AUTISTIC WOMEN & NONBINARY NETWORK

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

awnnetwork.org
The full text is as follows:

2022 SUMMARY

Our disability justice work is incomplete if we are not committed to transformative and restorative justice within our organization and in our communities.


2022 was another year of change, and transformation, of naming and strengthening our commitment to transformative and restorative justice, so that we can work towards our wildest disability justice dreams.

AWN has grown significantly over the years, which makes us often feel busy. This year also saw a lot of suffering and harm in the world outside AWN, which makes the work that AWN does even more vital.

We continued to work for disability justice throughout the year, in many different ways, but especially by building inclusion and solidarity with one another, and with autistic gender minorities across the country and the world.

Language justice was an important priority for AWN this year. This is a work in progress, and we are grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow together.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who makes AWN possible, and to be in community. We are grateful for solidarity, which will light our way forward.
2022 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Transformative Justice
- Accessibility
- Financials
- Fiscal Sponsorship
- Research Partnerships
- Grant Milestones
- Audit & Accounting
2022 Highlights & Achievements

Social Media Engagement

Newsletters

Blog Posts

Resources

Liberating Webinars

Formal Statements
2022 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

POLICY ADVOCACY

ADMIN UPDATES

AWN RETREAT

OTHER PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

APPENDIX A: LIBERATING WEBINARS

APPENDIX B: LETTERS, STATEMENTS, & AMICUS BRIEFS
TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE

This year, we worked to actively incorporate transformative justice into all areas of AWN, working closely with Mia Mingus, who has described transformative justice as:

“A POLITICAL FRAMEWORK AND APPROACH FOR RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE, HARM AND ABUSE.

[TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE APPROACHES] ACTIVELY CULTIVATE THE THINGS WE KNOW PREVENT VIOLENCE, SUCH AS HEALING, ACCOUNTABILITY, RESILIENCE, AND SAFETY FOR ALL INVOLVED.

Over a period of six months, Mia worked with AWN to develop a set of guiding principles for all of our work. This living document is available on our newly redesigned website:

Guiding Principles
AWN recognizes that access and inclusion are ongoing learning processes, and this year we focused on increasing language justice.

The Move to End Violence explains the context of this work thusly:

“Language injustice perpetuates violence in the ways that it silences, erases, and dehumanizes whole populations of people. Language justice allows us to disrupt privilege and colonization, challenging English dominance and Western-centered knowledge, communication, and leadership.”

So far, our commitment to language justice includes:

- translating previousAWN resources, statements and communication into Spanish and Plain Language
- making new resources available in Spanish and Plain Language from the beginning as part of their design
- beginning to include live Spanish interpretation and Spanish CART, in addition to English CART, at our events
- continuing to use Certified Deaf Interpreters for ASL translation whenever possible
- educating ourselves about Plain Language, a way of communicating that focuses on accessibility
Natural text:

**FINANCIALS**

**$150,000+ IN GRANT FUNDING**

AWN continued to receive funds from two multi-year grants we secured last year, in addition to two annual grants in 2022.

**$75,000+ IN PRIVATE DONATIONS**

This year we received our second highest dollar amount in private donations after 2020.

**$90 WAS THE AVERAGE PER DONATION**

This is the highest average donation we have received to date.
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 2022, we supported the following organizations:

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

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

**HEALTH JUSTICE COMMONS**
Working at the intersections of racial, economic, gender, disability, and climate justice to support marginalized communities to re-imagine and re-design healthcare and healing for our times.
Additionally, two organizations we have sponsored for multiple years have begun or completed transitioning to independent 501(c)3 nonprofits:

**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 501c3 nonprofit in 2021 and continuing that process this year.

**CRUSHING COLONIALISM**
An Indigenous-led organization uplifting Indigenous people through arts, media, and traditional storytelling. Crushing Colonialism completed their transition to an independent 501c3 nonprofit in 2022.
RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

In 2022, 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
This year we signed another 5 year contract with Children’s National to continue working together to develop an evidence-based online self-assessment tool for people who think they might be autistic. This tool, the Self Assessment of Autistic Traits (SAAT), can help validate self-diagnosis for autistic people, and make diagnosis more accessible to a more diverse range of autistic people.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
We also partnered once again with KU’s Institute for Health & Disability Policy Studies. This team is conducting a national survey about the health needs of people with disabilities called the National Survey on Health and Disability. The results will be an important advocacy tool, and can help us advance policies that support our needs.
Continuing on from 2021, AWN appreciated the stability of the multi-year grants that fund our basic operating costs.

