoke openly and honestly with each other in order to answer them.

This process has not been easy, but it has made us stronger.

One way we have shored up our foundations is by naming and differentiating our organization from standard non-profit practices rooted in white supremacy culture; these include taking on work beyond current capacity and chasing grant funding that calls for rapidly expanding programming. This self-imposed overload creates a false sense of urgency and leads to burnout. This year, we were determined to do things differently. We practiced intentionality when making decisions to take on anything new, focusing instead on examining and strengthening our existing work and infrastructure.



2021 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

FINANCIALS

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

GRANT MILESTONES

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

LIBERATING WEBINARS

ANTHOLOGY SECOND EDITION



2021 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

COLLABORATIONS

POLICY ADVOCACY

ADMIN UPDATES

INDEPENDENT AUDIT

BOARD RETREAT

OTHER PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

APPENDIX A: LIBERATING WEBINARS

APPENDIX B: LETTERS SIGNED



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FINANCIALS

\$100,000+
IN GRANT FUNDING

AWN secured two multi-year grants that will provide open-ended funding for our operating costs beginning this year

\$62,000+
IN PRIVATE DONATIONS

We also raised a total of over \$62,000 in private donations on a variety of fundraising platforms

\$56,000+
IN OTHER 3RD PARTY DONATIONS

Including third party matching and crowdfunding efforts by our social media followers, private donations to AWN exceeded \$124,000 in 2021

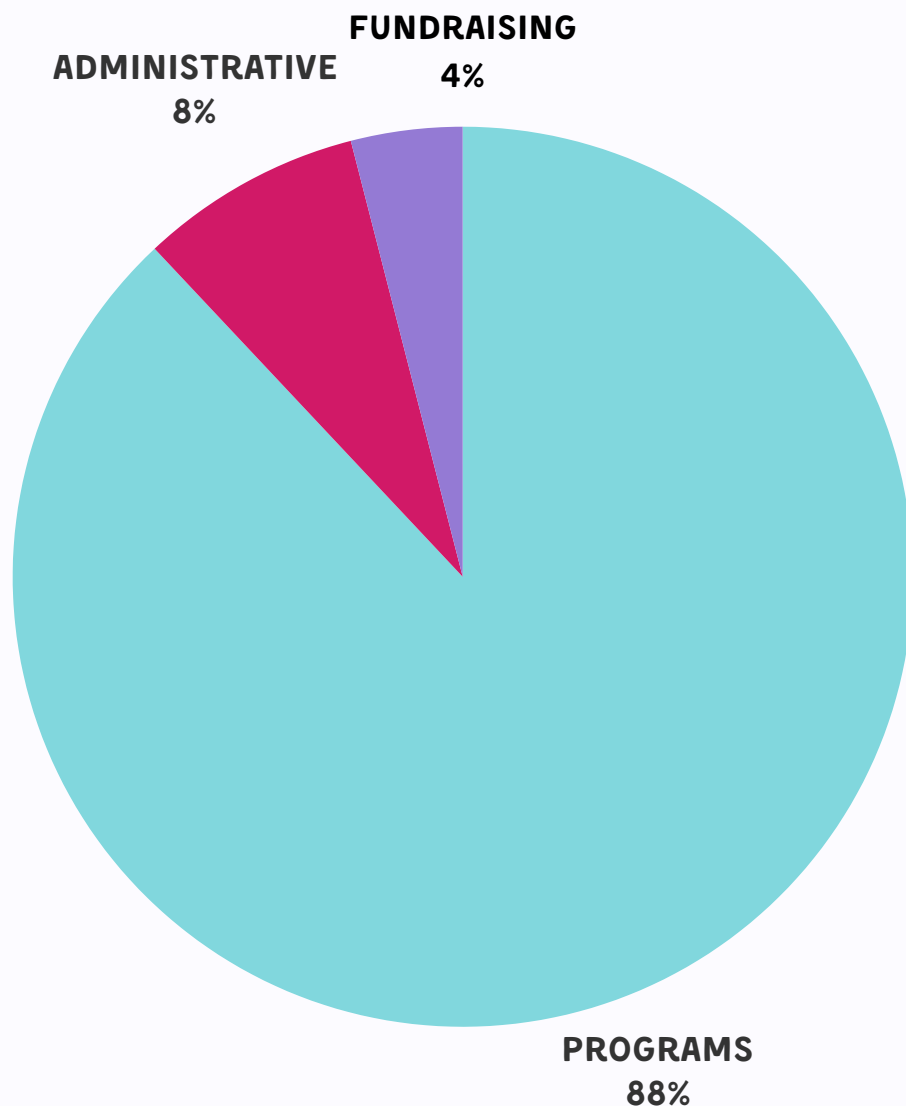
\$100,000+
RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION



