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Day 19: Disability Pride

Disability Pride is a philosophy which raises awareness that people with disabilities are/can be proud of their disability identity. Disability Pride focuses on the social model of disability; celebrating disability as a natural part of life rather than something negative or remorseful as society commonly depicts it.

July is designated as Disability Pride Month because the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed into law in the month of July. The first Disability Pride Day celebration was held in 1990 in Boston and the first Disability Pride Parade was held in 2004 in Chicago. Today, Disability Pride events are held throughout the world.

The Disability Pride flag, pictured below, was created by Ann Magill who is a woman with a disability. The black field represents mourning for those who have suffered as a result of ableism. The zigzag stripe represents how people with disabilities have to navigate barriers in creative ways. The five colors on the flag, blue, yellow, white, red and green, represent the variety of needs and experiences with the parallel stripes showing the solidarity within the disability community.



[Image description: The Disability Pride flag. A black field with a green, red, white, yellow & blue zigzag stripe running through it.]

Learn More

Read:

- Disability Pride Toolkit: <https://ncil.org/disability-pride-toolkit-and-resource-guide/>
- July is Disability Pride Month: <https://www.qicreative.com/news/disability-pride-month>
- Everything You Need to Know About Disability Pride Month in 2020 <https://therollingexplorer.com/everything-you-need-to-know-about-disability-pride-month-in-2020/>

Watch:

- Disabled Young People Answer, "What is Disability Pride?": (3:35) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpkwSQQbFEg>
- Disability Pride Parade: (4:30) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tR04y9TWW-M>
- Monday Minute: Disability Pride: (1:24) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omQKcQca_pl

Discussion:

- Does the concept of Disability Pride surprise you? Why or why not?
- Why do you think people with disabilities need Disability Pride?
- How can you support people with disabilities in gaining a greater sense of Disability Pride?

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