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[Live Captioner Standing by]

>>>: Mine is not spot lit it says ASL.

>>>: You are not spot lit yet.

>>>: I will do it myself and see. So I think this should work this way. Please Standby for the webinar to begin.

>>>: Okay. Deb, I don't see, the link. (popped the StreamText link in the chat).

>>>: Unitarian Universalist Association.

>>>: I want to say because I know we are both spot lit the whole time, since we have control, we'll spotlight each other, that way, you will see that I am the only one that's on we're happy to do that.

>>>: That would be great.

>>>: Yeah. Please Standby.

>>>: I was going to do replace but now that you have explained that to me

>>>: I can do spotlight or hide self-view.

>>>: Spotlight for everyone.

>>>: Okay. Waiting for the webinar to start.

>>>: This is just for yourself?

>>>: Yeah.

>>>: And spotlight is everyone.

>>>: We have both ASL interpreters and Deb the captioner along with all the folks that were on earlier.

>>>: Do you need me to adjust my camera at all, do you see me?

>>>: You are nicely centered. Maybe a little bit at this particular time up a little bit, when you sit up straight it hits the top of your head. So, if you--there you go.

>>>: Better?

>>>: Sit up straight. Let me see. Okay. Uplift access.

>>>: I have to try to remember to have the posture.

>>>: That will catch you even if you are slumping.

>>>: Oh, good.

>>>: You will be more centered when you were sitting up straight it would cut off the top of your head.

>>>: We like the top of your head, this is Amanda.

>>>: It comes in handy.

>>>: Yes.

>>>: All right. Are we ready to start? We have one person in the waiting room, but we know that people watch afterwards. So, are we ready to go?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: Yes.

>>>: I think so. I'm good.

>>>: Turned on do not disturb on my phone, so we're good.

>>>: Okay.

You Gotta Be by Des'ree

>>>: Okay.

(song)

You Gotta Be by Des'ree

Listen as your day unfolds

Challenge what the future holds

Try and keep your head up to the sky

Lovers, they may cause you tears

Go ahead, release your fears

Stand up and be counted

Don't be ashamed to cry

You gotta be

You gotta be bad, you gotta be bold, you gotta
be wiser

You gotta be hard, you gotta be tough, you
gotta be stronger

You gotta be cool, you gotta be calm, you gotta
stay together

All I know, all I know, love will save the day

Herald what your mother said

Read the books your father read

Try to solve the puzzles in your own sweet time

Some may have more cash than you

Others take a different view

My oh my, eh, eh, eh

You gotta be bad, you gotta be bold, you gotta
be wiser

You gotta be hard, you gotta be tough, you
gotta be stronger

You gotta be cool, you gotta be calm, you gotta
stay together

All I know, all I know, love will save the day
Time asks no questions, it goes on without you
Leaving you behind if you can't stand the pace
The world keeps on spinning
Can't stop it if you tried to

The best part is danger staring you in the
face, oh

Remember, listen as your day unfolds

Challenge what the future holds

Try and keep your head up to the sky

Lovers, they may cause you tears

Go ahead release your fears

My oh my, eh, eh, eh

You gotta be bad, you gotta be bold, you gotta
be wiser

You gotta be hard, you gotta be tough, you
gotta be stronger

You gotta be cool, you gotta be calm, you gotta
stay together

All I know, all I know, love will save the day

Yeah, yeah, yeah

You gotta be bad, you gotta be bold, you gotta
be wiser

You gotta be hard, you gotta be tough, you
gotta be stronger

You gotta be cool, you gotta be calm, you gotta
stay together

All I know, all I know, love will save the day

Yeahyeah

Got to be bold

Got to be bad

Got to be wise

Do what others say

Got to be hard

Not too too hard

All I know is love will save the day

You gotta be bad, you gotta be bold, you gotta
be wiser

You gotta be hard, you gotta be tough, you
gotta be stronger

You gotta be cool, you gotta be calm, you gotta
stay together

Hi and welcome!

I'm Gretchen Maune, she/they,
and I'm the UUA's Accessibility Resources
Coordinator,

Zooming in from Columbia, Missouri.

