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UCC Annual School of Nursing
and Midwifery Conference 2022

Social Justice Praxis in Nursing, Midwifery and Healthcare

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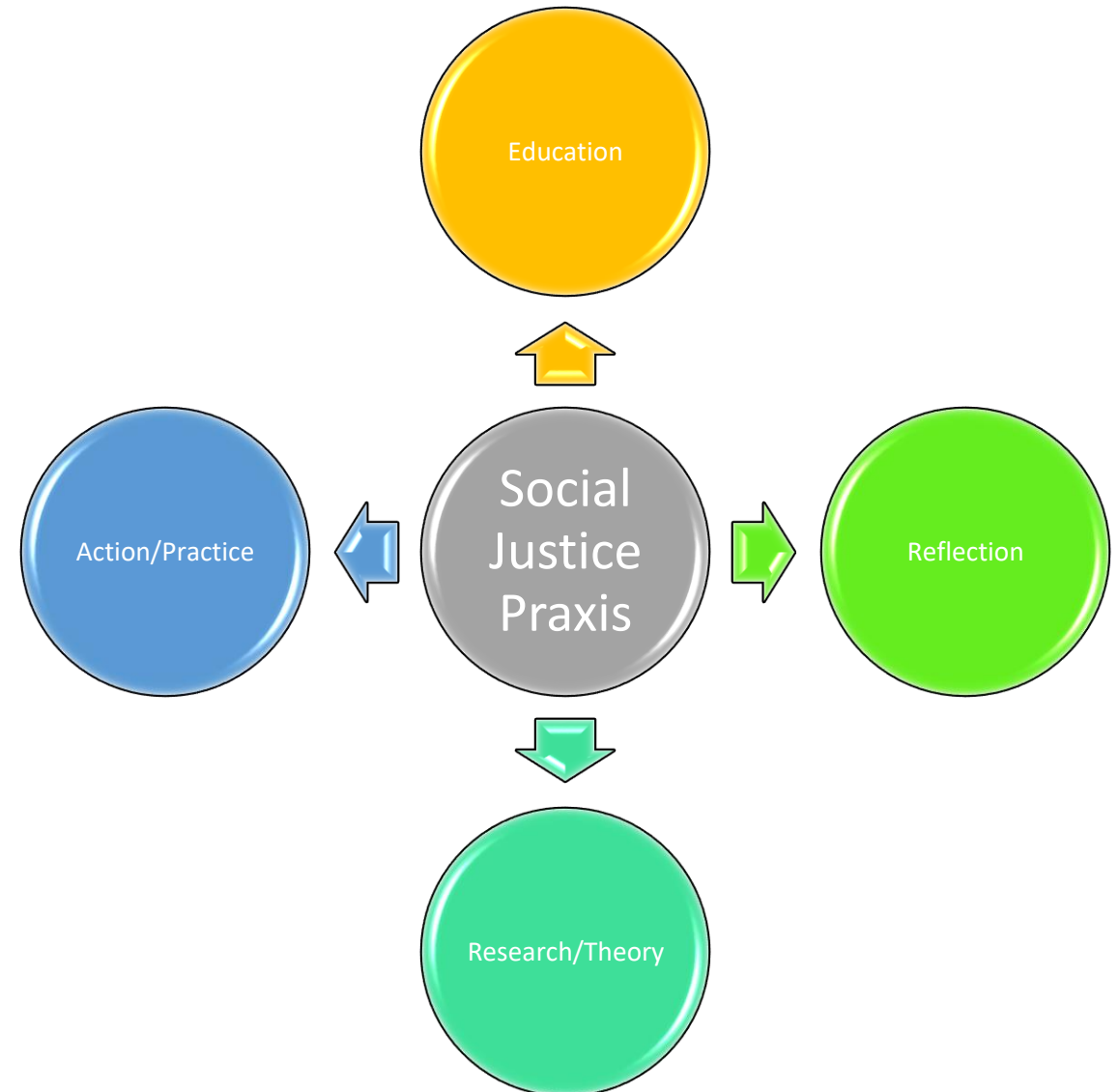
Aims of presentation

Explore Social Justice as a Praxis intersecting with Nursing, Midwifery and Healthcare

Consider the motivations for Social Justice Praxis in Healthcare domains

Reflect on our own roles as power holders and duty bearers

Commit to continued anti-oppressive practice as a healthcare practitioner/educator/researcher



Declaration

No conflicts of interest – only my own meandering thoughts!