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FINANCIALS

Also in 2021 we implemented a new CRM (customer relationship management) system for tracking and managing donations, designed for us by Kayley Whalen of Kayley Whalen Consulting. The CRM is invaluable in helping us target fundraising campaigns to the right donors, stay in touch with our donors and otherwise be as effective as possible in our fundraising efforts.



FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

AWN is proud to be a fiscal sponsor for disability and racial justice organizations that do not have their own 501(c)3 status. In 2021, we supported the following organizations:

APOC FUND

The Fund for Community Reparations for Autistic People of Color's Interdependence, Survival and Empowerment (APOC)

THE DISABILITY & INTERSECTIONALITY SUMMIT

A biennial national conference that centers the multiple oppressions that shape the lived experiences of disabled individuals. DIS began transitioning to an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit in 2021.

CRUSHING COLONIALISM

An Indigenous-led organization uplifting Indigenous people through arts, media, and traditional storytelling. Crushing Colonialism also began transitioning to an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit in 2021.

DC TEENS ACTION

Unifying students from all over the DC area for social action and civic engagement.



RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

In 2021, AWN partnered with organizations on projects that include autistic people as both researchers and participants, improve our quality of life, and promote disability justice.

CHILDREN'S NATIONAL

The Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD) at Children's National Hospital is a multidisciplinary team working together to provide the best possible care for autistic youth. AWN is part of an effort to develop an evidence-based online self-assessment tool for people who think they might be autistic.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

KU's Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Technology Enhanced Community Living is doing research that is relevant to the lives of disabled people with a mission to further support independent living. AWN is serving as a consultant representing the autistic community in this effort.

NEW JERSEY AUTISM CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (NJACE)

In 2020, NJACE and AWN teamed up to produce webinars for parents and professionals, using a neurodiversity framework. Unfortunately, NJACE lost their funding for the webinar series this year, mostly due to pushback from non-autistic parents. AWN continues to provide consulting to the NJACE team.



GRANT MILESTONES

AWN reached an important grant milestone this year, which was that we were able to rely on stable, multi-year operations grants.

BOREALIS PHILANTHROPY'S DISABILITY INCLUSION FUND

\$90,000

- main funder
- offered open-ended funding to support AWN's operating costs
- renewable each year

THE FORD FOUNDATION

\$130,000

- main funder
- offered a four-year grant to support AWN's operating costs
- renewable each year

FELICITY HOUSE

\$15,000

- offering funds for the fourth year in a row
- funding for our first annual AWN retreat
- with interest in funding next year's retreat as well



SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

86,779

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS
REACHING A TOTAL OF
260+ MILLION USERS

43,531

TWITTER FOLLOWERS
WITH AN INCREASE IN ENGAGEMENT OF
330% THIS YEAR

6,000

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

NEW

2,500

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

NEW

& WE STARTED AN AWN CHANNEL ON

YouTube



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BLOG POSTS

This year on our website we published blog posts with titles such as:

**CELEBRATING LATINE HERITAGE MONTH
AS AN AUTISTIC LESBIAN**

**NEURODIVERSITY, CHANGELINGS, &
WHAT FATE: THE WINX SAGA
CAN TEACH US ABOUT ACCEPTANCE**

**HOW THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
HAS AFFECTED ME AND OTHER AUTISTICS**

**PINKIE SENSE:
AN AUTISTIC PONY TALE**

**AUTISM IN LATIN AMERICAN
COMMUNITIES**

**DEAR SENATORS:
WE NEED MORE INFRASTRUCTURE
FUNDING, NOT POLICE**



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FORMAL STATEMENTS

AWN released eleven formal statements, including:

CELEBRATING

BIPOC contributions to our communities
the full pardon of Neli Latson

Morénike Giwa-Onaiwu for their appointment to the
Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee

CONDEMNING

the January 6 attack on the US Capitol

a court ruling upholding the Judge Rottenberg Center's
continued use of electric shock torture

a mainstream publication for racism and autistic erasure in
their story on autistic adults and parents of autistic children

ANNOUNCING

the release of the second edition of our anthology,
Sincerely, Your Autistic Child

an invitation to apply for AWN's internship program

collaborations with Autistic, Typing and other autistic
BIPOC activists, leaders, healers and scholars

resources for accessing Covid-19 vaccines



LIBERATING WEBINARS

This year we produced 13 Liberating Webinars with a total of **3,839 registrants** for the live events, and additional engagement with the video recordings, on topics such as:

HOMELESSNESS & DISABILITY JUSTICE

DISABILITY JUSTICE IN LEGAL PRACTICE & ADVOCACY

COMMUNICATION ACCESS IN A VIRTUAL WORLD

POETRY, QUEERNESS, & DISABILITY JUSTICE

HEALTH JUSTICE IN PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH, POLICY AND ADVOCACY

DISRUPTING EDUCATIONAL ABLEISM & RACISM IN SCHOOLS

A full description of each webinar is available in Appendix A.



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LIBERATING WEBINARS

topics continued:

**RACISM & ABLEISM IN ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

**CRIP & MAD PERSPECTIVES ON
WELLNESS, HEALING, & TRAUMA**

**DISABILITY DAY OF MOURNING
VIRTUAL VIGIL**

**DISABILITY JUSTICE & ACCESSIBILITY
DURING THE PANDEMIC**

**SURVIVING BURNOUT, ABLEISM &
RACISM IN THE PANDEMIC**

**ABOLITION, DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION, &
DECARCERATION IN THE PANDEMIC**

**DISABILITY RIGHTS & MENTAL HEALTH
IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

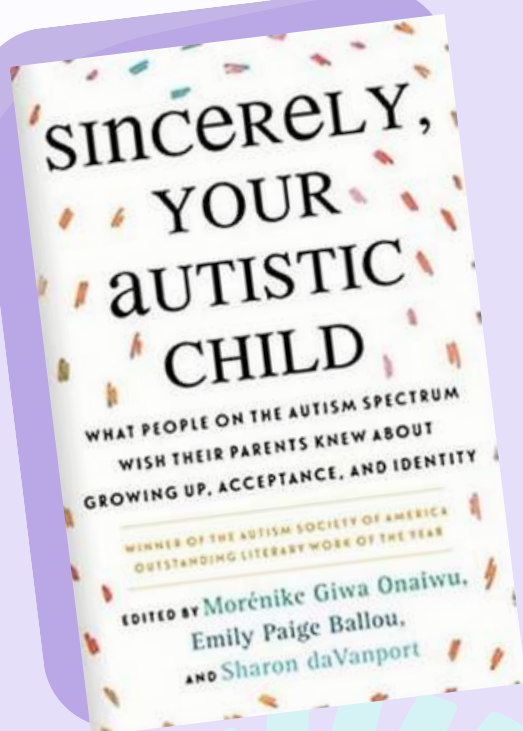


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ANTHOLOGY SECOND EDITION PUBLISHED BY BEACON PRESS

The second edition of our anthology was released in March 2021 with the new title *Sincerely, Your Autistic Child: What People on the Autism Spectrum Wish Their Parents Knew About Growing Up, Acceptance, and Identity*.

This reprint - and the publicity from Beacon Press - will enable us to reach more people, advancing our mission to educate the public and celebrate autistic identity. We are currently in talks with Beacon Press about two additional books.



“Each essay has insightful and eloquent advice by people with autism from a number of age groups, races, ethnicities, faiths, cultures, professional and life skills backgrounds, and gender identities. Because current media representations of autism have long been primarily focused on Western white men, this collection of essays from a diversity of people on the spectrum is an essential and necessary work that raises awareness and redefines normal.”

