

Disability as beauty, featuring activist Rebecca Cokley

In this video interview, **Rebecca Cokley**, director of the Disability Justice Initiative at the Center for American Progress, articulates her desire to see more portrayals of people with disabilities as beautiful and whole.

Transcript begins.

[contemplative electric organ music]

REBECCA COKLEY: My name is Rebecca Cokley. I am wearing a Prince-purple dress because I'm a huge Prince fan. I'm a second-generation little person.

Roughly one in five people in this country is a person with a disability.

For so many people with disabilities, society has really pushed the notion of disability—still today, very much—as deviance, as something that's not beautiful, that can't be beautiful.

Or if it's beautiful, it's beautiful in an inspirational way, not in a appreciation-of-the-human-body sort of way. And I think it's relevant, whether you have a physical disability, you have a mental health disability, that disabled people have examples where they can see themselves as beautiful, where they can see themselves as whole. Because we are whole. We're not less than because we're disabled people.

VOICE-OVER: Where are you in your Journey to Inclusion? For more information, go to DisabilityPhilanthropy.org, and promote using the hashtag DisabilityInclusion. Brought to you by the Presidents' Council on Disability Inclusion in Philanthropy.

End of transcript.