Positionality

Born in Ballygar Co. Galway – Five siblings - Family business, pub and farm.

Registered General Nurse – experience in Critical Care, Emergency, Sexual Health, Rehab, Intellectual Disability

BSc Nursing; Grad Dip ICU Nursing; MSoc. Sc. (Human Rights and Social Policy); PhD (Canterbury)

University lecturer since 2015

Out, sometimes GNC Gay Man

Plethora of Activist; Advocacy and Community/Youth Work based activity

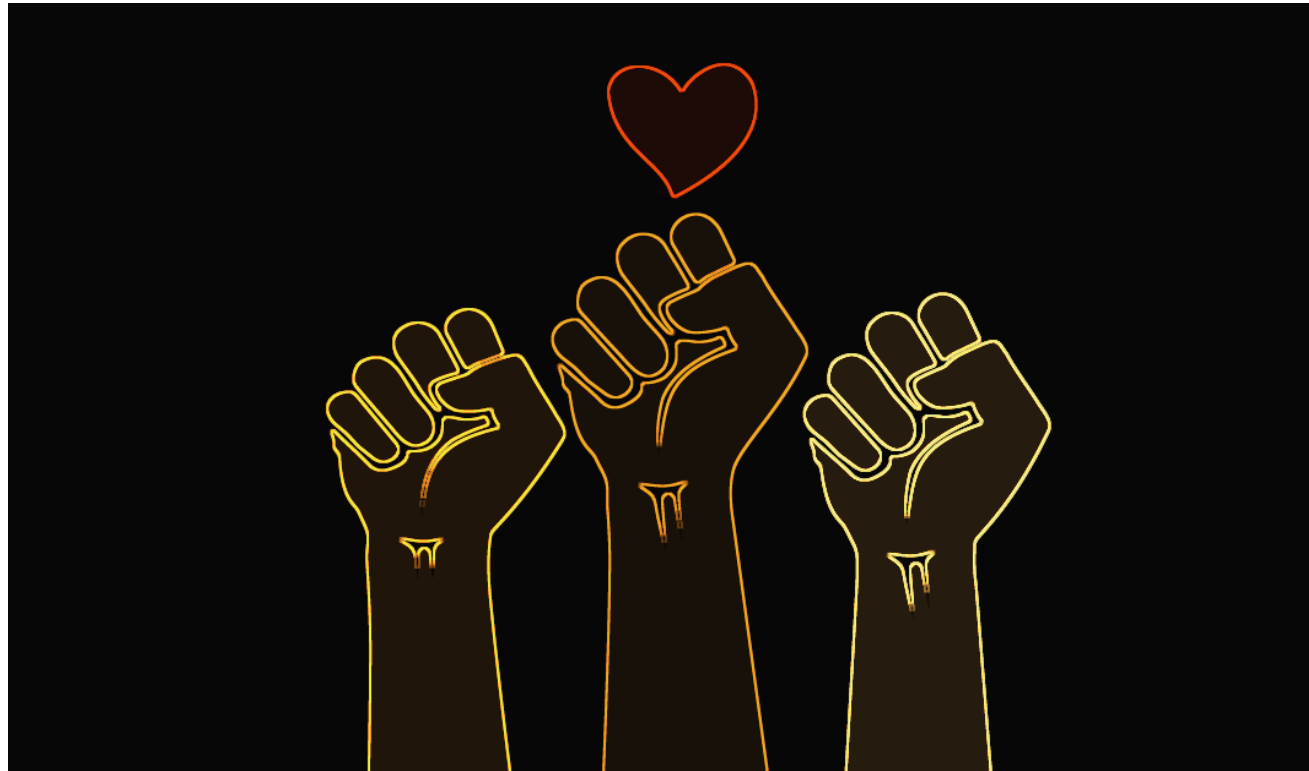


Principles of Engagement

- A space for learning and unlearning
- Practice cultural humility – don't refute lived experiences
- Presume good intent
- Action with integrity
- Discomfort is a learning opportunity – this shouldn't compromise safety

Defining Social Justice

Buettner-Schmidt & Lobo (2012)



