

# JUNETEENTH DISCUSSION GUIDE

## What Is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth marks June 19, 1865, the day news of the Emancipation Proclamation reached enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas—over two years after it was issued.

This delay wasn't just about time—it symbolizes how freedom for Black people has always been withheld, negotiated, and unevenly distributed.

## Why Disability Justice Belongs in the Conversation

Black disabled people have always been part of the fight for liberation—but often go unseen. The same systems rooted in slavery—medical neglect, incarceration, poverty—continue to impact Black disabled lives today.

Disability Justice is a framework created by disabled people of color that demands access, dignity, interdependence, and collective care. It teaches us that no one is free until all of us are free.

"There is no Black liberation without Black disabled liberation."

— Talila A. Lewis

"We are the ones we've been waiting for."

— Patty Berne, Sins Invalid

## Reflection & Discussion Prompts

- Who gets left behind in celebrations of "freedom"?
- How does ableism show up in our communities, our movements, and our organizing?
- What would full access to liberation look like where you live, work, or gather?