**BOREALIS PHILANTHROPY’S DISABILITY INCLUSION FUND**
- main funder
- open-ended funding to support AWN’s operating costs
- renewable each year
- $90,000

**THE FORD FOUNDATION**
- main funder
- 2022 is the second year in a three-year grant supporting AWN’s operating costs
- renewable each year
- $117,500 (3 YRS)

**FELICITY HOUSE**
- offering funds for the fifth year in a row
- funding for our second annual AWN retreat
- $10,000
AUDIT & ACCOUNTING

This year we were again privileged to work with Imi Rashid, a certified public accountant (CPA) who specializes in nonprofit financial health and stability. Working closely with Sharon, Imi has assisted AWN in a variety of key financial tasks including:

- completing tax returns
- quarterly reviews of financial records
- daily accounting by an independent bookkeeper
- preparing reports for IRS form 990
- consulting Kim Maxwell, CPA, on best practices to prepare for a voluntary external audit
**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT**

- **91,000** Facebook followers, 12% more followers than in 2021 with posts now reaching **260+ million users**

- **45,000** Twitter followers, an average of **112,000 impressions** and **2,308 engagements** each month

- **7,400** Instagram followers, with **200 - 500 engagements** each month

- **5,000** newsletter subscribers, with an open rate of **40%** (the average for nonprofits is about 25%)

- **130** Mastodon connections in the “publicgood.social” server on this newer social media platform

---

*ewnnetwork.org*
NEWSLETTERS

Our newsletter has an “open rate” of almost 40% - an impressive accomplishment considering the average open rate for nonprofit communications is less than 25%.

Some examples of recent newsletter content:

**AUGUST 2022**
- how to serve disabled BIPOC in crisis response; suicide prevention hotlines; disability and race
- encouraging community members to participate in a national health survey about disability

**SEPTEMBER 2022**
- an interview with reproductive justice activist Angelica Vega
- a review of Lauren Ober’s podcast, Loudest Girl in the World
- wishing readers a happy Latine Heritage Month and Bi Visibility Day

**OCTOBER 2022**
- AWN’s efforts, in partnership with the APOC Fund, to expand Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, which protects against discrimination in health care settings
- resources for Asexual and Aromantic Awareness Week & Intersex Awareness Day
- information about the upcoming National Alliance of Melanin Disabled Advocates Summit
NEWSLETTERS

More examples of recent newsletter content:

**NOVEMBER 2022**
- AWN’s statement in response to the Club Q shooting
- recognizing the National Day of Mourning and Trans Day of Remembrance
- a mini-newsletter for Giving Tuesday, written by youth advocate and writer Madeline Mydske, about the new resource she is developing for autistic trans youth

**DECEMBER 2022**
- celebrating World AIDS Day
- updates about the new website and other AWN projects and programs
- congratulations to Morenike Giwa Onaiwu for speaking at a White House Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Summit, highlighting our growing voice in federal policy

**FINAL LETTER OF 2022**
- a year in review summary and some AWN highlights and events coming soon in the new year
BLOG POSTS

This year we published five blog posts:

**LATINE LESBIAN VISIBILITY ON TV**  
**BY KAYLA RODRIGUEZ**  
celebrating Lesbian Visibility Day and Autism Acceptance Month with a discussion of the on-screen romance between telenovela characters; available in English and Spanish

**A SERIES OF ESSAYS ON HMONG & DISABILITY**  
**FOR ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER DESI AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**  
**BY NANCY YANG**  
created as an ongoing community conversation in the Hmong Disability Movement, discussing topics including the conceptual binaries within disability and Hmong culture; republished from Nancy’s work in the Masters Program at CUNY School of Professional Studies