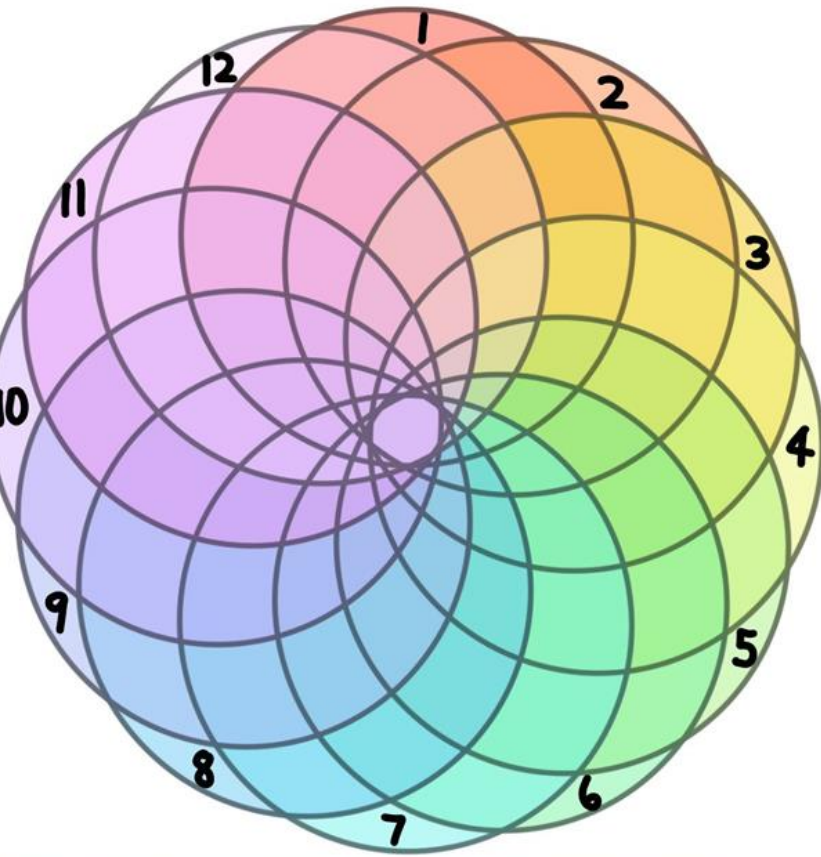
- Fairness
- Equity in the distribution of power, resources, and processes that affect the sufficiency of the social determinants of health
- Just institutions, systems, structures, policies, and processes
- Equity in human development, rights, and sustainability
- Sufficiency of well-being.

Rationalising

- More than 79.5 million displaced people across the world
- Widening poverty gap
- Ongoing gender inequalities
- Black Lives Matter
- Decolonising Education, Practice, Wealth
- Increased awareness but also 'debate' around issues for sexual and gender diversity
- Vari-ability awareness and visibility and Disability
- 'Culture Wars'



INTERSECTIONALITY



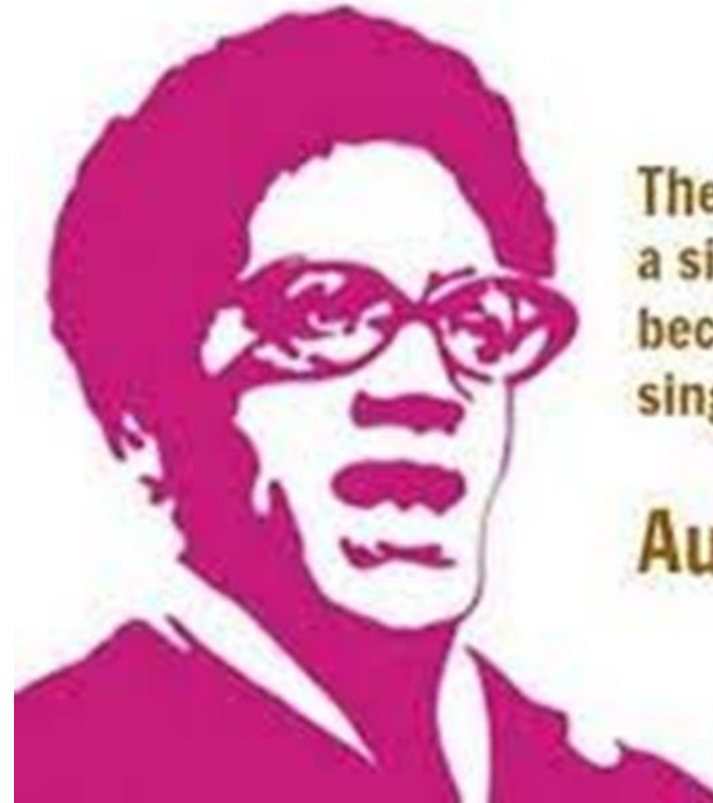
- 1 Race
 - 2 Ethnicity
 - 3 Gender identity
 - 4 Class
 - 5 Language
 - 6 Religion
 - 7 Ability
 - 8 Sexuality
 - 9 Mental health
 - 10 Age
 - 11 Education
 - 12 Body size
- (...and many more...)

