

2015 Activities Summary

January 1, 2015 - March 31, 2015

Quick Description (Quarter-at-a-Glance)

- Disability Day of Mourning Virtual Vigil
- Annual Ryan White Planning Council for HIV community in and around Houston.

Roles & Development of Praxis

- ★ **Promoting awareness of disabled people killed** by their parents and caregivers on national day of remembrance: Disability Day of Mourning
- ★ **Organizing** and presenting at a **virtual vigil** for Disability Day of Mourning, as a key member of Autistic Self Advocacy Network
- ★ **Supporting and advocating** for the local **HIV community** at the annual Ryan White Planning Council as presenter

Values-at-Work

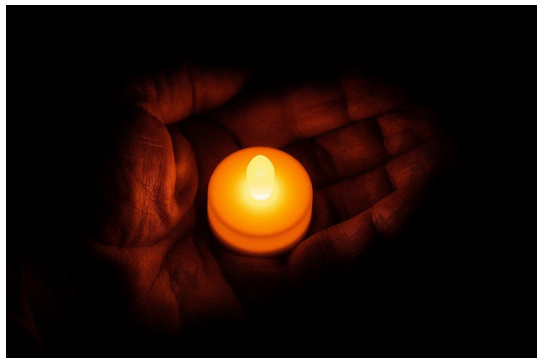
- Promoting awareness of issues faced by marginalized communities, in this case the murder of disabled dependents
- Continuing leadership and advocacy for the local HIV community, including planning ways to help improve quality of life, accessibility, and well-being
- Developing image as a trusted authority and activist in order to help network and advocate for core causes and their intersections
- Developing and nurturing relationships with other activist and advocacy groups to promote collaborations and amplify joint efforts

Events Timeline

- Virtual Vigil--Disability Day of Mourning Virtual Vigil/Disability Community Day of Mourning online vigil for disabled people killed by family and/or caregivers--Presenter
 - ◆ March 1
- Annual Planning Council--Ryan White Planning Council/ Houston chapter of Ryan White Planning Council to aid and support community impacted by HIV--Presenter
 - ◆ March 1

Featured Event

The Disability Day of Mourning happens every March 1, and was originally promoted by the Autistic Self Advocacy Network. The day came about in response to the murder of George Hodgins, by his mother, who also ended her own life. Because of his disability, the mainstream news treated his life as a burden. As it seemed public sympathies aligned with parents who killed their disabled children, the global disability community responded with angry outrage, denouncing the violence and championing the value of their own lives.



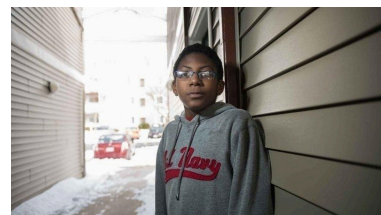
Disability Day of Mourning was created to remember and mourn for those who have died at the hands of their parents or caregivers because of disabilities, and also raise public awareness. Advocacy Without Borders organized a local event under March 1, 2015 as a Facebook event. The live event was canceled

due to weather, but a virtual vigil still took place on the Facebook event page where people were encouraged to post their thoughts, feelings, and remembrances.

April 1, 2015 - June 30, 2015

Quick Description (Quarter-at-a-Glance)

- #JusticeForKayleb
- Million Moms March



#JusticeForKayleb

In April 2015, Kayleb Moon-Robison, an 11-year-old autistic black student, was having a bad day and kicked a trash can at school. He was charged with disorderly conduct. In a later incident, when the 6th grader resisted being hauled off by the same resource officer that mishandled the first situation, he was handcuffed and charged with another disorderly conduct charge, and also assault against a police officer - both felony charges.

Advocacy Without Borders mobilized a massive public awareness campaign and a viral Change.org petition to save Kayleb from being prosecuted in Virginia. Other advocacy platforms and major media outlets picked up the campaign and spread awareness,

including Autism Self Advocacy Network (ASAN). Dr. Onaiwu had connections with ASAN, so the crossover was a natural extension in their work. They utilized several connections and collaborators to spread awareness nationwide. To get a clearer picture of what occurred, read under In Their Words at the end of this document to read Dr. Onaiwu's initial blog post.

