



Disability History in the United States

History Lesson

[Image description: Upper left: Orange silhouette of a boy holding a can and pointing his finger to a blue circle below him. A green gradient burst is behind him. The Office of the Education Ombuds' orange logo is displayed in the bottom right.]



Activism

Taking action to make social or political change



[Image description: A graphic symbol of ADAPT, a national organization for disability advocacy. Three people sit in wheelchairs holding their hands above their heads with hands breaking chains. Below them it says "ADAPT FREE OUR PEOPLE."]

Civil Rights

The rights of each person in a society, including equality under the law and in employment and the right to vote

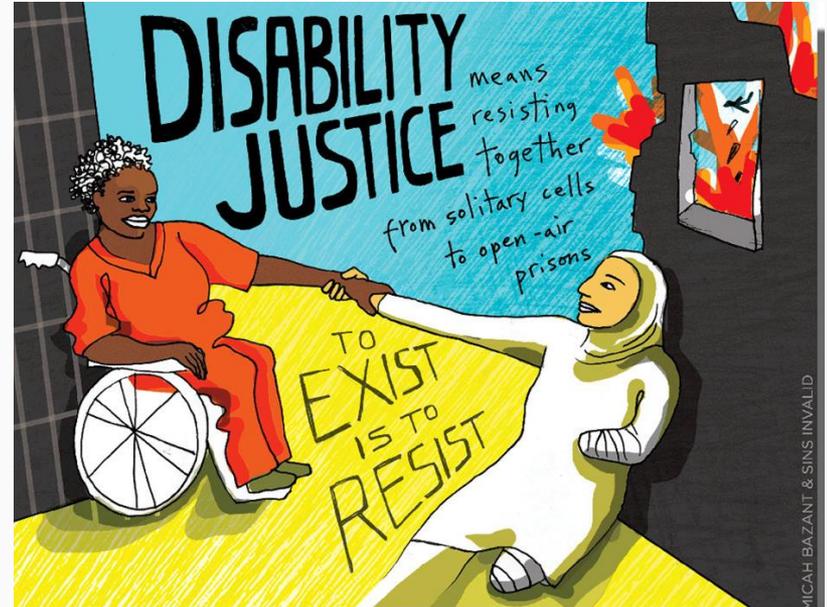
Definition of "civil rights" from the Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary © Cambridge University Press



[Image description: A black and white photograph of people with and without disabilities marching. Two people stand up and hold a sign that says "Injustice Anywhere is a Threat to Justice Everywhere --Martin Luther King Jr." People in wheelchairs are below the sign.]

Disability Justice

Disability Justice (DJ) is a grassroots movement led by queer, disabled people of color. DJ focuses on intersectionality and solidarity with all movements for social justice.



[Image description: A drawing of a Black woman in a wheelchair wearing the orange uniform of the incarcerated, she reaches out and clasps the hand of a woman in white sitting against a wall wearing a hijab, whose arm and leg end short of a hand or foot, and are wrapped in bandages. Through an empty window frame a plane and explosions are visible. Text reads, "Disability Justice means resisting together from solitary cells to open air prisons. To Exist is to Resist." Image by Micah Bazant & Sins Invalid]

Activity Expectations:

1. Every person in your group must read every timeline strip
2. Decide as a group what your categories will be (at least three)
3. Organize each timeline strip into one of the categories
4. There are no right answers! Be creative with your categories.
5. Categories that do not count:
 - Disability
 - History
 - United States

Some examples of categories are...

Discussion:

- What were your categories and how did you choose them?
- How do those categories compare to other groups?
- What is something that surprised you?
- What is something new you learned?
- How is civil rights an important part of disability history in the United States?

References

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- *Skin, Tooth, and Bone: The Basis of Movement is Our People*. Sins Invalid. 2nd ed., 2019.