



Community Resilience Initiative - Mitigating Disability Bias FAQ Sheet

Question 1: Who is Michael Hickson?

Answer 1: Michael Hickson was a 46 year old Black man with a brain injury and quadriplegia who was experiencing COVID-19 symptoms in the nursing home that he resided in against his wife Melissa Hickson's wishes. When he was admitted to the hospital, he was denied treatment, also against his wife's wishes because doctors believed he had "no quality of life" because he "could not walk or talk."

More about Michael Hickson in The Partnership's statement Demanding Justice for the Murder of Michael Hickson: <https://disasterstrategies.org/michael-hickson-statement/>

Question 2: What are some examples of disability rights movements in the U.S?

Answer 2:

- Independent Living Movement
- Deaf Movement
- Blind Movement
- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Movement
- Learning Disabilities Movement
- Autistic Movement
- Psychiatric Survivors/ Consumers/ Ex-Patient Movement
- Self Advocacy Movement



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Question 3: What is an example of a microaggression?

Answer 3:

- Pulling back slightly when a mental health condition is disclosed
- Touching someone's durable medical equipment/assistive technology without their permission
- Assuming a disabled person can't consent
- Inaccessible architecture
- Patronizing tones
- Pretending to understand someone with a speech disability when you do not
- Talking to a companion of someone with a disability, rather than directly with the disabled person
- Assuming people with disabilities do not or cannot work
- Praising disabled people for ordinary accomplishments (like employment, being outside, going to school)

Question 4: Are people with mental health conditions more likely to be violent?

Answer 4: No, they are not. "The vast majority of people with mental health... [conditions] are no more likely to be violent than anyone else. Most people with mental illness are not violent and only 3%–5% of violent acts can be attributed to individuals living with a serious mental illness. **In fact, people with severe mental illnesses are over 10 times more likely to be victims of violent crime than the general population.**"

- [Mental Health Myths and Facts](#)