I'm a white, eldermillennial, with short,
bluestreaked brown hair, and I'm wearing....

>>>: Black blazer over a burgundy top.

To increase accessibility, we have employed
both CART and ASL,

and we will be describing visual elements. If you have any access needs please direct
them to Wendy Weirick,

And the recording and transcript will be
emailed out in the coming days.

A final note,

please know that it is always OK
to turn off your camera and/or

leave the meeting space at any time.

It's also OK to show up however you are able:

this includes lying down, moving around,
and more.

However you show up,
whoever you are, you are beloved and welcome
here!

Our opening words this morning are We Hold Hope

Close By: Julián Jamaica Soto

In this community, we hold hope close.

We don't always know what comes next, but that cannot
dissuade us.

We don't always know just what to do, but that
will not mean that we are lost in the wilderness. We rely on
the certainty beneath, the foundation of our values and
ethics.

We are the people who return to love like a
North Star and to
the truth that we are greater together than we
are alone.

Our hope does not live in some glimmer of an

indistinct future.

Rather, we know the way to the world of which

we dream,

and by covenant and the movement forward of one

right action

and the next, we know that one day we will

arrive at home.

Our chalice is lit. We will now go to do the opening song, which is the fire of commitment.

Close up image of a flame, offset on a black

background with the Song Title and the

composer's name superimposed over the flame.

“The Fire of Commitment,” Jason Shelton and

Mary Katherine Morn

#1028 in singing the Living Tradition. Enjoy.

[MUSIC].

From the light of days remembered burns a

beacon bright and clear

Guiding hands and hearts and spirits Into faith

set free from fear.

When the fire of commitment sets our mind and

soul a blaze

When our hunger and our passion meet to call us
on our way

When we live with deep assurance of the flame
that burns within,

Then our promise finds fulfillment and our
future can begin.

[MUSIC]

From the stories of our living rings a song
both brave and free,

Calling pilgrims still to witness to the life
of liberty.

When we live with deep assurance of the flame
that burns within,

Then our promise finds fulfillment and our
future can begin.

From the dreams of youthful vision comes a new,
prophetic voice,

Which demands a deeper justice built by our
courageous choice

When the fire of commitment sets our mind and

soul a blaze

When our hunger and our passion meet to call us
on our way

When we live with deep assurance of the flame
that burns within,

Then our promise finds fulfillment and our
future can begin.

>>>: Good afternoon.

I'm Rev. Amanda Schubert (pronouns she/her) Or anything offered in love.

I serve as the Disability Justice Associate for

the Side With Love Organizing Strategy Team,

and as Minister of High Street UU in Macon, Georgia, middle aged white woman
with short hair and I'm wearing silver dangling earrings and wearing a smile on my
face. It is so good to be with you this morning.

I am happy to welcome you to our

October Uplift Access Resource Webinar!

These monthly lunchtime learning sessions
provide lay leaders and religious professionals
an opportunity to learn about an array of
topics regarding accessibility, inclusion, and
disability justice, and how

to apply the information to their work within
Unitarian Universalism.

As Unitarian Universalists,
we affirm the inherent worth and dignity of all
people, but we don't always know what that
looks like in action.

We are called to
dismantle forms of oppression in ourselves and
our institutions, but we don't always know how.
Through presentations on accessible practices,
dismantling systemic ableism, and
highlighting the disabled UU experience, we
aspire to
equip you with the knowledge and tools to
live these values out loud, when
it comes to our disabled siblings.

Welcome this morning.

Let me introduce our panel for today's webinar.

Welcome to Kiana Jackson, Director of Data and
Research, with New Disabled South, Nora Rasmen,
Democracy Strategist from the Side With Love

Organizing Strategy Team. Kiana has spent her career working in rural and minority communities to build capacity for grassroots organization. And empower the community at large. She brings data analytic skills and research expertise throughout her time in community advocacy. Kiana has served as data consultant and data strategist for local political campaigns and nonprofit organization in South Georgia. She has a Bachelor of Art in political science, from Albany state university Master of Science in data analytic and policy from John Hopkins University, she currently resides in Tallahassee Florida, welcome Kiana. We have Nora Rasman from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, again works with the democracy strategist with the side of love organizing team and has organized with working the working family party showing up for racial justice. And her political work began as a UU youth grew into solidarity and advocacy work with civil society organization. Combating military and destructive trade deals and in Venezuela and Haiti, Nora has an apprenticeship in birth work supporting family and community since 2018 in the early stage of pursuing midwifery studies. Welcome to both of you. Thank you for being a part of the discussion today about the intersection of disability justice and democracy defense. There is a growing body of research, that voting—(Zoom frozen) Kiana, I would like to start with you, can you tell us about the challenges that disability community faces in election cycles?

