

The World
Transformed

Disability Oppression 101 - Participatory Workshop

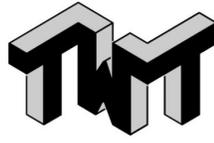
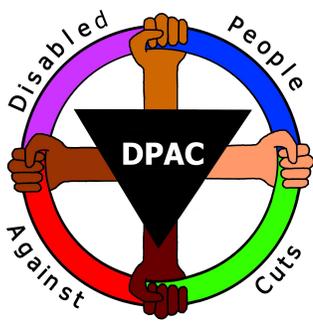
Overview:

As socialists, we believe that political education and solidarity are an important part of the route to liberation. A social model of disability - which draws a distinction between disability – which is the layer of oppression imposed on top of our impairments by society – and impairment – which are the physical and mental health conditions we live with, helps us to better understand the brutality of capitalism and also what a more caring and humane alternative to capitalism might look like. The liberation of disabled people cannot be won without the liberation of the working class - and is part of the wider struggle against all forms of oppression.

This workshop aims to provide a basic understanding of disabled peoples oppression, exploring some key concepts and ideas central to disabled activism.

Aims:

- Gain a basic understanding of the particular forms of oppression that disabled people face and the importance of this understanding in our wider struggles against oppression.
- Become familiar with preferred terminology and understand which words are offensive to disabled people
- Discuss the social model of disability and other concepts that are key to the Disabled People's movement and in the struggle against disabled people's oppression.



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Details:

Duration - around 1 hr and 45 mins

Maximum capacity - 25 people

Audience:

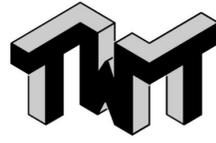
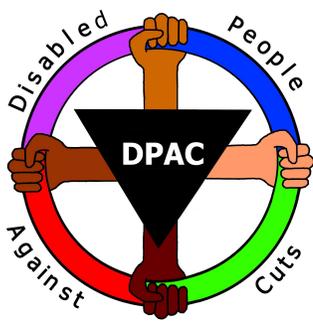
This workshop is aimed at people who:

- Want to become familiar with the basics of disabled people's oppression
- Are already familiar with the social model of disability but may not have considered it from a historical materialist perspective before

Facilitators Notes:

Before the session:

- Send an email invite to your comrades/local group about the session, along with a Zoom link / details for where the meeting will be held.
- Tell them the aims of the session and what you are hoping to discuss
- Include this video from TWT and DPAC on disability inclusion and the social model of disability as required reading - we will be using the video in the session
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnFdJmOBMks>
- Include a link to the workshop handout - ask everyone to read it ahead of the meeting <https://bit.ly/3qC7g6V>
- If you are organising your event online, have a look at our [zoom meeting guide here](#) for advice on how to make it as successful as possible



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Prep for the meeting!

- Read through the session plan beforehand and have the Youtube video ready to play on your browser!
- If you are running the workshop online, it involves screen sharing a Youtube video and organising people into break out groups. You will need a good internet connection to do this. If you think you will need it, ask someone else to do the tech for the call. [Here is an explainer video](#) on how to share your screen!

Accessibility:

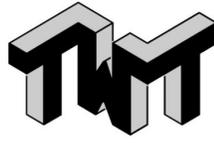
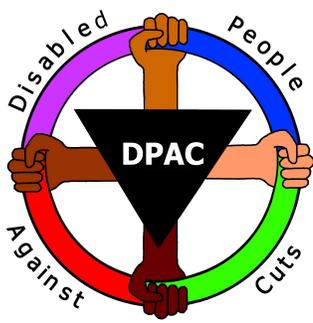
A key approach to discussing and championing disability struggles is “nothing about us, without us”. While all forms of political education should be accessible, it's especially important to ensure everyone is able to participate fully in this discussion.

If organising an event in person:

Making your event accessible means removing all social, behavioural, organisational and environmental barriers are removed so that Deaf and Disabled people can participate fully. You can find a full checklist of things to consider when organising an event on page 22 of our [events guide here](#).