Intersectionality is a lens through which you can see where power comes and collides, where it locks and intersects. It is the acknowledgement that everyone has their own unique experiences of discrimination and privilege.

- Kimberlé Crenshaw -

@sylviaaduckworth

Reflection



There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.

Audre Lorde

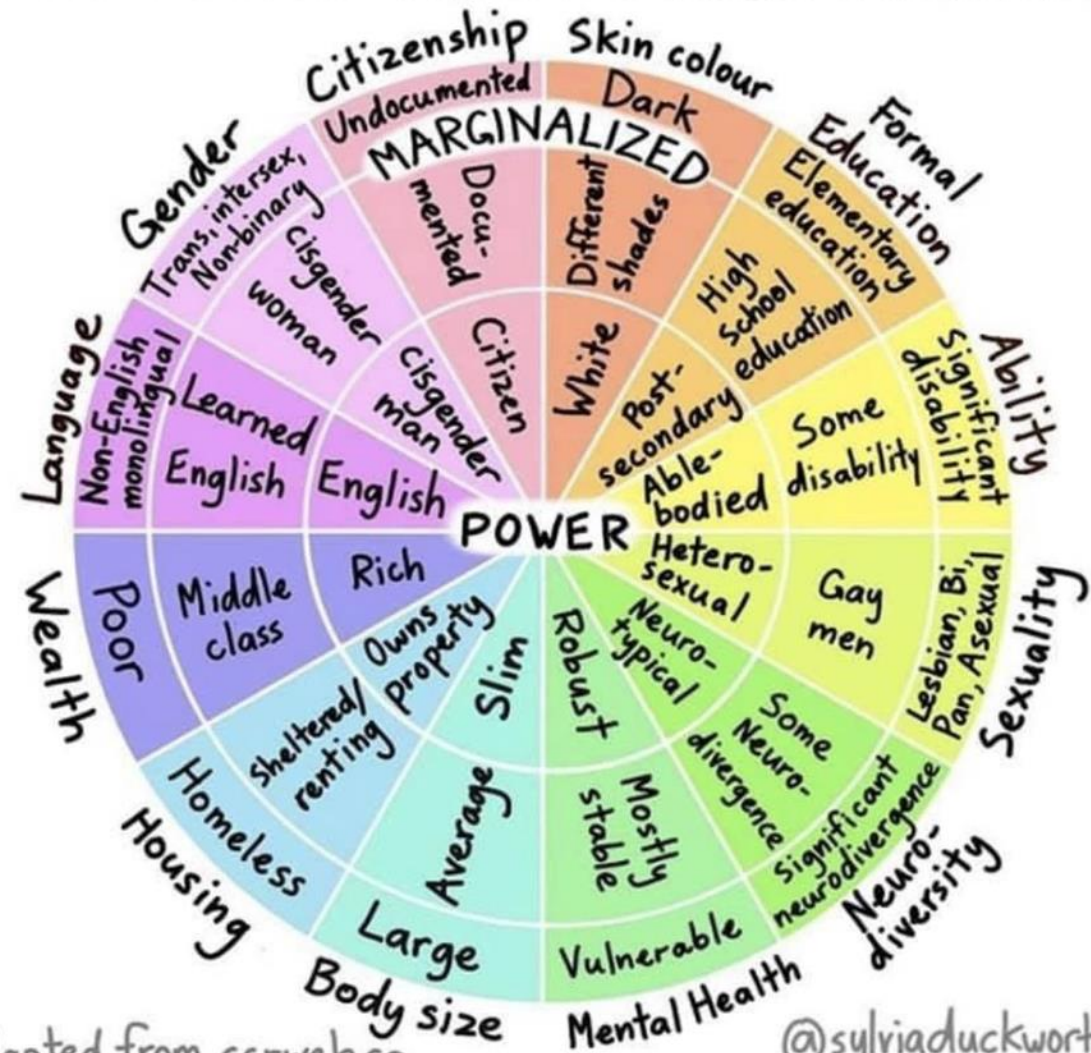
Reflection

Role of Nurse/Midwife/Healthcare Professional as Power Holders and Duty Bearers

Recognising the marginalisation and minoritisation which occur because of social exclusion and inequality

