

Principles of Disability Justice

As coined by Patty Berne and members of SinsInvalid.

1. INTERSECTIONALITY

“We do not live single issue lives” –Audre Lorde.
Ableism, coupled with white supremacy, supported by capitalism, underscored by heteropatriarchy, has rendered the vast majority of the world “invalid.”

3. ANTI-CAPITALIST POLITIC

In an economy that sees land and humans as components of profit, we are anti-capitalist by the nature of having non-conforming body/minds.

5. RECOGNIZING WHOLENESS

People have inherent worth outside of commodity relations and capitalist notions of productivity. Each person is full of history and life experience.

7. COMMITMENT TO CROSS-DISABILITY SOLIDARITY

We honor the insights and participation of all of our community members, knowing that isolation undermines collective liberation.

9. COLLECTIVE ACCESS

As brown, black and queer-bodied disabled people we bring flexibility and creative nuance that go beyond able-bodied/minded normativity, to be in community with each other.

2. LEADERSHIP OF THOSE MOST IMPACTED

“We are led by those who most know these systems.” –Aurora Levins Morales

4. COMMITMENT TO CROSS-MOVEMENT ORGANIZING

Shifting how social justice movements understand disability and contextualize ableism, disability justice lends itself to politics of alliance.

6. SUSTAINABILITY

We pace ourselves, individually and collectively, to be sustained long term.
Our embodied experiences guide us toward ongoing justice and liberation.

8. INTERDEPENDENCE

We meet each others’ needs as we build toward liberation, knowing that state solutions inevitably extend into further control over lives.

10. COLLECTIVE LIBERATION

No body or mind can be left behind – only moving together can we accomplish the revolution we require.

About The Photographer's Green Book

Between 1936 and 1966, the Negro Motorist Green Book was a list of safe places for Black people during their travels throughout the segregated USA. Founded in 2020, the Photographer's Green Book, in that tradition, started as a list of resources to navigate the photographic community, which has historically denied the voices of those other than predominantly white cis male artists. Our work expands on the original Green Book's target audience to include other individuals whose voices have been under-supported or underrepresented in academic and arts institutions.

Inclusion, diversity, equity, and advocacy (IDEA) are the core principles of The Photographer's Green Book, which guide the questions we ask, resources we build, and the engagements we partake in for our community. We believe that history and the contemporary moment must also include the varying struggles and voices of those living in the 21st century. Through our expansion, PGB also engages directly with institutions needing structural and programmatic changes aligned with PGB's IDEA. We strive for a time when these resources and concepts are the norms, but until that point, we are here to advocate and give the tools necessary for navigating safely through the trenches of our cultural production.

If We Never Get Better

September 8th to December 10th, 2022

What If we never get better?

What if illness, pain, isolation, loss, etc. are not the worst-case scenario?

What if these circumstances aren't pitied, ignored, or wished away, but instead are seen as a place for study, the cultivation of new skills, and an opportunity to relate to others in a new way?

Featuring the work of Anique Jordan, Ari Golub, Clifford Prince King, Debmalya Ray Choudhuri, Frances Bukovsky, Jaklin Romine, Jenica Heintzelman, Shala Miller, and Shanna Merola, *If We Never Get Better* examines these questions by bringing together lens-based artists who focus on health/care, collective grief, disability, illness, and healing as components of their practices. Examining health and disability as intersectional experiences, and the ways in which ableism and access to healthcare are directly intertwined with systems such as racism, sexism, and homophobia, these artists help to expand preconceived notions of these topics. Highlighting principles of Disability Justice, a framework coined by a collective of Black, brown, queer, and trans activists, including Patty Berne, Mia Mingus, and Stacey Park Milbern, the works come together to facilitate a more nuanced understanding of how we are all impacted by these systems at different levels and how art can be used to challenge that reality.

If We Never Get Better corresponds with the production of *The Photographers Green Book Vol. 2*. The second iteration of this publication brings together images, interviews, and essays by a variety of contemporary artists and scholars whose work and lives are aligned with these topics to create a resource that exists as a teaching tool, a point for individual reflection, and an archive.