If organising an event online:

The main access requirement for online events is provision of British Sign Language (BSL) and/or live captioning. There is a cost implication for both. It is best practice to provide these for all public online events (and if you are



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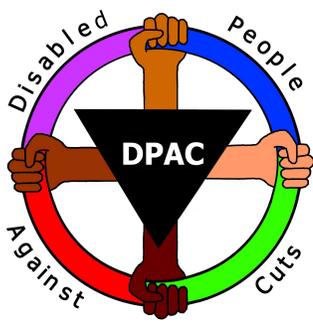
able to pay for this remember to include it in publicity). The National Union of British Sign Language Interpreters has produced an [interpreter awareness guide](#). For events where registration is required you can ask participants to alert you to any access needs they have.

Remember if you are providing BSL that screen sharing in Zoom to show videos or slides will block out the interpreter. In such a situation it may be preferable to use another platform or with a video to arrange for it to be translated into BSL and sub-titled in advance of the meeting.

At present the most accurate way to provide live captioning is to pay for a live note-taker ("palantypist"). If you don't have funds available, you can use Otter.ai which has a free option for live transcriptions which integrates nicely with zoom, but be aware it's not perfect. Please also be aware that this may not be a suitable option for Deaf BSL users for whom English is only a second language.

To use Otter, set it up on your phone, and place it next to your computer's speakers so it can clearly hear the discussion happening. Share the Otter link in the chat so people can access it and make sure someone is keeping an eye on it in case it starts to mix words up!

When running online events it is also important to remember that people have a whole range of access needs. As just a few examples of this: for people living with mental distress they may be able to join a meeting but only with camera off or by contributing to the meeting via the Chat function rather than speaking; people with energy limiting chronic illness may join the meeting from a lying down position; people with learning difficulties may not be able to read written messages or participate in the Chat. You

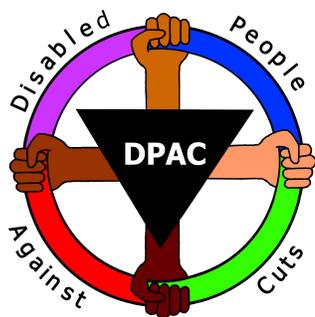


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cannot anticipate every access need. The key thing is to make the space feel safe so that people are not afraid to disclose their personal access needs and to reassure participants that it is OK to take part in whatever way they can.

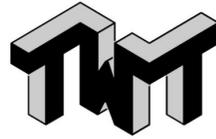
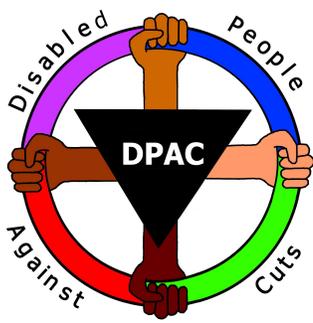
Agenda:

Time	Activity	Notes / Materials
10 mins	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome everyone to the session - Say today we are going to be discussing what actually is disability, what sorts of barriers to inclusion exist and how a social model of disability can help us imagine a fairer, more caring society. - Share the handout for everyone to read in their own time - Introduce ground rules <p><i>Run through agenda:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) We will break out into groups to discuss what is disability, then feedback as a whole group 2) We will break out into groups to discuss barriers to inclusion, then feedback as a whole group 3) We will break out into groups to discuss the social model of disability, then feedback as a whole group 4) Final discussion and thoughts from the facilitator - make sure to tell people it should take roughly 1 hr and 45 mins! 	<p>Handout: While you are introducing the session, give everyone the handout https://bit.ly/3qC7g6V</p>