Recognising Power as a mediator for health-seeking behaviour and experiences

WHEEL OF POWER/PRIVILEGE



Adapted from ccrweb.ca

@sylviaduckworth

Research

Recognising the role of marginalised and minoritised groups as experts in their own reality

True participation is not only proof reading and check-listing

Public and Patient Involvement as Design Justice (Constanza-Chock, 2020)

Journal of Advanced Nursing / Early View

EDITORIAL |  Free Access

***‘Nothing about us without us’:* embedding participation in peer review processes**

Debra Jackson , Calvin Moorley

First published: 28 November 2021

<https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.15122>



Research

*If you're not counted,
you don't count?*

SOME LGBT+ Health Inequalities

Singer et al. 2020;

Blondeel et al . 2016;

Rosser et al. 2019

Meades and Moore 2013



Research –

Power in focus

People Living with HIV, on effective treatment **CANNOT PASS ON THE VIRUS**

While focus on HIV prevention almost is entirely centred on people who do not have HIV; person-centred and engaged care with those living with HIV, is itself a public health and infection prevention and control strategy

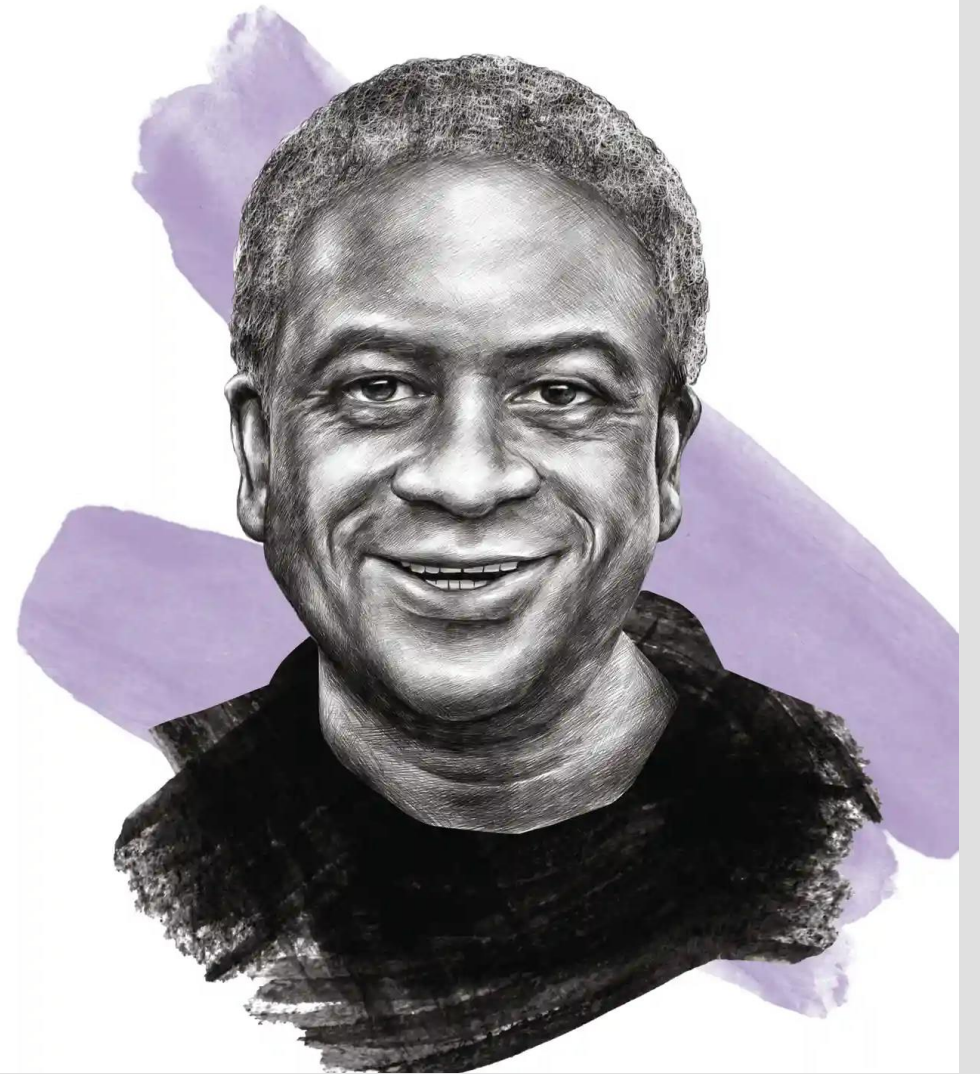
(Gilmore, 2022)