~ review by *Library Journal*



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COLLABORATIONS

AWN had opportunities for some unique and exciting collaborative efforts in 2021:

NAMD ADVOCATES LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

AWN was an official sponsor of the National Alliance of Melanin Disabled Advocates (NAMM Advocates) Leadership Conference in 2021. NAMM Advocates, a project of the Keri Gray Group, is a network designed to support the leadership of disabled Black and Brown change agents, advocates, entrepreneurs and communicators.

BLAQ & SOUL

Blaq & Soul has a mission to center Black LGBTQ+ folks through food and beverage, community activism, and lived experience-based education. Owners Toni and April created a unique beer for AWN this year: 100% of the proceeds of their Foeder-Aged Peach Saison are being donated to the APOC Fund.

AUTISTIC, TYPING

This year we were proud to begin a collaboration with influencer, activist and blogger, Autistic, Typing. Autistic, Typing is an autistic Ojibwe mother of autistic kids, and we recently featured them in a three-part Liberating Webinars series.



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POLICY ADVOCACY

Led by our Director of Policy, Advocacy and External Affairs Lydia X. Z. Brown, Esq., AWN accomplished many policy objectives this year.

COLLABORATED

with the National Women's Law Center to write and disseminate a major report on the forced sterilization of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

SIGNED

an amicus brief opposing physician assisted suicide in Massachusetts, as part of our commitment to affirming the value of disabled lives and working against ableism

PUBLISHED

in the Washington Post, as a contributor to a letter by Paid Leave For All



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POLICY ADVOCACY

We also signed onto letters from a number of other organizations, backing important advocacy efforts on a variety of social justice issues. These organizations included:

**THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES**

CDC TASK FORCES

**THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON
CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS**

**THE LAW ENFORCEMENT REFORM WORKING
GROUP OF THE JUSTICE ROUNDTABLE**

**THE DISABILITY RIGHTS EDUCATION
& DEFENSE FUND**

THE DETENTION WATCH NETWORK

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

**THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON
INDEPENDENT LIVING**



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ADMIN UPDATES

We began 2021 with the specific intention of catching up to our rapid growth in 2020. This year was all about developing infrastructure and capacity so that we could both grow and remain true to our core values.

With those goals in mind, some of the changes and policies we implemented this year include:

SHIFTING TO HORIZONTAL ORGANIZATION

This shift includes practices and policies such as:

- having a central email account that can be accessed by core members of the team
- using Slack software for more open and transparent communication between staff and contractors
- intentionally focusing on and encouraging self-care at every level of our organization

MAKING AWN SAFER FOR AUTISTIC BIPOC

- We had the opportunity to engage in ongoing anti-racism work with expert facilitator and social equity consultant ChrisTiana ObeySumner, of Epiphanies of Equity Education and Consulting, including an anti-racism workshop at our 2021 AWN Retreat.
- AWN also chose to sever ties with some white people in the disability community who we felt do not share out commitment to upholding anti-racism within the work of disability justice.



ADMIN UPDATES

More of the changes and policies we implemented this year:

PRACTICING REAL INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY

- Riah Person, formerly an AWN intern, is now our first ever Accessibility Consultant; Riah is auditing AWN for accessibility and inclusion, supporting the team in keeping their work accessible, and leading the process of updating our website in accordance with best practices for accessibility
- Utilizing both ASL interpreters and Certified Deaf Interpreters; this practice is more culturally competent than using ASL interpreters alone.

OTHER ADMIN UPDATES IN 2021:

NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Nancy Yang, former intern, now our first ever Education and Program Assistant. Nancy supports AWN staff, consultants, and volunteers in many aspects of AWN's work.

Alex Tolivar, Policy Analysis Intern. Alex is working closely with Lydia Brown, AWN's Director of Policy, Advocacy & External Affairs.

Jean Winegardner is registering AWN as a charity at the state level; so far she has completed registration in approximately 15 states, an important accomplishment.



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AUDITS & ACCOUNTING

AWN reached another milestone related to organizational growth: we are now required by the IRS to submit long form 990s and conduct an external audit of our finances and record-keeping.