>>>: Sure, 100% to reintroduce myself, my name's Kiana Jackson. My description. I am a 26 yearold black woman, and I have locks they are dark at the roots and

blonde at the tip. I am wearing a gray sweater that says Hawkings in dark blue letters, I wear glasses, and I have braces. So I think that one of the main a few main things that we see in terms of restricted voter laws and the impact on disabled resource most of the laws when you saw, in 2020 just an amazing turn out that was because of voting was made more accessible, we had a states that went out of their way to make sure that as many vote as possible, what we are seeing those same states saw that turn out is wow this didn't go the way we wanted it to go. So, they looked at the ways in which, that turnout was helped, and they were restricted those ways and most states we saw, particularly in the South targeted vote by mail, Drop boxes and some states have implemented curbside voting, these are ways to vote this is so important because the government and accountability office a few years did a study only 17% of voting precincts in the United States, can be considered full accessible.

And that is a huge, this is, vast majority of the voting precincts are not accessible, a lot of the workers aren't trained on how to engage or help disabled volunteers once they go into the voting precincts they are in the back or the corner judge, hid away, and from society, and in order to be given, you know, practice their rights to vote, so when we see these restrictive laws like in the State of Georgia it went from being one or two requirement to mail in in a ballot, now you have to send a copy of your ID, you have to have, to verify, it can't be a third party organization that helps us to vote.

They stopped Drop boxes and The Courts which we have relied on had to say, this is unconstitutional, and we have seen those, this is we can look for new tech, we are seeing the numbers that are coming out for early voting particularly in Georgia. Historically, early voting turnout is over half a million now. Have come out and voted, so we see this community push back to these restriction, but community shouldn't have to push back, so what we can expect these last minute hail Mary's for people, what can we do, in the next three or four weeks, it's going to ramp up on to being disenfranchised, particularly in person. I live in South Georgia, a lot of people don't see things like diabetes and high blood pressure as disabled, in fact, they are. People are having to stand in line for four, five, six hours to vote in Albany Georgia, 6 hour wait to vote, people were passing out--having to pass out peppermints and cups of lemonade and orange juice, disabled, have to face that when they try to vote in person, states are restricting their access to vote, through different means. I think the only state in the South that has curbside voting is South Carolina, you bring that down up here in Georgia, what does that look like what does that mean? It is bought the thought of making voting easier in the opposite what they are trying to do, all of those are that disabled voter, laws post, 2020, even post 2022 midterm election.

>>>: Thank you so much I know in 2022 a little over 14% of disabled voters reported they encountered difficulty in voting and can speak to that with democracy defense.

>>>: So one of the key pillars of disability justice is that disabled people have the

right to participate in life they have a right to have a community life, fulfilling life, and voting in you know, using your constitutional right to decide what creates laws in this is a part of being part of community, it a key pillar in having access to, you know to quote, life liberty and the pursuit of happiness, disability justice is a part, key lens when we do that work, and when disabled voters are facing, disenfranchised it undercuts the concept of democracy, that's why, people say democracy is on the ballot, it truly is, to take someone's right away from voting because they may not vote the way you want them to, it's foundationally against the very concept of what a democracy is. And disability justice doesn't just-- I think it's important to talk about the differences between disability rights and disability justice, disability rights you focus on your legal access, and disability justice, how we view disabled people in the contribution to society.

And outside of the means of capitalism who are you as a person how are you being treated by society, that includes voting. And so, I think that, having a disability justice lens even looking at disability justice principles, you know--interdependence leading by the most impacted, and collective liberation all of these things are key pillars in ways that we have to change the way that we view, who deserves to participate in civic processes?

