

Let
Black
Boys Be

Reading List:

Disability Justice



INTRODUCTION

The objective of this reading list is to provide an overview of reading and video materials about various aspects of disability justice. In order to be well-informed about disability justice, it is important to understand some of its major concepts. This reading list is divided into four parts: Introduction to Disability Justice, Ableism, Intersectionality, and How to Be an Ally. This goes through the history and basics of disability justice, some major themes that are vital to understand when encountering this topic, and some steps that people can take to be an ally for disabled people.

What is disability justice?

“Disability justice is an intersectional movement that centers the lives and leaderships of Black, brown, queer, and trans disabled people, and that changes what both our visions for the future are and what we understand is disability issues.” Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha ([source](#))



Introduction to Disability Justice



- **Is It Okay To Say Disabled? What Is Ableism? What is Disability? Featuring Keah Brown (video)**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OR7o4NFcfZI>
- **10 Principles of Disability Justice (article)**
 - <https://www.sinsinvalid.org/blog/10-principles-of-disability-justice>
- **Disability History: The Disability Rights Movement (article)**
 - <https://www.nps.gov/articles/disabilityhistoryrightsmovement.htm>
- **Our fight for disability rights -- and why we're not done yet (video)**
 - https://www.ted.com/talks/judith_heumann_our_fight_for_disability_rights_and_why_we_re_not_done_yet?language=en
- **Beyond Disability Rights; Disability Justice: Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha (video)**
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_sw6Hjtfg8
- **Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution (Netflix film)**
 - <https://www.netflix.com/title/81001496>
- **Disability Justice Self-Study Guide (article + video)**
 - <https://students.wustl.edu/disability-justice-self-study-guide/>

Ableism



- **Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-first Century, edited by Alice Wong (book, \$11.99)**
 - https://www.amazon.com/Disability-Visibility-First-Person-Stories-Twenty-First/dp/1984899422?source=ps-sl-shoppingads-lpcontext&ref_=fp_lfs&psc=1&smid=ATVPDKIKX0DER
- **Oops, you did an ableism! (video)**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyGeX8gqx58>
- **Demystifying Disability by Emily Ladau (book, \$14.88)**
 - <https://bookshop.org/p/books/demystifying-disability-what-to-know-what-to-say-and-how-to-be-an-ally-emily-ladau/15364182?ean=9781984858979>
- **We Can't Breathe: The Deaf & Disabled Margin of Police Brutality Toolkit**
 - <https://www.ncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/11-18-16-We-Cant-Breathe-Toolkit1.pdf>
- **Police Violence Is a Disability Justice Issue (article)**
 - <https://www.bostonreview.net/articles/police-violence-is-a-disability-justice-issue/?src=longreads>
- **Let's Talk about Ableism (video)**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXtVaFJPKM4>

Intersectionality



- **Intersectionality & disability, ft Keri Gray (video)**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2XN0CQazr0&t=1s&pp=ygUJa2VyaSBncmF5>
- **What It's Like Being Disabled And Asian In America (article)**
 - https://www.huffpost.com/entry/disability-asian-americans-immigrants-stigma_n_5cd1c2c7e4b0548b7360bf26
- **Disability Solidarity: Completing The 'Vision For Black Lives' (article)**
 - https://www.huffpost.com/entry/disability-solidarity-completing-the-vision-for-black_b_57d024f7e4b0eb9a57b6dc1f
- **Sex and Disability (book, \$30.95)**
 - https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/sex-and-disability-robert-mcruer/1126351592;jsessionid=C9362B0D6DA52617E966F58120C185C1.prodny_store02-atgap13?ean=9780822351542
- **Identity beyond Disability (article)**
 - <https://medium.com/dna-s-blog/identity-beyond-disability-3d59d19b1dad>
- **Intersectionality Between Race and Disability | INCLUDE (video)**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rq-kiiTadnA>
- **Classism and Disability (article + videos)**
 - <https://www.christinairene.com/wp/archives/1311>

How To Be An Ally



- **Disability Sensitivity Training (video)**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gv1aDEFIXq8>
- **8 Ways To Be An Ally To The Disability Community (article)**
 - <https://www.buzzfeed.com/maayanziv/how-to-support-the-disability-community>
- **Amplifying Their Voice by Lowering Ours: What it Means to be a Disability Ally (article)**
 - <https://www.naccho.org/blog/articles/amplifying-their-voice-by-lowering-ours-what-it-means-to-be-a-disability-ally>
- **5 Tips For Being An Ally (video)**
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_dg86g-QIM0&t=10s
- **There Is No Justice That Neglects Disability(article)**
 - [#](https://ssir.org/articles/entry/there_is_no_justice_that_neglects_disability)
- **5 Simple Ways To Support Disability Activism (article)**
 - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewpulrang/2021/05/15/5-simple-ways-to-support-disability-activism/?sh=5833b88f678e>