AWN RECEIVED FUNDING & SUPPORT FROM BOREALIS PHILANTHROPY

in order to meet these new requirements, including:

ROADMAP TRAINING

administered by Imi Rashid, a CPA specializing in nonprofit financial health and stability

35 HOURS OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES

with Imi Rashid, including a Financial Review Letter for donors at its conclusion

ASSISTANCE WITH AUDIT PREP

additionally, Rashid will assist AWN in preparing for an external audit, also with the financial support of Borealis Philanthropy

Our decision to temporarily forgo expansion in order to focus on shoring up our core programs and ensuring true access and alignment with our values received high praise from Borealis Philanthropy.



AWN RETREAT

AWN was proud to host our first ever annual retreat in November of 2021. Though we had originally planned to gather in person in San Diego, we decided to meet virtually due to the ongoing threat of Covid-19. The retreat's purpose was to engage in thoughtful, intensive strategic planning, and to celebrate and thank all the people who make up AWN. Both aims were achieved!

The agenda for the retreat included:

BOARD MEETING

a portion of our all-day board meeting was facilitated by social equity consultant ChrisTiana ObeySumner of Epiphanies of Equity Education and Consulting

CELEBRATION

- open to all AWN staff, volunteers and consultants, and board members
- all received snack boxes, gift cards for meal delivery, and swag bags of merch from the AWN shop
- an anti-oppression training session was facilitated by ChrisTiana ObeySumner
- disabled comedian Nina G performed comedy
- DJ Will Turner curated the music
- Toni and April, owners of Blaq & Soul, joined the group to chat about autistic experience and identity



PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Other projects and programs AWN has accomplished this year include:

SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS OF INTIMATE PARTNER/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

[CW: domestic violence, intimate partner violence, fleeing abuse]

- support and transportation for survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence in Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas, as part of an “off the grid” activist network
- seeking funding to expand AWN’s work related to sexual and domestic violence

AUTISM LENDING LIBRARIES

- supporting autism lending libraries financially
- This year AWN awarded the Ed Wiley Autism Acceptance Lending Library a \$5000 grant for furniture, bookshelves and needed supplies

SUPPORT FOR LGBTQIA+ DISABLED POC

- offering grants specifically for LGBTQIA+ disabled BIPOC
- distributed \$3,500 in support to 5 people in 2021
- \$10,000 budgeted for grant distribution in 2022
- the first AWN LGBTQIA+ meetups, hopefully with many more to come



2021 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

APPENDIX A: LIBERATING WEBINARS

This year AWN produced 13 webinars in this series. All included full accommodations for accessibility and are available on our website.

HOMELESSNESS AND DISABILITY JUSTICE

December 16, 2021. Finn Gardiner, Allilsa Fernandez, Angela Lemus-Mogrovejo. Moderated by Lydia X. Z. Brown. Homelessness is an important issue that needs to be addressed. First and foremost it needs to end. But how do we begin to address homelessness when the systems that we live in don't serve people who are in the margins of the margins? How does society and its systems treat homeless people who are also disabled, queer, and/or BIPOC? How do we begin to undo the punitive ways that society treats intersectional homelessness, and create structures that truly love and help people in need? Join us for a fireside chat conversation to explore the ways that homelessness and disability justice manifest, and the ways in which to move forward.

INCORPORATING DISABILITY JUSTICE INTO LEGAL ADVOCACY/PRACTICE

December 9, 2021. Jamelia Morgan, Britney Wilson, Prianka Nair. Moderated by Lydia X.Z. Brown. Part of disability justice is legal advocacy, and disabled people are out there doing the work. Join us in this fireside chat conversation between Jamelia, Prianka, and Britney, where we explore the ways that disability justice is incorporated into legal practice and advocacy.

COMMUNICATION ACCESS IN A VIRTUAL WORLD (PART ONE) -

October 5, 2021. Lateef McLeod, Cal Montgomery. Moderated by Lydia X. Z. Brown. Communication is a significant part of the human experience, and we all communicate in different ways. With the world relying more and more on virtual ways of being with one another, working on access is vital to maintaining our connections and building our future. In this fireside chat conversation, we invite two leaders with their own unique experiences within communication to share their thoughts on how to better communication access for us all.