That is, kind of where we it's the foundation of all things when people are making these voting laws, they are deciding who has the right in this country to participate in civic processes? Who has the right to vote, who has the

right to select who will lead this nation, who will lead this state, this city, this town? And what we are seeing is that elected officials are saying we don't want certain groups of people to have that right. And disabled people it falls into that, black people, and indigenous people, other groups of people of color, fall into those groups of we don't want all of them to have that right, because they are not going to vote for who we want them to. I think that is why we have to have a disability justice lens, but also just a general justice lens, to democracy and voting work?

>>>: Absolutely, thank you so much Kiana--disabled voters are a powerful block when they have access to millions of votes every year, not able to be cast or not counted by disabled voters because of the barriers and that does limit how democracy functions in our society. Nora, now tell us about the UUA 2024 efforts for voting.

>>>: I'm Nora I use she and her I'm the democracy with you the vote, I am white woman with brown wavy hair, tortoise shell glasses and, sitting behind in front of a plant some, art on the wall I'm calling you from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and I am so, glad to be here so grateful for the work of Amanda and Gretchen to hold and grow our broader UUA to building the disability justice lens, I think just picking up on what Kiana said I feel it's good to root and ground the conversation the historical and context of like who is humanity is valid? Like who has access to public space? Who has a right to exist? I think like these are all things when we gauge in electoral systems that is a practice and one of many ways, that site and that conversation is

happening. But I think I am--I'm coming to this as a humble learner who is not a disability justice expert. I'm here as a colleague that wants to do this better. And the work of UU the vote is really to build and create an opportunity to do, values rooted through the contact work. Alongside, and more broadly expanding our multiracial democracy. And that means, and also being in relationship, of you know, of youth and participants in those numbers, so to see the electoral work as one strategy necessary to change work and understand our democracy happens yearround. When Kiana was talking about the example of, like, the profound barriers to that the actual process of voting I was thinking a lot about, here in Milwaukee where we have curbside voting there are not staff that attend to it, they are not human to then blink a ballot out, like kind of the half-baked or half implemented access, points that I think is another example of the ways that, without people without a disability being centered in how functionally something will be implemented I think that often times it actually is not accessible in an attempt. And so, yes, that's a little bit about our work.

>>>: Yes, absolutely we know across the board, there is really no way that system that's set up to monitor compliance of ADA principles and guidelines things like that, so that really, limits what people can do. And I know that over the last several years, the UUA in partnership with equal access have made a real commitment to applying a disability justice lens to all of our social justice work through the denomination, there are some barriers to incorporating that justice work into the UUA vote, I

wonder if you can share some of the barriers or how you think we might be able to apply this lens a little better?

>>>: Yeah. I think a lot of these lessons extend to how our con agree litigation understand the work too, if we are the national arm, a manifestation of what's happening at 50 or hundred people. I think---too large, I don't know if they are barriers, they are like cultural shift that must happen like the pacing. And so, I think, electoral pacing which often times is rooted in urgency, large amounts of money are incongruent in conflict with being able to include everyone. And so I think that bears attention, that to ensure slow down the work that people with disabilities, that their leadership is supported and encourages and, that's hard when the world is on fire, many organizers talk like how we do it as important as what we do, I think like, if we really are trying to build new words that means we are having to unlearn all the things around productivity and capitalism, and many other "isms". I think there is the reality of like the institutional commitment what does it mean for us like not as like, solo a broader cultural shift that I think is adding staff capacity to ensure that we are able to do things like incorporate the various elements to make a space, like this accessible as you have done, takes time attention and the knowledge, what is required.

Then I think there are some like actual tactical challenges I think about the predictive phone dollars that we are using, it doesn't work with screen reader, that's an actual barrier, none of them do that I'm aware of, this is like what is the way forward to

ensure that people have visibility limits are able to participate in the phone banks, that's, that's connected to ableism the structure of the trajectory, that is much bigger than us, what can we do, and then I think the last piece is, what is does it mean to often meaningful hybrid option always, I think that much has been learned much has been lost in the government assessment that Covid is over, which I obviously disagree as we continue to live through the pandemic. Many people have not lived are not with us, and so, like what new commitment to ensuring that people for whatever reason can do things virtually, in a meaningful way. And I think that is much harder than broadcasting at people.