**JUNETEENTH**  
**AND THE LEGACY OF DISABLED BLACK SLAVES**  
**BY TONY ALEXANDER**  
describing the legacy of disabled Black enslaved people, many of whom were also not liberated by the formal signing of the Emancipation Proclamation; Tony also describes Juneteenth celebrations and the continued fight for liberation of all Black, disabled people
This year we published five blog posts:

**REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE INTERVIEW WITH ANGELICA VEGA**

FOR LATINE HERITAGE MONTH 2022

BY KAYLEY WHALEN

discussing Angelica’s lived experience and work at the intersection of several important movements as an Afro-Latina with multiple disabilities; the Dobbs decision that overturned Roe vs. Wade; and the imperative of fighting against intersecting oppression to ensure bodily autonomy; available in English and Spanish

**6 FACTS ABOUT ASEXUALITY AND AROMANTICISM**

FOR ACE WEEK, OCTOBER 23 - 29

celebrating Ace Week by providing information and answering common questions about asexuality and aromanticism; AWN recognizes that many autistic people also identify as being on the asexual (ace) and/or aromantic (aro) spectrums
WELCOME PACKETS
This year, we updated our very popular Welcome Packet, a guide for newly diagnosed gender minorities, including people who recently self-diagnosed. In keeping with our commitment to language justice, we also translated the Packet into Spanish and Plain Language, making it accessible to more people. Our new welcome packet names and celebrates the great diversity of the autistic community.

RESOURCES FOR TRANS AUTISTIC YOUTH
In 2022 we began creating a new resource for autistic transgender children, youth, and young adults as well as their parents and loved ones. This effort is led by Community Outreach Coordinator Lei Wiley Mydske and her daughter, Madeline Mydske. Given that many autistic people are also trans, gender non-conforming, non-binary, genderqueer, Two Spirit and many more, we think this resource will be an important contribution to our community.
This year we produced 13 Liberating Webinars on topics such as:

- **Climate Justice and Decolonization and their overlap with Disability Justice**
- **Disabled BIPOC Teaching & Interventions in Ableist and Racist Academic/School Systems**
- **Food Justice & Creating a World where everyone can access what they need to nourish their bodies**
- **Grassroots Organizing in Marginalized, Oppressed Communities**
- **Disability, Madness and Poetry with Poets sharing their work**
- **Changing Media Perceptions & Representation of Disabled People**

[awnnetwork.org](http://awnnetwork.org)
LIBERATING WEBINARS

topics continued:

**PRISON ABOLITION**
& ITS RELATIONSHIP TO FOOD, HEALTH, AND DISABILITY JUSTICE

**AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH**
A KICK-OFF CELEBRATION FEATURING AUTHORS OF SINCERELY, YOUR AUTISTIC CHILD

**ACCOUNTABLE DISABILITY JOURNALISM**
& TELLING DISABLED STORIES

**CULTURAL WORK, DISABILITY JUSTICE, & THE ARTS**

**FORCED STERILIZATION, EUGENICS, & DISABILITY**

**CELEBRATING PRIDE**
& ORGANIZING COMMUNITIES AROUND DISABILITY, GENDER AND QUEER LIBERATION

in collaboration with the Curve Foundation and Beyond the Rainbow

A detailed list of webinars is provided in Appendix A.
AWN released eleven formal statements, including:

**A LETTER FROM AWN AND OVER 150 OTHER DISABILITY ORGANIZATIONS**

- in response to ableist comments about Covid-19 from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky
- AWN criticized these remarks by Dr. Walensky, and the U.S. government’s response to Covid-19 more broadly, for treating disabled people as disposable

**A STATEMENT ON THE PRACTICE OF FORCED STERILIZATION**

- in response to a report by the National Women’s Law Center showing that forced sterilization of disabled people is still widespread and legal
- we also shared a statement by Alex Tolivar in which they discussed their personal experience as a Black, queer, disabled, nonbinary autistic person and activist
- in their piece Alex also discussed the glaring racial inequities and disparities in access to disability diagnosis, needed supports, and exposure to police and state violence
- we issued a call to action against erasure, state violence and injustice against people who live at the intersections of autism, disability and racialization
FORMAL STATEMENTS

statements, continued:

FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

• we issued a statement discussing issues of Black health and wellness
• we shared a roundtable discussion highlighting the voices and work of Black autistic advocates and leaders within AWN, including Alex Toliver, Tony Alexander, Morenike Giwa Onaiwu, Oluwatobi Maeyen Odugunwa, and Jessica Horvath Williams; facilitated by Lydia Brown
• in this roundtable, participants shared their personal experiences, their work with AWN, and their ideas and policy solutions for advancing racial and disability justice

FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

• we shared a roundtable in honor of Women’s History Month, Autoimmune Disorders Awareness Month, and Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month
• participants for this roundtable included Sarah Rizzuto, Rahnee K. Patrick, Terri Lynne Hudson, India Harville, Zahra J. Brown, Sara M. Acevedo, Carla L. Lewis-Irizarry, DeVan L. Hankerson Madrigal, and Jen White-Johnson; facilitated by Lydia Brown
Tony Alexander described AWN’s support for Andre’s Law, a proposed law that would prevent New York state from funding institutions that use aversive “therapies” like electric shock “therapy” (as the Judge Rotenberg Center in Canton, MA still practices).

**IN RESPONSE TO THE OVERTURNING OF ROE V WADE BY THE SUPREME COURT**

- AWN collaborated with several other disability organizations to release a statement expressing our grave concerns about the impact of this decision on marginalized disabled people and expressing our support for bodily autonomy.
- We also collaborated with the Autistic People of Color Fund and the National Women’s Law Center to release an additional statement in support of abortion rights and reproductive freedom for everyone, including disabled people.
- This second statement was issued in plain language and includes resources and quotes from Sharon daVanport, Tony Alexander, Lydia Brown, and Leila Abdolfazlu of the National Women’s Law Center.
FORMAL STATEMENTS

statements, continued:

FOR THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

- we shared the news that AWN Senior Advisor Lydia Brown was among a group of disability activists invited to participate in a White House Roundtable about Disability and Reproductive Rights, and shared their prepared remarks

IN RESPONSE TO THE MASS SHOOTING AT CLUB Q IN COLORADO SPRINGS

- AWN and the Autistic People of Color Fund published a joint statement of grief and solidarity
- our statement acknowledged the violence, loss and terror, and pledged our ongoing support and solidarity with queer, trans and oppressed peoples everywhere
POLICY ADVOCACY

We have the responsibility and honor of working with other activists, organizations and groups to impact policy.

One of the ways we do that is by signing joint letters and statements to advocate for policies that will impact our communities. Statements and letters are generally directed to legislators and other people in positions of power.

Another way we advocate for policy change is by signing and filing amicus briefs. An amicus brief is a “friend of the court” statement that can be filed in certain kinds of court cases.

This year, we signed letters, statements and amicus briefs on the following issues:

**ANDRE’S LAW**

Andre’s Law is a proposed law that would prevent New York state from funding institutions that use aversive “therapies.” Currently the state pays to incarcerate NY residents (many of whom are BIPOC) at The Judge Rotenberg Center in Canton, MA, where electric shock is still use electrical shocks as an aversive “therapy.”

(continued on the next page)

A complete list of letters, statements and amicus briefs is included in Appendix B.

awnnetwork.org
2022 policy issues continued:

**REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE**

This year the Supreme Court of the United States overturned Roe v Wade in what is known as the Dobbs decision. In response, AWN released a collaborative statement along with the American Association of People with Disabilities, the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, the Center for American Progress, Women Enabled International and several other organizations. In this statement we highlighted the serious, inequitable impacts of the Dobbs decision on marginalized disabled people.

We also collaborated with the Autistic People of Color Fund and the National Women’s Law Center to develop a policy document called “Everyone Deserves to Make Their Own Choices: A Plain Language Statement about Abortion Rights and Reproductive Freedom.” This document is written entirely in Plain Language, making policy advocacy accessible to many people who are all too often left out of policymaking decisions.