2021 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

APPENDIX A: LIBERATING WEBINARS continued

POETRY, QUEERNESS, DISABILITY JUSTICE

September 22, 2021. Y-Binh Nguyen, Naomi Ortiz, Sunu Chandy. Moderated by Lydia X. Z. Brown. Please join us in listening to some great poetry and engaging in conversation around disability justice, poetry, and queerness!

HEALTH JUSTICE IS DISABILITY JUSTICE: DISABLED PERSPECTIVES IN PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH, POLICY AND ADVOCACY

April 28, 2021. Nassira D. Nicola, Emily M. Lund. Moderated by Lydia X. Z. Brown. The COVID-19 pandemic helps reveal ableism in our laws, policies, and practices through health care rationing proposals, disastrous vaccine rollouts, and relief measures that have failed to assist disabled people impacted by loss of personal attendant care, forced to work in high-risk jobs, and disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness, domestic violence, and food insecurity. What do disabled advocates, scholars, and policy experts have to offer public health research, policy, and advocacy? How can disabled people's knowledge, wisdom, and offerings disrupt and end unjust and inequitable pandemic policies and practices?

DISRUPTING EDUCATIONAL ABLEISM & RACISM: DISABILITY, RACE AND TRAUMA IN SCHOOLS

April 25, 2021. Mahlet Meshesha, Jilisa Milton. Moderated by Lydia X. Z. Brown. For many disabled people, school is not a safe place. Instead, it is a place where we are subjected to coercive and involuntary treatment, isolation and bullying from peers, abuse in the name of help, and constant surveillance and criminalization - all of which cause and exacerbate trauma. Black and Brown disabled students - especially those who face additional vectors of marginalization - face the brunt of ableism and racism in schools. How can neurodivergent and other disabled people make critical interventions and inroads into educational advocacy? How can we do anti-oppression, liberation-focused work within carceral spaces like the family regulation system, the legal system, and the educational system?



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2021 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

APPENDIX A:

LIBERATING WEBINARS continued

DISABILITY JUSTICE & CRIP TECHNOSCIENCE: RACISM & ABLEISM IN AI AND THE FUTURE OF TECHNOLOGY -

April 23, 2021. Damien Patrick Williams, Crystal Lee. Moderated by Lydia X. Z. Brown. Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies are ubiquitous, affecting pretrial bail determinations, health care resource allocation, school admissions, credit reporting, hiring, and policing. For disabled people, technology has often both created and enabled greater access and also threatened to sever access while promoting eugenicist ideas about cures. What interventions do Disability Justice and the emergent field of crip technoscience (named first by Aimi Hamraie and Kelly Fritsch) make into conversations about AI and the future of technology? Where does “algorithmic fairness” or “algorithmic bias” fall short in addressing racism and ableism?

DISABLED, CRIP AND MAD PERSPECTIVE ON WELLNESS, HEALING AND TRAUMA

March 28, 2021. Azza Altiraifi, Shayda Kafai. Moderated by Lydia X. Z. Brown. What does it mean to be well when we are in constant crisis and trauma is ordinary? What do healing and care work look like against the violent systems of white supremacy, settler colonialism, and ableism? Join Azza Altiraifi and Shayda Kafai for a critical discussion of neurodivergent, mad, and disabled interventions into conversations about wellness and healing. What can mad, disabled, QTBIPOC people’s wisdom teach us about organizing around wholeness, sustainability, and solidarity in crisis?

GEORGIA COMMUNITY DISABILITY DAY OF MOURNING VIRTUAL VIGIL

March 1, 2021. Eren Denburg Niederhoffer, Kayla Rodriguez, Jess L. Cowing. Disability Day of Mourning (DDOM), held each year on March 1, commemorates the lives of disabled people murdered by family members and other caregivers. This year marks nine years of DDOM since the first vigil organized by Zoe Gross in California. AWN is hosting this vigil in collaboration with Autistic Self Advocacy Atlanta and Georgia ADAPT.