This situation was an ongoing issue Dr. Onaiwu labored over for months. The image featured above (of Kayleb) is the one used for the Change.org petition.

May 9, 2015 Million Moms March

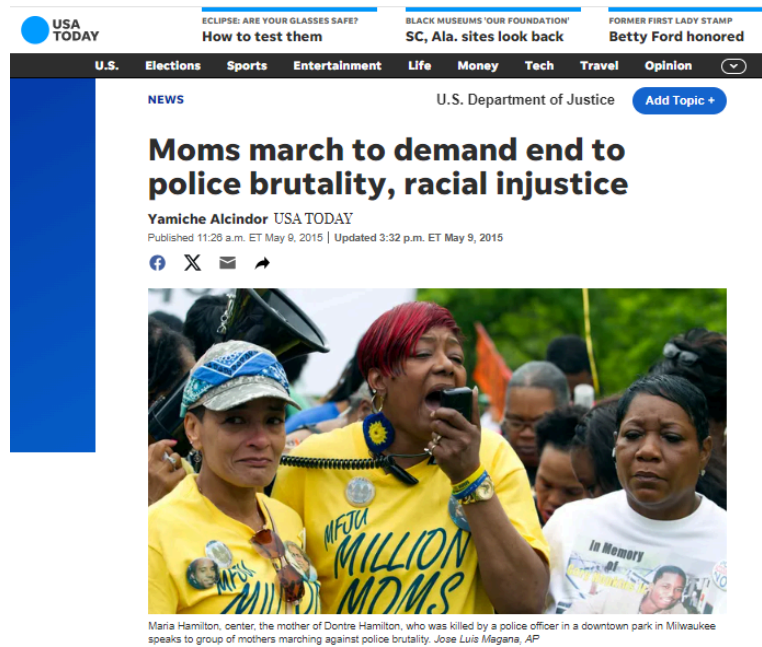
Source: Screenshot of USA Today covering Million Moms March (usatoday.com)

In protest to police brutality, violence, and killings, a grassroots protest began in 2014, and culminated in a march in Washington D.C. on May 9, 2015, dubbed the Million Moms March. Dr. Onaiwu participated in the grassroots efforts to organize and mobilize the protest.

Freddie Gray. Michael Brown.
Amadou Diallo. Tony Robinson.

All boys. All black. All dead, needlessly, at the hands of police violence.

The march was to protest the failure of the justice system to hold police officers accountable for killings, especially people of color, and even more specifically, black people. As every victim of violence has a mother left behind to pick up the pieces of devastating loss, and millions of other mothers live in fear that they too could lose their unarmed baby in a random act of police violence, the march called on the voice of millions of mothers around the country.



Roles & Development of Praxis

- ★ **Protecting** an innocent boy from systems rooted in racism, ableism, and classism.
- ★ **Standing up** for and advocating for vulnerable and marginalized people when a flagrant miscarriage of justice lets them fall through the cracks.
- ★ Using established connections, voice of authority, and network throughout the activist and advocacy circles to **mobilize action**.
- ★ **Facing intersection** of racism, ableism, and classism ardently and head-on to protect the life of a young boy.
- ★ **Grassroots organizing** for police to be **held accountable** and **justice** to be carried through in the case of police brutality.

Values-at-Work

- Advocating and publicizing an event that should have taken place, and protecting the child whose life was affected.
- Pointing out the existence of systematic racism and ableism present in a real-world example and mobilizing action to prevent injustice.
- Advocating for social change and justice, especially facing police brutality.
- Stopping the senseless killings of unarmed black boys, and people of color, at the hands of law enforcement.
- Holding law enforcement accountable for brutality, especially when racially motivated.