Olufemi Akinnola

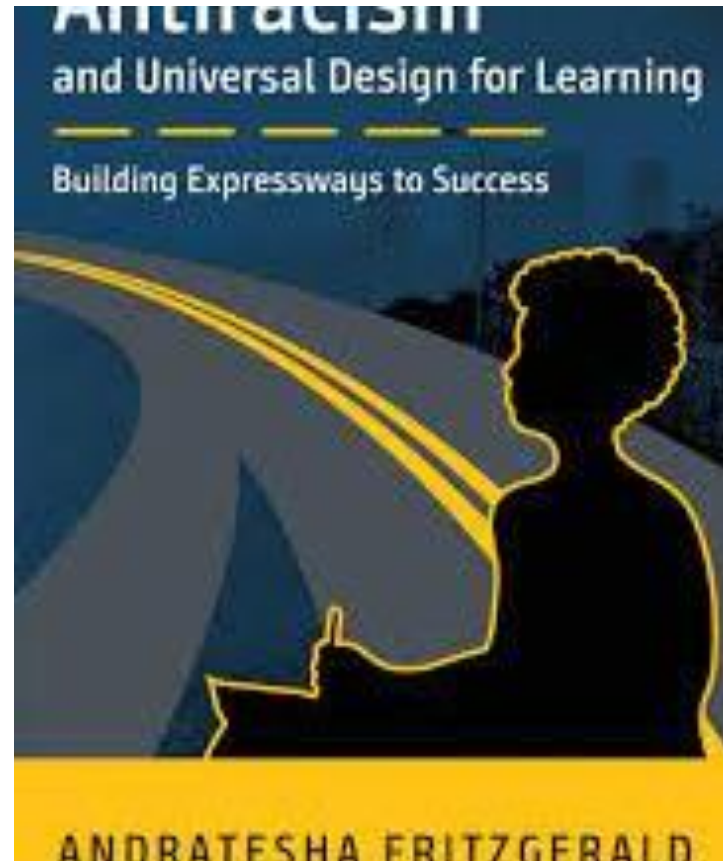
1961-2021

Education

*Blue Lips
and
Pale Skin*



Education



“Tell our Black, Brown, Disabled, Traveller, Trans students – through our practice and through our action that they are more important than

- The Systems*
- Our personal preferences*
- How content happens to be packaged*

Honour our learners and their learning experiences”

Fritzgerald (2020)

Action

Paradigm Shifts

- From Equality and Diversity to Social Justice and Anti-Oppressive Practice
- Changing from 'meeting needs' to also exploring 'whose needs aren't being met'



Action

The role of healthcare provider

- Community-based;
Community-engaged;
Community-led?



**SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES
ARE ESSENTIAL
HEALTH SERVICES**

**ACT UP
DUBLIN**

ACT UP Dublin demands the full opening and increased funding of all sexual health services to meet the needs of EVERYONE in Ireland.

ACT UP Dublin is a diverse, non-partisan group of individuals united in anger and committed to direct action to end the HIV crisis.

Our meetings are open to all. If you're interested in getting in involved please email act.up.dublin@gmail.com

Action

Allyship

- Allyship is an active practice that requires action.
- Allyship requires an understanding and self-awareness around power and privilege.
- Allyship's purpose is to achieve equity and inclusion.
- Allyship requires us to hold ourselves accountable to advancing marginalized people's needs.





“Solidarity does not assume that our struggles are the same struggles, or that our pain is the same pain, or that our hope is for the same future. Solidarity involves commitment, and work, as well as the recognition that even if we do not have the same feelings, or the same lives, or the same bodies, we do live on common ground.”

Sara Ahmed – Feminist Killjoy



Action

Risks of Social Justice Praxis

- Involves Sacrifice; such as your comfort, reputation, energy, time, and more.
- It is inconvenient.
- You have to constantly attack the systems which often benefit you.
- Making mistakes.
- Physical risks.

Being an ally is a choice.

This is a privilege itself!

“We become increasingly aware of the importance of not just what we say, and how we say it, but what is heard – it is then that our words have power”

Professor Laura Serrant





Thank you

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 @GilmoreJNurse

Shameless Plug

Research project exploring
community preferences for
Community-Led LGBT Healthcare in
Ireland

Online Asynchronous focus groups
in Summer 2022

Funded by UCD



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