



COSP statement by A.L.C.E Initiative for the Abolition of Punitive and Confinement Logics- Colombia at Civil Society Forum

Session 3 – COSP theme 3: Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities to decent work and sustainable livelihood

Greetings. My name is Silvestre Barragán, co-director of ALCE (Abolition of Logics of Punishment and Confinement) and a fellow of TCI. I am a mad artist and trans survivor of psychiatric violence.

“Ableism is a system of assigning value to people's bodies and minds based on societally constructed ideas of normalcy, productivity, desirability, intelligence, excellence, and fitness. These constructed ideas are deeply rooted in eugenics, anti-Blackness, misogyny, colonialism, imperialism, and capitalism. This systemic oppression that leads to people and society determining people's value based on their culture, age, language, appearance, religion, birth or living place, "health/wellness", and/or their ability to satisfactorily re/produce, "excel" and "behave.

It is important to me to name it for the topic that brings us together, because us, people with disabilities do not have the same access to economic resources due to the rites of capitalist productivity, which neglects our needs, since we are seen as unproductive subjects both in the reproduction of its values as well as the way it is understood that the workforce should be in terms of work pace and accessibility.

From this perspective, and based on what I have experienced and what we have encountered among people with psychosocial disabilities relates to lack of access to work, since we do not have the same conditions to have the same titles. When we do have a job the stigma that falls on us impacts job permanence and the kind of reasonable accommodations we need aren't provided by employers.

In this way, the States must ensure that our rights are fulfilled, but to get there we must transform the ways that capitalism mandates for the exploitation of bodies, with work rhythms unattainable for anyone, and while that happens we must devise other ways to access resources for people with disabilities, at ALCE we have been thinking and articulating some proposals on cooperatives, through fairs and support for entrepreneurship of people with disabilities and other forms of solidarity economy.



While there is still a long way to go before the historical debt of exclusion of our bodies is repaired and access to resources for us constant, I'd like to end with a question to all of you: What job options can be built in solidarity to ensure access to a dignified life for us people with disabilities, that does not entail overextension and masking on our part in our attempt to meet the violent rhythms of ableist capitalism? Should creating anti-ableist models of access to work transform the current logics around productivity?