Events Timeline

- #JusticeforKayleb online petition--Petition to Public Information Officer Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice to protect Kayleb Moon-Robinson--online and Lynchburg, VA
 - ◆ Ongoing campaign that began in April 2015

In Their Words

#JUSTICEFORKAYLEB NOW

Most people who know me know how passionate I am about things that I care about, especially human rights. It's personal. I advocate and I write and I take action because I deeply believe in the causes I champion. I believe that regardless of age, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ability status, nationality, socioeconomic level,

[HIV](#) or Hepatitis serostatus, political affiliation etc. that at the core you are first and foremost a human being, and by virtue of that fact you deserve respect and to be treated with dignity. You deserve to have your rights upheld. You deserve access to opportunities. You deserve a voice and autonomy over your own life. You should matter.

That's the dream. But it isn't reality yet. That's why we all fight - increase awareness, to raise consciousness, to change hearts and minds, to obtain justice. It's hard. It's tiring.

It's necessary though.

I am feeling emotional and don't think I will be able to go into as much detail in the next part as I'd like. Please bear with me if I'm not writing at my best; this is hard for me. It is too close...too close. To think about it hurts. To write about it hurts.

It's necessary though.

There is an alarming trend in society where [individuals with disabilities, especially people of color, get the "short end of the stick;" or in other words, face sub-optimal outcomes compared to their non-disabled peers.](#) Employment rates are lower. Home ownership rates are lower. Graduation rates (high school and college). The percentage of married/partnered adult is lower. Yet rates of poverty are higher, as are rates of homelessness; likelihood of physical, emotional, sexual, and/or financial abuse; mental health diagnoses; suicide; murder; and unpleasant run-ins with law enforcement. We don't do a very good job as a society of accommodating the needs of disabled people and providing critical supports for us to succeed. Moreover, covert disability discrimination (ableism) is rampant; people are frequently infantilized/patronized; viewed as "broken" or "less than" and therefore viewed as objects of pity; or alternatively viewed as "inspirational heroes" (this phenomenon is known as inspiration porn). Even though we're really just people, we're *never* just "people."

Kayleb Moon-Robison is a person. He is a disabled person (like myself and two of my children, Kayleb is on the autism spectrum). He is a black (or African American) person. He is a Christian person. He is a male presenting person. He is a young person.

He is a victim of injustice.

In a turn of events almost too upsetting to repeat (you can read about it in detail [HERE](#)), Kayleb kicked a trash can during an autistic meltdown at a new school and was charged by the campus police officer with a second degree misdemeanor of "disorderly conduct." A few weeks later, Kayleb lined up with his classmates instead of remaining back in the classroom segregated, waiting for them all to leave the class before being permitted by his teacher to also get in line. For this minor infraction of the rules (a rule, it should be noted, that only applied to Kayleb; no other student in the class had to abide by it) the campus officer arrived. Attempting to take Kayleb to the principal's office, he grabbed Kayleb. Kayleb, a small, bespectacled child, pushed the officer away to free himself. He was then thrown to the ground, handcuffed, and carted off to juvenile. [Charged and brought to trial \(this month\)](#) for "assaulting a police officer," mild-mannered Kaylen became, at the age of 11 years old, a pre-teen felon (merely awaiting summer 2015 sentencing since the court has already determined that it has found facts "sufficient for guilt.")

That's right. A pre-teen felon.

According to the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#) and the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#), Kayleb should have been afforded certain provisions and accommodations by his school district and by local law enforcement. He was not. And now this 6th grade child has to face life as a convicted felon before he's even old enough to drive. Not because he shot, stabbed, raped, or murdered anyone, but because he did not receive sufficient support for his disability. He is now being made to pay the ultimate price.

Unless we do something about it.

Kayleb could have been me. He could have been my son. Or your son. Or your neighbor. Or someone in your community. Whether or not you are on the autism spectrum it has to be obvious to you that something is drastically wrong. [Kayleb is not the only child in his district, his state, or the country to whom this has happened.](#) Sadly, the cases occur far too often, and little is done because few people are aware of the problem. Today, I want you to be aware.