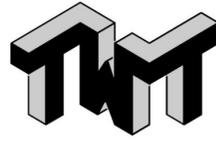
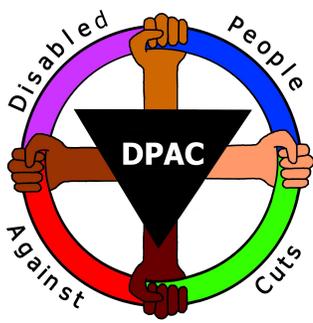
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	<p>Activity - icebreaker:</p> <p>Before you begin, ask everyone to take turns introducing themselves and why they are interested in the topic. Encourage participants to be brief - If there are a lot of people, or you are running out of time, just ask a couple of people to get an idea of people's motivations.</p>	
<p>20 mins</p>	<p>Breakout Group Discussion 1 - What is disability?</p> <p>In groups of no more than 5 ask participants to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) How they would describe disability, what sorts of things come to mind - images and words - when you think of disability? b) What surprised you in the do's and don'ts section? How is that related to the way disability politics is often hidden? c) What things come to mind - images and words – when they think of disability? (NB many terms of insult in common use compare the recipient to a disabled person. It is important to recognise this and discuss why it is still considered widely acceptable to do this but before using any such words participants should give a trigger warning) <p>Give the groups upto 15 minutes (check in with them periodically, if discussions are wrapping up you can come back together sooner!)</p>	<p>Hand out - Ask everyone to refer to the do's and don'ts section of the handout.</p>



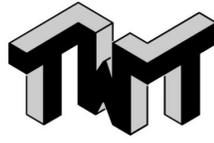
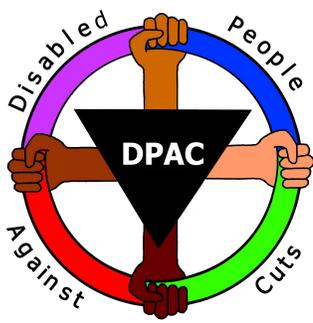
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	<p>Ask one person from each group to feedback their discussions, then if you have time, ask if anyone else wants to add anything to what has already been said, but don't allow the conversation to go too off track!</p>	
<p>15 mins</p>	<p>Watching the video</p> <p>Introduce and play this video from DPAC and TWT for the full 15 minutes</p> <p>If you are running your meeting online we recommend using synctube, which allows you to watch youtube videos all together without having to share your screen or play the video through zoom. This can help you to get around some of the technical issues with watching videos on zoom.</p>	<p>Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnFdJmOBMks</p>
<p>30 mins</p>	<p>Breakout Group Discussion 2 – Barriers to inclusion</p> <p>In groups of no more than 5 ask participants to think of examples of the kinds of barriers disabled people face in daily life under the following three headings:</p> <p>Environmental (e.g. stairs) Attitudinal (e.g. pity; benefit scrounger narrative; hatred towards people with facial or bodily differences) Systemic (e.g.abuse within institutional settings)</p> <p>Then discuss:</p>	



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	<p>How can we remove/overcome these barriers?</p> <p>Give the groups upto 20 minutes (check in with them periodically, if discussions are wrapping up you can come back together sooner!) Ask groups to write down / take notes of their discussion.</p> <p>Ask one person from each group to feedback their discussions, then if you have time, ask if anyone else wants to add anything to what has already been said, but don't allow the conversation to go too off track!</p>	
10 mins	<p>Break Give everyone 10 mins to have a quick break.</p> <p>If you are running the event online, encourage people to step back from their computer screens to help avoid people feeling tired from too much screen time!</p>	
25 mins	<p>Breakout Group Discussion 3 – Another World is Possible</p> <p>Facilitator to read out the <i>Another World is Possible</i> section of the handout https://bit.ly/3qC7g6V</p>	

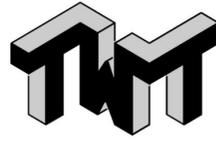
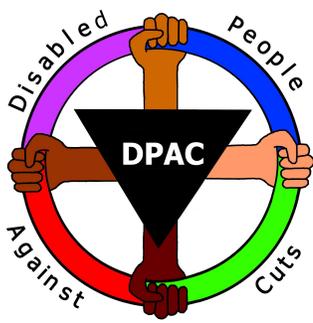