GLOSSARY

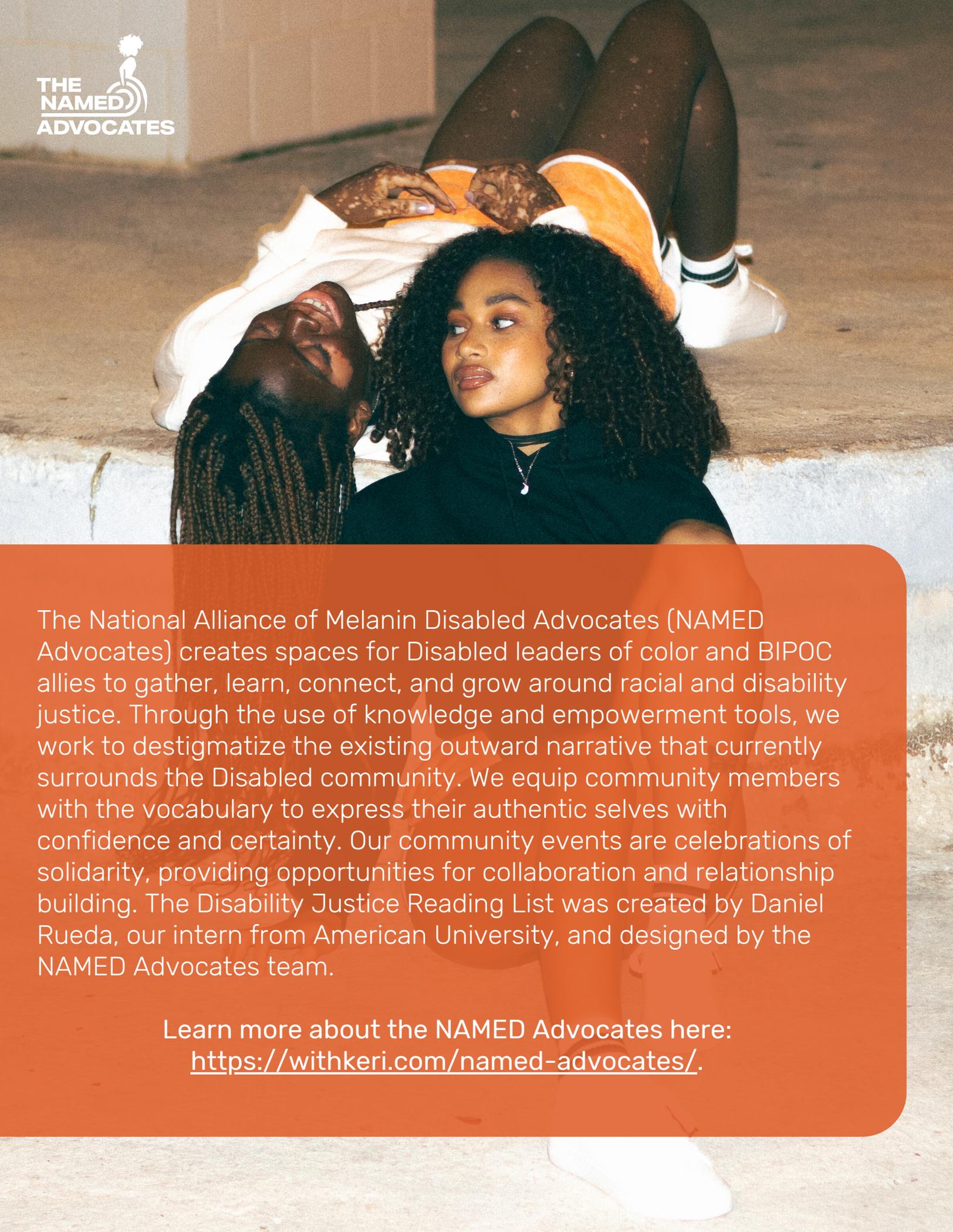
- **Access intimacy:** is that elusive, hard-to-describe feeling when someone else 'gets' your access needs. ([Source](#))
- **Ableism:** A series of ideologies, systems, institutions and economic and sociocultural practices whose oppressive nature is based on the arbitrary belief that disabled bodies are essentially inferior to those considered to be "normal" ([Source](#))
- **Bias:** the favorable or unfavorable attitudes, or beliefs about a group that informs how we perceive, interact and behave toward the group that is automatically activated. Bias, directly and indirectly, develops over time through your everyday experiences. ([Source](#))
- **Coalition building:** is a temporary alliance or partnering of groups to achieve a common purpose or to engage in joint activity. Forming coalitions with other groups of similar values, interests, and goals allows members to combine their resources and become more powerful than when they acted alone. ([Source](#))
- **Collective access:** is access that we intentionally create collectively instead of individually. Most of the time, access is placed on the individual who needs it. It is up to you to figure out your own access, or sometimes, up to you and your caregiver, personal attendant (PA), or random friend. Access is rarely weaved into a collective commitment and way of being; it is isolated and relegated to an afterthought (much like disabled people) ([Source](#)).
- **Conscious bias:** biased attitudes about a group we are aware of; can be (in)visible; can be accessed ([Source](#)).
- **Cultural humility:** an approach that cultivates self-awareness and self-reflection, bringing a respectful willingness to learn. It emphasizes intersectionality and understanding one's own implicit biases. When people cultivate cultural humility, they enter their conversations with others in an open, curious manner. And they understand that this curiosity towards people, perceptions, and culture is an ongoing learning experience ([Source](#)).
- **Culture:** is a way of life of a group of people--the behaviors, beliefs, values, and symbols that they accept, generally without thinking about them, and that are passed along by communication and imitation from one generation to the next ([Source](#)).