11 year old 6th graders with disabilities who have not committed an egregious crime DO NOT deserve to have their lives ruined by becoming a convicted felon before their teen years. Kayleb deserves a chance. He has endured enough, and he doesn't deserve this. Neither do any of the other people whose names I don't know who have been similarly wronged. For some people, it is too late to help them right the wrongs they have faced. But it's not too late for us to help Kayleb.

Will you join in with the Autistic community in demanding [#JusticeForKayleb](#)?

We want the prosecution of Kayleb to STOP.

We want this removed from his record.

We want him to serve ZERO time in a juvenile facility.

We want him taken out of the alternative school that he has been forced into and returned to a less restrictive general education environment with adequate supports for his needs.

We want this nightmare to be over for Kayleb, his mom Stacey, and their family.

And we want no one to have to have this also happen to them.

I need you help. [Lei Wiley-Mydske](#) and I started a [Change.org petition](#) yesterday for Kayleb. It is taking off. But more attention and more public support is needed. Not just from the autistic and autism communities; not just from disability community, not just from communities of color. We need help from everyone.

Will you help?

Will you oppose ableist and racial injustice? [Will you sign and widely share the petition urging the Virginian governor to give us #JusticeForKayleb?](#)

Will you join in with us as we advocate for Kayleb on social media next month (for more details click [HERE](#))?

And will you spread the word about this on social media, helping to boost the [#JusticeForKayleb](#) hashtag?

I hope I can count on you. Thank you for your love and support.

In solidarity,

Morénike



Source:

<https://advocacywithoutborders.blogspot.com/2015/04/justiceforkayleb-now.html>

July 1, 2015 - September 30, 2015

Quick Description (Quarter-at-a-Glance)

- Panelist for AutCom 25th Anniversary Conference - Human Rights For All.

Roles & Development of Praxis

- ★ **Advocating for human rights**, including often overlooked rights when **marginalized communities intersect**, such as being a person of color (POC) and being on the autistic spectrum (ASD).
- ★ Participating as a **panelist** in a **national, annual conference** addressing autism.

Values-at-Work

- Raising awareness about situations where accessibility and human rights are overlooked for marginalized communities, especially in the intersections of more than one marginalization.

Events Timeline

- AutCom (Autism National Committee) 25th Anniversary Conference - Human Rights For All--Panelist in Winchester, NH
 - ◆ September 1



In Their Words

Dr. Onaiwu attended AutCom as a panelist, in part, as the Founder of Advocacy Without Borders and described AutCom as follows:

AUTCOM denounces social policies of devaluation (i.e. segregation, medicalization, and aversive conditioning) and envisions communities based on the cultivation and support rather than the control of their members. To that end, they encourage its individual members and organizational partners toward self-direction and self-empowerment.

AUTCOM is comprised of family members, people with autism/PDD, caring professionals, and other friends who are committed the right to self-determination and to hearing and heeding the voices of people with autism.

AUTCOM's activities include providing information, support, networking, advocacy, a strong voice in federal legislation and policy, a newsletter, conferences and trainings, a bookstore, a variety of unique publications, and an ongoing reappraisal of fundamental research and treatment issues in the light of what people with autism themselves find meaningful and respectful.

October 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015

Quick Description (Quarter-at-a-Glance)

- CDC Webinar for Preconception and Reproductive Care
- Participated in HERO photo-campaign for anti-discrimination legislation
- 2015 Day of Action to End Violence Against Women Living With HIV
- Harris Health Community HIV Research as Speaker for World's AIDs Day
- Panelist for 2015 TASH Conference (advocates for disability community)

Roles & Development of Praxis

- ★ **Speaker** for Center of Disease Control (CDC) on a webinar for **preconception and reproductive care**, as being a parent and reproductive system concerns matter.
- ★ **Participated** in a **photo-campaign** and advocated for passing Proposition 1 on the November ballot, which would have **protected** the **rights** of individuals regardless of **sexual orientation** or **gender identity**.
- ★ **Co-host** and **Speaker** for a local event observing Day of Action to **End Violence Against Women Living With HIV**.
- ★ Observed **World's AIDS Day** by being a **Speaker** for Harris Health Community HIV Research in Houston.
- ★ **Panelist** in a national conference focusing on the **disabled community** called the TASH Conference.