(continued on the next page)

A complete list of letters, statements and amicus briefs is included in Appendix B.
POLICY ADVOCACY

2022 policy issues continued:

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO COVID-19
We wrote a collaborative letter, along with over 150 other disability organizations, criticizing US Government policies and practices in response to COVID-19 that we believe treat disabled people as disposable. In particular, we questioned the decision to end many pandemic benefit programs, and denounced specific ableist remarks made by Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Director of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

HEALTH EQUITY
We responded to the Biden administration’s call for public comments on proposed changes to Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, which prohibits discrimination in ACA-covered healthcare on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, gender, or sexual orientation. AWN provided in-depth analysis of how these protections affect our community and advocated for the preservation and expansion of Section 1557.

A complete list of letters, statements and amicus briefs is included in Appendix B.
ADMIN UPDATES

STAFF CHANGES

Lydia Brown transitioned to a Senior Advisor role

Nancy Yang returned as a Project Coordinator

Tony Alexander was hired by CommunicationFIRST but stayed on at AWN as Policy Consultant

Rieko Shepherd was hired by Community Legal Services of Philadelphia, and also became an AWN Policy Consultant

NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Elio McCabe joined AWN as Policy Manager

Lauren Proby became an AWN Policy Fellow

Jules Edwards became our newest Board Member
AWN RETREAT

AWN’s 2nd Annual Retreat provided an important opportunity to connect as a team, gain clarity, and nurture ourselves in community at the end of a challenging year full of growth and hard work.

Highlights of the 2022 retreat included:

**INTRODUCTIONS**
- participants each had an opportunity to introduce themselves
- participants were then thanked individually by the executive director and senior staff, who acknowledged each person’s unique contributions to AWN and our community at large

**FORMAL MEETING**
- due to a personal/medical emergency, our scheduled speaker ChrisTiana Obey-Sumner was unable to attend; however, she generously agreed to adapt her presentation into a webinar for all attendees

**ACTIVITIES & SOCIALIZING**
- all received Snack Magic snack boxes and gift cards for meal delivery
- a live DJ played music during breaks and intermissions
- AWN team members offered participants tarot card readings as a social activity and a jumping off point for more personal conversation and mutual support
SPONSORING THE NAMD ADVOCATES’
OUR PRESENCE IS OUR POWER SUMMIT

AWN was honored to serve as a sponsor of the Our Presence is Our Power Summit, an annual virtual summit hosted by the National Alliance of Melanin Disabled Advocates (NAMD Advocates). This is the 2nd consecutive year we’ve sponsored this important event.

The Summit is led by NAMD Advocates and made for disabled leaders of color and BIPOC allies who are committed to justice, inclusion, and transformative practices across the workplace.

In addition to our $2,000 donation, several AWN staff and volunteers were able to attend the Summit.

SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Sharon continued their work within an informal activist network providing safe transportation and other support to survivors of intimate partner violence. They have transported and helped survivors, most of whom had disabilities, from Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa. This work is very much in line with AWN’s commitment to transformative and restorative justice.
OTHER POLICIES & PROGRAMS

AUTISM LENDING LIBRARIES

This year, AWN was proud to provide financial support to two autism lending libraries: the Autistic for Autistics Neurodiversity Lending Library in Toronto, Canada, and the Ed Wiley Autism Acceptance Lending Library in Stanwood and Camano Island, Washington. Each library received a grant of $1,500.

DIRECT SUPPORT TO LGBTQIAP+ AUTISTIC BIPOC

We believe it is vital to directly support LBGTQIAP+, BIPOC autistic gender minorities with material aid, and we have developed a grant mechanism to do so. This year, we were able to provide 2 grants of approximately $1,000 each to two individuals.

THE APOC FUND

The Fund for Community Reparations for Autistic People of Color’s Interdependence, Survival and Empowerment (APOC Fund) provides microgrants of up to $500 to autistic people of color. The Fund continues to thrive, and this year welcomed Oluwatobi Maeyen Odugunwa as a Program Coordinator. The APOC fund raised $50,000 in additional funds for their program, and distributed $61,500 in grants.
This year AWN produced 13 webinars in this series. All included full accommodations for accessibility and are available on our website.

