

Sibling Leadership Network Statement of Commitment to Diversity and Social Justice

The Sibling Leadership Network is a national organization in the United States with state chapters. Chapters provide siblings of individuals with disabilities the information, support, and tools to advocate with their siblings and to promote the issues important to them and their entire families.

The SLN strives to be a community that includes people of every race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, political affiliation, immigration status, socioeconomic class, and type of disability. Because disability is an identity that crosses all other identity groups, siblings of people with disabilities are members of many communities. We work with an understanding that people who are members of oppressed groups experience discrimination, violence, and lack of access to quality healthcare, education, housing, and job opportunities more frequently than people who are members of privileged groups. We understand that the safety, happiness, and well-being of our families depends on the freedom from all forms of oppression and this understanding creates a responsibility for solidarity across all struggles for liberation.

Siblings of people with disabilities are natural allies. We learn to stand up against hateful comments or behaviors directed at our siblings with disabilities at young ages when we are in school, on the playground, and in our neighborhoods. We must also stand up for our fellow siblings and their families who are experiencing hateful comments or behaviors targeting other identities. Additionally, we must support the voices and leadership of those most directly impacted by oppression.

It is a goal of the SLN to be a community of siblings of people with disabilities across all identity groups. We believe that becoming a truly integrated community that equitably serves all members is an ongoing process. As a network, we are committed to doing the work necessary to engage with this process. Some of the activities we are currently working on include:

- Hosting important conversations about intersecting identities
- Collecting stories of diverse experiences to inform policy goals
- Creating space at national conferences to discuss diversity and social justice issues
- Engaging in social media campaigns and collaboration with organizations working on social justice issues related to disability and other identities
- Collecting and sharing resources that will help our chapters welcome a diverse membership and approach their work through a social justice lens