Values-at-Work

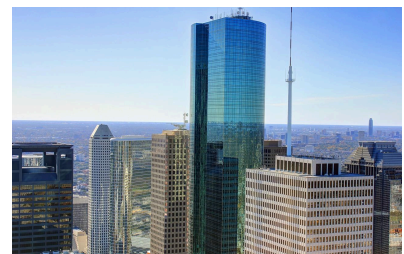
- Educating about health care, preconception and reproductive care, and parenting as a speaker for the CDC.
- Promoting legislation for the protection of basic human rights regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Organizing, co-hosting, and speaking on a national day dedicated to protecting women with AIDS from domestic violence. This leans into an example of intersection, as addressing the unique needs and vulnerabilities of women living with HIV who might also be in violent partnerships.
- Bringing attention to the HIV/AIDS community and their loved ones.
- Addressing the unique concerns of the disabled community as a panelist at a national conference.

Events Timeline

- Webinar--Center for Disease Control/ Webinar on Preconception and Reproductive Care--Speaker
 - ◆ October 1
- Local Photo-Campaign--Houston Equal Rights Ordinance/Campaign to protect rights regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity
 - ◆ Throughout October
- Coordinating day of remembrance--National Day of Action to End Violence Against Women Living with HIV--Presenter/Co-host
 - ◆ October 23
- Advocacy Speaker--Harris Health Community HIV Research/World's AIDs Day--Speaker in Houston, TX
 - ◆ December 1
- Annual Conference--2015 TASH Conference (advocates for disability community)--Panelist in Portland, OR
 - ◆ December 3

Featured Event:

On May 28, 2014, the Houston City Council passed Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO). This ordinance banned discrimination on the basis of several identifiers, including sexual orientation and gender identity. Several opponents tried to get the ordinance overturned, through legal and judicial means. The ordinance went back and forth, finally ending up on the 2015 ballot as Proposition 1.



In August, commercials began to air, advising Houston residents to reject Proposition 1, dubbing it the “Bathroom Law,” and saying it would allow predators to lurk in bathrooms. Those in favor of passing Proposition 1, instating the anti-discrimination ordinance, worked under the title of Houston Unites. Dr. Onaiwu participated in Houston Unites, advocating and promoting the photo-campaign.

Despite Houston Unites’ best efforts, Proposition 1 was rejected.

Featured Activity

One of Dr. Onaiwu’s passion projects has always been advocating for the HIV community, especially in Houston. A big part of this includes ensuring HIV research and trials are accessible and include diverse populations, including people of color, women, and LGBTQ+ populations.

Protecting access to HIV research has been an ongoing objective for Dr. Onaiwu, as demonstrated in this excerpt from an October 9, 2015 blog post.

We are fortunate in Texas to have a sizable amount of HIV research funding to help address the needs of our HIV population (and the greater community, for HIV is a public health issue that affects us all in one way or another whether you are diagnosed with it or not). There is HIV research in Texas that is targeted to a variety of populations, including infants, children, teens, young adults, adult men and women, transgender individuals, and MSM; there is also research that addresses specific conditions such as cancer, heart disease, and eradication/cure. Some of the nation’s most dedicated researchers are housed here and are committed to working with and on behalf of the HIV community to improve health, improve lives, and hopefully find a cure for HIV. They have made tremendous progress over the years. Yet now this progress is being jeopardized by pettiness, politics, and discrimination. And that is why I am writing this post. I need your help.

HIV research in Texas is in jeopardy - again. Despite bringing in millions of dollars to our state, and serving thousands of people living with HIV, the good ol’ boy system in Texas seems to think HIV research is of little or no value, and seems determined to push out our HIV researchers - and with them, our hopes for a cure. That is backwards, that is discriminatory, that is unethical, and that is straight BS.

Exciting update: as of October 26th, the University of Texas is being very responsive and cooperative! I think there will be a solution soon that will make us all happy. Please await updates via email, and no need to send any additional emails or place any more calls at this time while action is pending.