**DISABILITY JUSTICE, DECOLONIZATION, & CLIMATE JUSTICE**
January 10, 2022. Dr. Sarmistha Talukdar; Khairani Barokka, Associate Artist, Delfina Foundation; Research Fellow, University of the Arts, London; Jen Deerinwater, Crushing Colonialism. Moderated by Dr. Jennifer Natalya Fink, Georgetown University.
The work that is done to decolonize and bring climate justice and disability justice can also be done through expression and performance. Join us as Sarmistha, Okka, and Jen share through their own ways of expression and performance the ways in which we can decolonize and get closer to climate justice and disability justice.

**DISABLED BIPOC INTERVENTIONS IN TEACHING**
January 20, 2022. Dr. Paul/Leena/Paulina Abustan, Western Washington University’s Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program; Dr. Saili S. Kulkarni; Dr. Subini Annamma, Stanford University. Moderated by Lydia X.Z. Brown.
Academia has a foundation in ableist practices, and that is the reason why it’s so important that disabled BIPOC intervene in the academic world. While it is important that disabled BIPOC students are on the front lines, we also need disabled BIPOC teachers who can help lead the way in fighting academic ableism. Join us in this discussion with Paul/Leena/Paulina, Saili, and Subini as we learn about what it means to intervene in teaching as disabled BIPOC.

(continued on the next page)
2022 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

APPENDIX A: LIBERATING WEBINARS continued

FOOD JUSTICE & DISABILITY JUSTICE
Food is a human right, and food justice is a fight against systems that take that right away. As a community we must ask, how do we bring food justice to a world that harbors resources for only some groups of people? How do we navigate the systems that take resources away from marginalized people, especially disabled people, so everyone can eat, survive, and thrive? And how do we build a world where food justice becomes a reality and not just a dream? There are ways to go about this. Please join us in this conversation as Allilsa, Tony, and Lexie share their insights on food justice and disability justice.

FROM THE GROUND UP: COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AT THE MARGINS
The work of community organizers has long been instrumental in creating powerful and radical change. Community organizing in itself is a feat to be acknowledged, but when one has to organize within the parameters of marginal spaces—that is something that should be uplifted, honored, and something that we should all learn from. Join us as we learn about and from community organizers that have done great work within such marginal spaces.

(continued on the next page)
REVISING DISABILITY AND MADNESS: CRIP POETICS & CULTURAL WORK
February 27, 2022. Travis Chi Wing Lau, Kenyon College; Kelsey Smoot, College of William & Mary; Lo Smith, Poet, Activist Moderated by Jess L. Cowing.
Join Travis, Kelsey, and Lo in conversation with feminist disability studies scholar Jess L. Cowing to explore themes of madness, neurodivergence, and disability in poetry and art at the margins.

CHANGING MEDIA PERCEPTIONS OF DISABILITY
March 16, 2022. AJ Link, Center for Air and Space Law Task Force on Inclusion, Diversity and Equity in Aerospace; Jus Ad Astra Project; National Disabled Law Students Association; Kristen Lopez, TV Editor, IndieWire; Ticklish Business podcast; Dominick Evans, #FilmDis. Moderated by Lydia X. Z. Brown.
Media plays a huge role in shaping public perceptions of disability. This is especially so when a lot of the time people’s only experience of a disabled person or disability culture is through consuming media. How do we change media perceptions of disability so that public perception is more accepting of disabled people? Join us in conversation with Dominick, Kristen, and AJ as we explore how to make these changes.

(continued on the next page)
2022 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

APPENDIX A: LIBERATING WEBINARS continued

PRISON ABOLITION AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF FOOD, HEALTH & DISABILITY JUSTICE

March 27, 2022. Andrea James, JD, Founder and Executive Director, National Council For Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls; Founder, Families for Justice as Healing; Taylar Nuevelle, Founder and Executive Director, Who Speaks for Me; creator, Trauma-to-Prison Pipeline; Kanav Kathuria, Maryland Food & Prison Abolition Project; Gabriel Arkles, Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund; Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity. Moderated by Lydia X. Z. Brown.