I say that as someone that created hybrid events, like this is probably a way crappier experience for the people online, like where a particular inperson experience it takes work and labor and care, to actually make that same experience possible for people virtually.

So I think that like, continuing to understand how do we ensure that our work, hybrid, and what are the additional options that are happening virtual if there isn't something that can't be mimic or parallel to ensure that people who often times are more isolated and for whatever reason, doing things, from their home, are still able to stay connected and build relationships and participate in social movements.

>>>: Yeah I love what you said about centering, disabled voice and say marginalized communities and we often times, I like to remind people that in terms of accessibility, and organizing work that we're always happy to set the table but we

are not always at making sure that people can get to the door, that is, we kind of sort of half bake what we do, that's--I see that times in the laws too, I'm sure Kiana-- I am sure you understand that, we just go so far then we kind of stop, and that's a real limit to full inclusion.

>>>: That's the principle of disability justice we say that ADA is the floor, the ADA says the table is here, disability justice, how many people can sit at the table? Not how many can we sit at the table, how many comfortably sit at the table?

Those are the table and the nuances and, and disability justice comes in and says the table exist, typically we have 16 chairs at the table, we have only created this one table--this is the one table that ADA has access to create, so we have only created this on-- now we're going to try to cram all hundred of you at the table, because ADA requires us to do that. Disability justice when we change the way we look at people, we change how we see humanity, then we can say, maybe we need more tables maybe those tables shouldn't be on the other side of the room maybe the whole room should be inclusive. And accessible and that disabled can sit wherever they want to sit, not at one table we've made.

>>>: Absolutely. And so, we know that barriers exist. We, I mean, it's not a big secret, but what, Kiana, can you give us some tips how to ensure that as much as we can, our communities will have good voting access if they are disabled and need assistance?

>>>: Yes. I think the first thing is to look up your state laws on what help you can

give, that's where we are at. Particularly in the State of Georgia and I know a few other southern states if a third-party organization helps you fill out your ballot it's like a felony, if a third-party organization takes your ballot for you, it's a felony. So, the first thing, is to be educated on your state laws, so that you are making sure that you are in compliance, secondly, it would be to listen for this disabled people and the things they want help and need help with. I think a lot of times when we do work with disabled people, we assume that everyone needs the same thing, so me I'm not blind or low vision--I don't need Braille. I don't need Braille merchandise, but, I have a physical disability, I have a disability called because of muscular dystrophy, going up and downstairs is hard if I may have need help if I live in a counter where the drop off for my ballot, and I need help with that step of the process in the City Hall where they have stairs.

(Zoom frozen).

>>>: Having someone there who understands, so I encourage training for your staff, it's not a good idea to have one person that focuses on the accessibility on your staff. It's best if everyone has that training, everyone is actively making an effort to be a part of that. Because, if we have one person that is responsible for all things, accessibility, that is how burn out happens and that is also, against the principles of disability justice, we don't want to harm our staff by trying to meet accessibility needs, it's best if everyone we're working with has that same level of training it's to make people think that accessibility is possible, if we are doing community outreach

events it's important to make sure we are not just listing hey if anyone needs ASL or CART, if we know that we are going to be engaging with the public, we are advertising this event, get out the voting event to disabled population maybe it's best that we go ahead and have those things in place. Mainly because, particularly in communities of color when you are already a marginalized person, even acknowledging that you have a disability, is hard for people to do. A lot of people will not disclose their access needs. Because of stigma, and in society being around being disabled people, not want to feel like a burden, anything that we can do to make the space accessible as possible those are things we need to do. And like I said, going back to listening for disabled people when they say they need something, not assuming that every disabled person needs ASL. Not every disabled person needs a mobilities aid. Listening for what they need, but also, it is, like I said, universal design make sure the space are accessible at the on onset making sure as ablebodied people we are not taken accessibility, so I have a physical disability, I can't tell you what a screen reader, I don't use screen readers if err putting out things test for colorblind , for color Belinda access test for low vision access it's best to test that get the feedback from people that are in that community. Because I can't give you the best feedback, disabled people are not all encompassing, but I don't know everything there is to know about disability, it's making sure that we are running things by the community that are impacting about I that work. Getting their go ahead and not just internally saying, we have checked all the things that this, this list

says, we're good to go, like I said, being really active operating from a point of community care and community concern.

