STILL KICKING Confronting Ageism
and Ableism in the
Pandemic's Wake

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THIS CHAIR ROCKS

### INTERSECTIONALITY:

a theory developed by Kimberlé Crenshaw and other Black feminists that describes how different forms of oppression compound and reinforce each other

#### AGEISM:

discrimination and prejudice on the basis of age

### ABLEISM:

discrimination and prejudice against people with cognitive and/or physical disabilities

Why is it important to distinguish between ageism and ableism?

Because we need to understand what we're up against.

# Everyone is ageist and everyone is ableist.

No judgment.

It's easier to learn than to unlearn, especially when it comes to values.

The critical starting point is to acknowledge our own prejudices.





**Federal law** requires these seats be made available to seniors and persons with disabilities.









### Disability and aging are not the same.

But we act as though old people don't become disabled and disabled people don't grow old.

When we ignore the overlap between ageism and ableism...

we rule out collective advocacy and reinforce dual stigma.

What are some other ways ageism and ableism affect us?

They:

- segregate us
- pit us against each other
- create barriers to employment
  - harm our health
  - shorten our lives

# Age and disability are not the problem.

The problem is discrimination.

We are not broken. We are not special. We are not lesser.

We are perfect.

Prejudice isn't about how our bodies work or what they look like.

It's about what people in power want those things to mean.

Disability is an identity, not a defect.

If you wake up in the morning, you're aging successfully.

# Disability communities cultivate joy.

No one actually wants to go back to their youth.

# There are no binaries: old/young, im/mobile,

dis/abled, in/dependent.

From birth to death, we are interdependent.

"There's no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we don't lead single-issue lives."

poet and activistAUDRE LORDE

### If we want a more equitable world,

we have to support every struggle for equal rights.

Imagine the movement-building potential!

Sixteen percent of the world's population has a disability.

Half of us are no longer young.



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