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	<p>In groups of no more than 5 ask participants to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What does disability teach us about capitalism? b) What existing socio-economic structures will change when we start to imagine a society where disabled people are fully included and equally valued? <p>Give the groups upto 20 minutes (check in with them periodically, if discussions are wrapping up you can come back together sooner!)</p> <p>Ask one person from each group to feedback their discussions, then if you have time, ask if anyone else wants to add anything to what has already been said, but don't allow the conversation to go too off track!</p>	
10 mins	<p>Where to go for further information and closing thoughts</p> <p>Wrap up the event, thanking everyone for attending.</p> <p>Refer them to the reading list below if they are interested in exploring more of the ideas discussed at this event.</p>	

Further Reading

Books / Articles



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Baynton, Douglas. (2013). Disability and the justification of inequality in American history. [online].

Available at:

<https://courses.washington.edu/intro2ds/Readings/Baynton.pdf>

Clifford, Ellen (2020). The War on Disabled People: capitalism, welfare and the making of a human catastrophe.

Davis, John (2005). Helen Keller: Rebel Lives.

Graby, S. (2016). Unworkable Conditions: work, benefits and disabled people's resistance to capitalism.

Available at: www.academia.edu/28495623

Jolly, Debbie (2012). A Tale of Two Models: disabled people vs. Unum, Atos, government and disability charities. [online].

Available at:

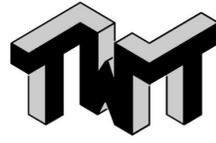
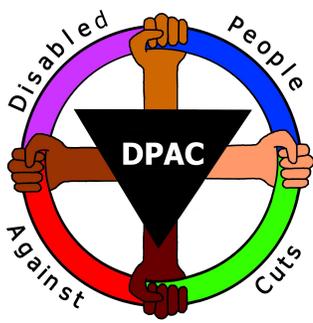
<https://dpac.uk.net/2012/04/a-tale-of-two-models-disabled-people-vs-unum-atos-government-and-disability-charities-debbie-jolly/>

Oliver, Mike and Barnes, Colin (2012). The New Politics of Disablement.

Shaw, Dawn (2016). Please Don't Describe My Face as 'Disfigured' or 'Deformed'. [online]. Available at:

<https://themighty.com/2016/06/how-to-describe-facial-differences-without-words-like-disfigured/>

Rosenthal, Keith, (2020). Capitalism and Disability: Selected Writings by Marta Russell.



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Silbersmith, S. (2015). NeuroTribes: The Legacy of Autism and How to Think Smarter About People Who Think Differently.

Slorach, Roddy (2016). A Very Capitalist Condition: a history and politics of disability.

Videos

Colin Barnes (2013). Interview with Colin Barnes: What are the origins of the social model of disability and why is it so important to equal rights campaigners? [online].

Available at:

<https://dpac.uk.net/2013/12/interview-with-colin-barnes-what-are-the-origins-of-the-social-model-of-disability-and-why-is-it-so-important-to-equal-rights-campaigners/>

Disabled People Against Cuts (2020). Reinvigorating the social model of disability.

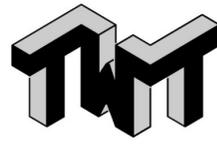
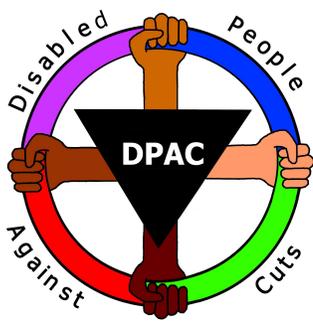
Part one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BCiTSZ3tDA>

Part two: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUWz7KAX6Oc>

Trey the Explainer (2018). Disabilities in Prehistory. [online]. Available at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7J_oybRfuc

Podcasts



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TWT – Unemployment

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/twt-fm/id1530087533>

TWT – Illness

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/twt-fm/id1530087533>