2021 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

APPENDIX A: LIBERATING WEBINARS continued

DISABILITY JUSTICE & ACCESS-CENTERED PEDAGOGY IN THE PANDEMIC

February 28, 2021. Aimi Hamraie, Mimi Khũc. Moderated by Lydia X. Z. Brown. Last spring, school went virtual for everyone from kindergarteners to grad students. Some college students had no safe place to go to. Parents and caregivers working in and outside the home have had to contend with competing and sometimes impossible demands on money, time, and energy. Some teachers, faculty, and staff have been pressured to return to in-person teaching in unsafe conditions. Many students have been craving in-person learning and community. Everyone has felt the demands to rush, and above all, to perform and achieve despite the collective trauma and mass death of the pandemic. And still the pandemic has hit disabled people at the margins of the margins the hardest. This fireside chat between two leading scholar-activists will explore what access-centered pedagogy can offer us all.

SURVIVING BURNOUT FROM ABLEISM & RACISM IN THE PANDEMIC

January 31, 2021. Allilsa Fernandez, Dom Chatterjee. Moderated by Lydia X. Z. Brown. Disabled people in Black, Brown, Indigenous, Asian, and mixed-race communities live and struggle against the trauma of racism and ableism every day. During the pandemic, our communities have witnessed and experienced constant violence - in the medical and psychiatric systems, in the criminal legal system, in the educational systems, and in our own homes, communities, and movements. We are all burned out and far beyond capacity even though we are often on the front lines fighting for justice and freedom. This webinar will discuss what it means to survive burnout from racism and ableism during a global pandemic, and how we can offer care to each other outside of harmful systems.



2021 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

APPENDIX A: LIBERATING WEBINARS continued

ABOLITION, DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION AND DECARCERATION IN THE PANDEMIC

January 25, 2021. Dustin P. Gibson, Shain M. Neumeier. Moderated by Lydia X. Z. Brown. The pandemic has hit hardest and deadliest in institutions including jails and prisons, psych hospitals, nursing homes, group homes, and large-scale developmental disabilities institutions. This webinar will discuss connections between disability justice and abolition, explain deinstitutionalization and decarceration, and explore strategies that advocates and organizers are using to challenge ableism, racism, and other forms of violence arising during the pandemic.

SELF-ADVOCACY FOR SURVIVAL: DISABILITY RIGHTS AND MENTAL HEALTH IN HIGHER ED

Jess L. Cowing, Elayne Otstot, Natalia M. Rivera Morales, Kenna Chic. Moderated by Finn Gardiner. Students with cognitive, developmental, neurological, and learning disabilities experience higher rates of mental health disabilities, including depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Yet most universities do not provide meaningful, affordable, or long-term mental health services. As a result, undergraduate and graduate students often must advocate for campus-wide access and parity. In this session, current and recent students will discuss their work to engage campus partners and advocate for improvements. This session engages self-advocates with a range of disabilities, including those categorized as developmental disabilities, serious mental illness, neurological disabilities, and learning disabilities and cognitive processing disorders, in discussing their work to improve campus infrastructure to deliver respectful and culturally competent mental health services.



2021 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

APPENDIX A: LIBERATING WEBINARS

The following webinars are planned or in progress:

COMMUNICATION ACCESS IN A VIRTUAL WORLD (PART TWO)

Talila A. Lewis Topher, González Ávila.

SUPPORTING NEURODIVERGENT AND LGBTQ PEOPLE IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES - AND IN THE PROFESSION

Harriette Wimms, Hawk Stone, Keisha Janney.

ON STAGE & ON PAGE: DISABILITY JUSTICE IN FILM, THEATRE, AND CULTURAL WORK

Day Al-Mohamed Deanna Parvin Yadollahi Lydia X. Z. Brown (Moderator)



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2021 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

APPENDIX B: LETTERS SIGNED

to President Biden asking for the cancellation of student debt, led by the National Consumer Law Center and Americans for Financial Reform

to Congress asking them to ensure that adult dependents (AKA disabled adults who someone else, like a family member, claims on their taxes, or those who receive certain forms of governmental support, like social security) be included in the next round of Covid-19 relief bills

to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services asking them to support continued action and rulemaking as outlined in “Discrimination on the Basis of Disability in Critical Health and Human Services,” led by Not Dead Yet and the Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund

to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, calling for the immediate release of all people currently detained in ICE custody, as well as an immediate cease to ICE enforcement and transfers between prison facilities, in light of the public health emergency of Covid-19; led by the Detention Watch Network

to the Academy of Motion Pictures asking them to disqualify any movies where abled/hearing actors portray Deaf or disabled people from receiving Oscars, led by the National Association of the Deaf

to Congress asking them to support dedicated funding for Medicaid Home and Community Based Services, led by the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Association of People with Disabilities, and the Arc