Join us in conversation with Andrea, Taylar, Kanav, and Gabriel as we discuss the intersections of racial justice, gender justice, food justice, health, and prison abolition. Prison abolition is a racial justice, gender justice, and disability justice issue - and abolition is also deeply tied to food justice and health justice. Prisons can be a "slow death" (Joshua Price), and incarceration is itself a disabling experience, and a cause and a consequence of incarceration (Talila Lewis and Liat Ben-Moshe). Incarceration is a form of violence that devastates incarcerated people's health, including through denial of access to safe, culturally appropriate, accessible, and healthy food, and through isolation from communities, home, and families. Activists, advocates, and scholars are working to name these harms, and support incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people in the fight for liberation, community care, and abolition.

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH KICK-OFF: A CELEBRATION

April 1, 2022. Morenike Giwa Onaiwu, PhD(c), MA, Equity, Justice & Representation Chair, AWN Advisory Committee; author, activist; Victoria M. Rodriguez-Roldan, AIDS United; Kassiane Asasumasu, Neurodivergence Speaking. Moderated by Lei Wiley Mydske and Sharon daVanport.

On April 1, 2022, AWN celebrates the kick off of Autism Acceptance Month and the two year anniversary of the publication of Sincerely, Your Autistic Child, by hosting a conversation with Moréniike Giwa-Onaiwu, Victoria M. Rodriguez-Roldán, and Kassiane Asasumasu, who were contributors to the anthology itself.

(continued on the next page)
2022 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

APPENDIX A: LIBERATING WEBINARS continued

RADICALLY REVEALING TRUTH: ACCOUNTABLE DISABILITY JOURNALISM
April 13, 2022. Cara Reedy, CNN; Disabled Journalists Association at Storyline Partners; Alaina Leary, We Need Diverse Books; Booklist; Emerson College; s.e. smith, Journalist, essayist, editor. Moderated by Lydia X. Z. Brown.

Join us in conversation with Cara, Alaina, and s.e. as we explore the intersections of disability and journalism. Journalism is a way through which we view and learn about the world around us. Especially because we cannot be everywhere at once, journalism is the way in which we connect with the community—it is where we begin to learn of each other’s lives and how we can support one another. Because community care relies on the reports that journalists make, it is vital that journalism be accurate and accountable to our communities. Accountable journalism is justice. And accountable disability journalism is disability justice. Join us as we explore what this means.

CULTURAL WORK, VISUAL ART, & DISABILITY JUSTICE

Join us in conversation with Ashanti and Micah as we explore the world of visual art and cultural work as it intersects with disability justice.

CRIP CULTURAL WORK: DISABLED & WRITING LITERATURE

AWN hosts a conversation with Cyree Jarelle Johnson, T. S. Banks, and The Cyborg Jillian Weise on the topic of being disabled and writing literature. As part of the conversation, each panelist will also share some of their work.

(continued on the next page)
2022 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

APPENDIX A:
LIBERATING WEBINARS  continued

HOW DO WE SURVIVE TO THRIVE?:
FORCED STERILIZATION, EUGENICS, & DISABILITY
Laws in many states say that sometimes a doctor can sterilize a disabled person even when that person does not want it. These laws let judges, along with other people like family members or guardians, make the decision for the disabled person. Our panel will discuss what we can do about these ableist laws and the practice of eugenics.

CELEBRATING PRIDE & ORGANIZING COMMUNITIES IN DISABILITY, GENDER, QUEERNESS
July 25, 2022. Jamila Hammami, Dispatches from the Struggle: Accounts from the Ground; Open Borders Conference; Free Migration Project; consultant and educator; Bridget Liang, Gender, Feminist and Women’s Studies Program, York University; community researcher, facilitator, performance artist, writer. Moderated by Lydia X. Z. Brown.
July is Disability Pride Month, and part of celebrating pride is to honor the intersections of disability, gender, and queerness. These three parts of identity intertwine and inform each other to make us who we are. In this panel discussion, we amplify the experiences of those at the margins of these identities: disabled queer folks and women. Join us in conversation with The Curve Foundation, Beyond the Rainbow, and panelists Jamila Hammami and Bridget Liang, as we explore what these intersections mean.
2022 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

APPENDIX B:
LETTERS, STATEMENTS & AMICUS BRIEFS
Information pending at the time this report was submitted to the board of directors for review. Information will be added once prepared and submitted by Lydia Brown.