>>>: Yeah, I love what you said, sort of ingrained access into culture. And so, that it's not just on the shoulder of one human to sort of try and navigate all the various avenues. And to assume there are going to be people within space that have accessibility needs, because there is nothing more wonderful than walking into a space already sort of being geared towards that, I think that translate to the polling places too, it's a shift in culture, and you know, being able to get on to, the board that set these things up, working to change the laws to make sure that these are put in place, and really just centering those voice of the disability community so we can make justice and democracy and accessible for everyone.

And, we also know and I want to highlight, because it's important, over I think it's something like 18, only 18% of people with mental health challenges, vote regularly, I think it's what the status because, 18% lower, they have an 18% lower voting record than most people, I think that's one of the hidden disability that we don't see, things like anxiety disorders being in crowds, making to where, people with these challenges can access voting. Things like early voting and mail-in ballots are really important. I want to just if you had anything else really quick before we open it to any questions from the floor, if you have anything to add.

>>>: Take time to be in conversation, and make sure that people individual needs are met, which I think requires a little bit of attention to that as a practice. As, right

now nondisabled person I myself have made the mistake when people give small amount of information assuming what their need might be. An example was planning a convening where I rented a whole bunch of scooters. A couple of people said they had mobility limits when they arrived, I meant I couldn't walk a block. This is fine. So like, I think for nondisabled people, because of ableism and our own internalized ableism talking about disability I think there can be a going inward as you are saying like, not being actually in conversation with people about what their needs are.

And I think, it is a really important practice to like, the building a relationship, and setting the table and ensuring that people with disabilities are part of the from the beginning, also requires a decision point by a group of people that that will happen. I think that checking in with people late, and is often what I see, and I think that the politics and the practice are like a journey. Then, yeah, I think I want to just like shout out couple of congregations that are very meaningful, and state action for folks who hold some of the state-based organizing. A couple of places people are like, partnering with disability rights organizations to actually provide rides to the polls for people. And helping folks get ID in states of voter ID, there are concrete ways to decrease push back on some of the actual barriers that people have to voting. And as happens within many Unitarian Universalists, I think for me, there is kind of an opportunity to understand how we are seeing and orienting towards disability as being directly connected to all the justice issues that we are working on. You, you

think about the people that are in jails and prisons, Democratic rights being violated, it's all connected which I think, we know, many of us know, but I think figuring out what does mean for our work, and how that shapes who we partner with, what is the world that we are building towards, is a question. For us to answer, so there is this like broader both culture and politic shifting with within our face, that I think is work ahead together.

>>>: We know, as Unitarian Universalists, our democracy is central to you, how we function together as communities, and really protecting that, and being aware of it is all interconnected that is the primary principal of disability justice, when we put this lens on everything we are better able to meet the needs of everyone, we know that access for one, access for any means access for all, being able to really lean into that some more. All right. Well, we have musical response here coming, listen to another song, this is the woke up this morning with my (phone)

Movie poster for movie entitled Freedom Song,
showing a group of people of color marching and
clapping on a city street, and a superimposed
close up picture of older black man and young
black child looking intently into the distance.

“Woke Up This Morning With My Mind Stayed On
Freedom,” Sweet Honey in the Rock

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on

freedom

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on

freedom

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on

freedom

Hallelu (hallelu)

Hallelu (hallelu).

>>>: Mind stayed on freedom.

“Woke Up This Morning With My Mind Stayed On

Freedom,” Sweet Honey in the Rock

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on

freedom

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on

freedom

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on

freedom

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on

freedom

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on

freedom

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on

freedom

Hallelu (hallelu)

Hallelu (hallelu)

Hallelujah

Oh, well I woke up this morning with my mind
stayed on freedom

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on
freedom

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on
freedom

Hallelu (hallelu)

Hallelu (hallelu)

>>>: We have time for questions, if any of the audience who like to ask the questions, you can type the question for Wendy to read aloud, and or raise your hand, and we'll call on you, we have any questions from the attendees today. Early voting has started in many states, there is a question.