2021 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

APPENDIX B: LETTERS SIGNED continued

to President Biden asking him to protect the health and safety of incarcerated people by releasing them, led by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

to President Biden urging him to end the use of Department of Justice funding for in-school police, and instead fund school counselors and mental health services, and to endorse the Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act; led by the American Civil Liberties Union

to the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of Vanita Gupta's nomination for Associate Attorney General, led by the American Association of People with Disabilities

to the NASDAQ Board asking them to require companies to include disability demographics in their diversity statistics, led by the National Disability Leadership Alliance and the National Council on Independent Living

to Congress asking them to listen to CDC and FDA guidance about chronic pain before updating prescribing guidelines, led by the National Council on Independent Living

to the House of Representatives asking them to support statehood for the District of Columbia, led by DC Vote



2021 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

APPENDIX B: LETTERS SIGNED continued

to Congress asking them to adequately fund several programs authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2002, the Assistive Technologies Act, the Autism CARES Act, the Lifespan Respite Care Act, Kevin and Avonte's Law, and the National Family Caregiver Support Program and Parent Information Center; led by the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities' Developmental Disabilities, Autism and Family Supports Task Force

to the Senate asking them to support the End Racial and Religious Profiling Act of 2021, led by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

to the Senate asking them to strengthen and improve the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021, led by the Law Enforcement Reform Working Group of the Justice Roundtable

to Congress asking for action on five breastfeeding policy priorities, including paid family and medical leave, led by the United States Breastfeeding Committee

to the National Park Service asking that the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Site be made accessible for visitors with disabilities, led by the National Council on Independent Living's FDR Memorial Legacy Committee

to the House Education and Labor Committee asking that they support changes to the Violence Prevention and Services Act that incorporate access for Deaf and disabled people, led by the Vera Institute for Justice



2021 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

APPENDIX B: LETTERS SIGNED continued

to the Washington D.C. Department of Human Services asking them to fix issues with the STAY DC website so that housing related financial support becomes accessible to people who speak little to no English, led by the Council for Court Excellence

to Congress asking them to oppose the Luke and Alex School Safety Act of 2021, because it falsely conflates gun violence and psychiatric disability, led by the National Disability Rights Network

to Congress asking them to support the CHANGE Act, which aims to improve early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease; led by Partnership to Improve Patient Care and the Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease

to Phillips Respironics asking them to develop and implement processes for repairing or replacing devices that prioritizes people who depend on ventilators, CPAP and Bi-Level PAP for survival, with users provided with free devices from other manufacturers while waiting for repair/replacement; led by Not Dead Yet and New York Law School

to Congress urging them to address the unaffordable out-of-pocket costs in the Medicare Part D program, led by the Alliance for Aging Research

to Congress asking them to support the Paid Family and Medical Leave provisions proposed in the FY2022 budget, led by UsAgainstAlzheimer's



2021 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

APPENDIX B: LETTERS SIGNED continued

to Congress asking them to support the Unemployment Insurance Improvement Act, led by the National Employment Law Project

to President Biden asking him to cancel student loan debt, led by Public Citizen and Americans for Financial Reform

to the CVS Board of Directors, asking them to remove their CVS v. Doe case from the Supreme Court's docket, because it attacks the foundation of disability rights; led by the American Association of People with Disabilities

to Congress asking them to include a universal paid leave policy in the Build Back Better plan, led by UsAgainstAlzheimer's and the National Alliance for Caregiving

to Congress asking them to ensure the highest level of funding for vital federal program that provide housing assistance and community development resources to low income households and communities, led by the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding

to the Department of Labor asking them to restore overtime protections for workers by raising the overtime salary threshold and tightening the overtime duties test, led by the National Employment Law Project

to Congress opposing the use of QALYs (a means of "scientifically" calculating quality of life AKA some institutional racism) as discriminatory against disabled people, led by the Partnership to Improve Patient Care

