Disability and Relationships

Everyone deserves to experience healthy relationships. This Healthy Relationships Month, join SHARE: Education as we explore the intersection between people with disabilities and love of all kinds, including romantic, platonic, and familial love.
Having a physical or intellectual disability doesn’t change your needs for a loving relationship with another person or your desire to express it. However, when people living with disability form intimate relationships, they often experience stereotypes and prejudices that can be hurtful and damaging.

If people living with disabilities have intimate relationships with non-disabled people, they sometimes face assumptions about the “real” reasons for the relationship.

People with disabilities sometimes find that their able-bodied peers are not interested in developing intimate relationships once they are aware of a disability.

People with intellectual disabilities may be falsely thought of as incapable of being able to understand and have a fulfilling relationship with a partner.

https://www.itstimetotalk.net.au/healthy-relationships-and-disability
“As a single woman on the dating scene, I find that many who express interest in me have poor dating etiquette. As a disabled woman, this presents unique issues when I reveal my disability on my dating profile, or if it comes up in conversation on the first date.”

Stop Asking Inappropriate Questions

“If it is not a question you would ask in front of your Grandmother, consider it highly offensive or uncomfortable to ask a stranger you are seeking to date.”

Do Not Make Sexual Jokes or Innuendos

“Some women like to know they are attractive, but it can become objectifying. When sexual insinuations are made, it seems like all you are seeking is sex, and not the person.”

Treat Me Like All the Other Non-Disabled Women You Approach

“We are not porcelain dolls that need to be tended to or protected; we want a partner, not a care assistant. Most importantly, we want to be viewed, treated, and respected as equal to you and not as being inferior because we are disabled.”
"As a daughter of Korean immigrants, the unspoken rule was that dating before college was out of the question. Although I had secret boyfriends, it went only so far under the roof of my super-strict parents. In hindsight, my family probably thought no one would date me; disability was very much a foreign concept for them. In South Korea—and most Asian countries—disability is yet to be socially accepted. People with disabilities are shunned from society and often institutionalized...

It gives me hope that tangible actions to prevent AAPI hate crimes and educate Americans about often forgotten Asian American history are finally taking place. But I cannot—and will not—wait until the country starts acknowledging people like me to start loving myself. I and other minorities within minorities deserve way better than that. Society may not know what 'box' to put us in, but I’ve known that I’m too special to be constricted into one category for a long time. People may see only my disability or my race, but I am so much more than those things. In my nearly three decades of life, I’ve done hard work to ground myself and be undeterred when something tries to knock me down. It’s no different this time.”

National Resources for People With Disabilities

**Easterseals**
Easterseals provides essential services and on-the-ground supports to more than 1.5 million people each year — from early childhood programs for the critical first five years, to autism services, to medical rehabilitation and employment programs, to veterans’ services, and more.

**Radiant Abilities**
Radiant Abilities is a website devoted to increased self-esteem, confidence, and empowerment for people with disabilities, particularly in dating, relationships, and sexuality.

**Intimate Rider**
Intimate Rider creates sexual mobility aids for people with disabilities.

**Respect Ability**
RespectAbility is a diverse, disability-led nonprofit that works to create systemic change in how society views and values people with disabilities, and that advances policies and practices that empower people with disabilities to have a better future.
Disability Community Space (now open!)
Located in the former student lounge of the Office of Accessible Education, the Space’s mission is to allow students with disabilities to find community and feel comfortable exploring their disability identities.

Office of Accessible Education (OAE)
Through both academic and housing accommodations, OAE works to mitigate physical and attitudinal barriers that students might face.

Diversity and Access Office
The Diversity and Access Office ensures University-wide compliance with federal, state, and local regulations concerning non-discrimination and disability access. Their mission is to advance Stanford’s commitment to diversity, equal opportunity, and affirmative action goals as well as to foster an inclusive and accessible community for students, staff, faculty, and visitors.
Come decorate cookies with the student staff of SHARE: Education! Gift them to a friend, mentor, and/or significant other to spread love this Healthy Relationships Month.

SUGAR AND SHARE

Feb 17 7:00PM, WELL House