>>>: Please continue I don't want to interrupt what you were saying.

>>>: I was reminding that earlier voting has started in many states, for those that haven't voting is coming up very quickly, and to encourage people to, get involved with organization that are assisting people to get to the polls please, do make sure that you check your polling location prior to leaving your home, because we know

that many states adjusted those polling location without notification for the people that are going to vote. But please we would lot of to hear your question, Amber.

>>>: Hi friends thank you so much for this webinar and topic I want to say I really appreciate the connection that you are also raising between ableism and vote suppression, and how we can make that more accessible, one thing that I am thinking about, concern that I have heard about ableism and voting the way that disabled people political power often gets ignored. And by mainstream, movement, for electoral justice.

So I think for example, on the disabled voters for Harris call this summer, the organizers and panel were focused how to vote if you were disabled absentee or curbside voting they were not effective, they were asked multiple times but refuse to discuss policy, why disabled people should be voting and what we are voting for.

Something that I'm thinking about, is like what are the key policy issues that disabled people are really caring about, what's important to voters in the election, the number of people that are trying to expand their power to lock people up and institutionalize folks who are being judged to be having a mental health crisis in public, and the Palestinian people that are disabled as far as the policy and make sure that our organizing our system for democracy are accessible to everybody. How can we make sure that disabled people political demands don't get ignored in our organizing or are taken seriously?

>>>: Fantastic question. Kiana or Nora?

>>>: Yeah, 100%, I love this question. I think that the heart the thing that people don't usually work with disabled people, if we talk about accessibility, then we got the disabled vote, we talk about Medicaid and Medicare, and I think that is important to highlight the need access Amber, what are these policy and concerns? I think one of key things that we have been hearing the implication of the decision by the Supreme Court, adherence to federal act and say compliance that is something that we are hearing, we haven't in in particular what that looks like in the effect that will have with home and community based service waivers which is connected to the homestead decision a few years back , which is a decision from a case brought from Georgia, the homestead says that disabled people have a right to be in community, how do we do that, how do these states with the home and community based service waivers, we have, we do a lot of research around disabled South, are these communities waiver wait list in each of the states, the highest one we saw was in Texas, it was over 300,000 people on the waiting list, South Carolina has a lot, these are people, have intellectual and developmental disability who want to be in community, but they don't have the resource and the homestead decision mandate the states to make the resource available, now we have the chevron decision that meets of state adherence to the acts and these decisions now, what does that look like what are the ramification of that? As it pertains to disabled people to have a right to be in community, this is connected to institutionalization, we don't know what it's going to look like.

You raise the issue of what we are currently seeing in the region, in Palestine, people but there are people like hundreds of thousands of people right now that are facing a literal genocide, which is what is happening. And that is mass disabling and we have posts resource about the impact this is having on disabled Palestinians we are also response, the response how do we care about emergency, involving disabled people, not in other countries, even in America, right? We talked about criminalization of disabled people, what does that look like? You know currently a study that over 60% of people in prison identify as having some form of disability. When Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton came through, these states were not evacuating, they were incarcerated people, they left them in hurricanes. And they refused to evacuate, all of these things are that disabled people care about, we can't talk about access needs and how are disabled people being treated in society, and how are the government decisions impacting disabled people.

And I think that people have made the real life of people, we talk about the real implication of the qualifying of those policies on disabled people, it's strips away the taboo, and it makes a real clear disregard of life. Disabled people already should have that conversation and that goes past cutting curbs and that goes past, putting the elevator in the building that goes to the heart how do we value life in America? How do we value life in this world? I think that that is how we talk to disabled voters, we move the conversation beyond the ADA and Medicare and Medicaid, and how are you being truth as a human being, that's how we have to help disabled voters.