GLOSSARY

- **Disability bias:** favorable or unfavorable attitudes or beliefs about people with disabilities.
- **Disability disclosure:** is when someone with a disability goes to their manager, HR, or someone at the company and says 'I have X' or 'I have a disability and need an accommodation.' The terms disclosure and self-identification are often used interchangeably ([Source](#)).
- **Disability etiquette:** According to the concept and practice of self-determination, disabled persons have the same right as their non-disabled peers to act as autonomous agents and make decisions for themselves regarding every aspect of their lives. On the basis of this principle, various groups of disabled activists have established different, and at times contradictory, preferences on the use of language regarding disability as well as the tone, content and nuances of their interactions with non-disabled persons. Although preferences vary between these groups according to their historical experience and their affiliations with different political movements focused on disability, the most important aspect of this form of linguistic and relational self-representation is that it is originated by and for disabled persons. It is important to underline that this communicational and relational principle consists of a direct investigation of the personal preferences of the interlocutor. ([Source](#))
- **Disability justice:** disability inclusion is a broad term to describe approaches to advance access and inclusion for disabled people. A disability justice approach centers the priorities and approaches of those most historically excluded groups, such as women, people of color, immigrants, and people who identify as LGBTQ+ ([Source](#)).
- **Disability solidarity:** Disability solidarity means disability communities actively working to create racial justice, and [non-disability] civil rights communities showing up for disability justice - Talila 'TL' Lewis ([Source](#)).
- **Identity:** the collective aspect of the set of characteristics by which a person is definitively recognized or known ([Source](#)).
- **Identity politics:** a tendency for people of a particular religion, race, social background, etc., to form exclusive political alliances, moving away from traditional broad-based party politics (Crenshaw, 1991).

GLOSSARY

- **Implicit bias:** when we have attitudes towards people or associate stereotypes with them without our conscious knowledge. Also known as unconscious bias ([Source](#)).
- **Intersectionality:** The complex cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination (such as racism, sexism, ableism, and classism) combine, overlap, or intersect ([Source](#)).
- **Interdependence:** the myth of independence is the idea that we can and should be able to do everything on our own . . . Interdependence moves us away from the myth of independence and towards relationships where we are all valued and have things to offer. It moves us away from knowing disability only through 'dependence,' which paints disabled bodies as being a burden to others, at the mercy of able-bodied people's benevolence ([Source](#)).
- **Minority/underrepresented groups:** a population subgroup with social, religious, ethnic, racial, or other characteristics that differ from those of the majority of the population ([Source](#)).
- **Organizational culture:** the collection of values, expectations, and practices that guide and inform the actions of all team members. Think of it as the collection of traits that make your company what it is ([Source](#)).
- **Racial bias:** refers to a preference for one race over the other.
- **Reasonable accommodation:** a modification or an adjustment to a job or the work environment that will enable a qualified applicant or employee with a disability to participate in the application process or to perform essential job functions (Americans with Disabilities Act)
- **Representation:** the action or fact of one person standing for another so as to have the rights and obligations of the person represented ([Source](#)).
- **Systems:** are a set of rules, an arrangement of things, or a group of related things that work toward a common goal ([Source](#)).
- **Workplace acceptance:** One of the best ways to promote teamwork and a cohesive professional space is to encourage employees to accept one another for their differences ([Source](#)).



The National Alliance of Melanin Disabled Advocates (NAMED Advocates) creates spaces for Disabled leaders of color and BIPOC allies to gather, learn, connect, and grow around racial and disability justice. Through the use of knowledge and empowerment tools, we work to destigmatize the existing outward narrative that currently surrounds the Disabled community. We equip community members with the vocabulary to express their authentic selves with confidence and certainty. Our community events are celebrations of solidarity, providing opportunities for collaboration and relationship building. The Disability Justice Reading List was created by Daniel Rueda, our intern from American University, and designed by the NAMED Advocates team.

Learn more about the NAMED Advocates here:
<https://withkeri.com/named-advocates/>.