>>>: That was spot on. I want to second that. You know, we are side with love and organizing strategy team have worked this last year and a half, since I come on board, they were doing some work before I can't take credit. Really putting a disability justice lens on all the work that we do on the environment and the decriminalization and you brought up the two most recent hurricane and say the disproportionate impact on people with disabilities, but those who not get out we know that a lot of people with disabilities, are on lower socioeconomic scale, so the ability to leave, the ability to take equipment, what happens when the power goes out for days, and you have got a pump that needs to have electricity, and all of these are intertwined and disabled voters care about all of these issues not just like you said the ADA and Medicaid and whatnot. Thank you for that. Nora I wonder if you could tell us real quick how people in our congregation can get involved you, you the vote, so they can have an impact on how we talk about these things within that organization?

>>>: Yes, we're recording on October 17, when you are watching this, I can't tell you what happened in the world if you are watching the recording. In the next threeweeks, we have our on Tuesday, if you go to U the [vote.org](https://www.vote.org) you can learn more information about our work and knowing the democracy work will continue after the election, and hopefully, whether it's in the weeks ahead, we hope we can be a resource to continue to figure out what it means to actually build and grow our, the disability justice, I think one piece that like I didn't share earlier but I think is really

important is I came into some organizing of like doing direct service work around harm reduction, and the relationship between harm reduction and supporting people who you use drugs to queue that safely, and supporting the autonomy of care and my understanding is very directly related to the same politic that is disability justice is rooted in which is connected to care respect autonomy and the importance of all bodies and humans being valued. And I hear these spaces voting is harm reduction, I want to make sure that people understand harm reduction is something that happens outside of the structure of the state, actually, voting is not harm reduction, it can reduce harm.

But I think it's really important to be precise, that harm reduction isn't a particular strategy that's offered by people who use drugs, just saying that because I think our continuing to build our analysis of harm reduction alongside the other political analysis is really important. And because of the ways that we are talking about criminalization and junkies escalating and being a solution that's offered by politicians of every affiliation. Thank you so much for the time.

>>>: Thank you, so much, to both of our panelists. It's been a joy getting to be here with you. I do hope as you are watching this, and our audience as recording that you will check out UU the vote and other organizations, Disabled South and all the great organizations that are doing a lot of wonderful working in partnership with disabled people. And so, I will turn it over to Gretchen now.

>>>: Grethen here. Thank you.

Thank you so much
for engaging in this work of love
and radical welcome with us today
and in days to come.

And now, as I extinguish our chalice, may you
go in blessing and be a blessing to a world
that needs your care.

Our closing song is Speak Your Words to Power, Director of music in at my church,
violet. The screen will show an image

Image of album cover for Flashlight: Songs For Hard Times.

Features four artistic renderings of flashlight
shining upwards illuminating the album title.

In the foreground are many raised fists of
varying size and color. The voice of

Emmeline Pankhurst (15 July 1858 – 14 June
1928) was a political activist and

leader of the British suffragette movement who
helped women win the right to vote. Enjoy. [MUSIC].

say it like you mean it

say it like you mean it

say it like you mean it

and say it out loud
scream it like you feel it
scream it like you feel it
scream it like you feel it
and scream it out loud
speak your words to power
like you know what to say
speak your words to power
til you're not afraid
speak your words to power
like it's life or death
speak your words to power
til your last breath[MUSIC]
sing it like you know it
sing it like you know it
sing it like you know it
like you know all the words
write it like you've been there baby
write it like you've been there
write it like you've been there
and you know how it hurts

Speak your words to power

like you know what to say

Speak your words to power

til you're not afraid

Speak your words to power

like it's life or death

Speak your words to power

til your last breath

Speak your words to power

like you know what to say

Speak your words to power

til you're not afraid

Speak your words to power

like it's life or death

Speak your words to power

til your last breath[MUSIC]

>>>: This is Gretchen again.

Please reach out if you have questions about anything from the webinar, uplift access is doing or disability work at the UUA,

By emailing me, Gretchen Maune, or Amanda

Schuber, Disability Justice Associate, at

Accessibility@uua.org or aschuber@uua.org.

If you are able to donate for hurricane efforts for all that's happening in the Southeastern United States, please visit. UUA homepage, there is a link to directly donate to the UUA disaster relief fund, and also New Disabled South has mutual aid. Donation links are on their website. And lots of people could use that help if you are able to give it. Thank you so much. And we'll see you next time.

[APPLAUSE].