



THE BRIEN CENTER

Diversity • Equity • Inclusion

Your courage, our care.

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

ELIZABETH “MUMBET” FREEMAN

Elizabeth “Mumbet” Freeman passed away on December 28, 1829. Less than one year after the adoption of the Massachusetts State Constitution, a brave enslaved woman challenged the document's proposed principles. Motivated by the promise of liberty, Elizabeth Freeman, born as “Mumbet,” became the first African American woman to successfully file a lawsuit for freedom in the state of Massachusetts. This case marked the beginning of a group of “freedom suits” that would ultimately lead the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to outlaw slavery in their state.

<https://youtu.be/6MPJX4wTUxY>



INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

“Long Time No See” and “No Can Do”:

These terms as well as other expressions using “broken” English originate from stereotypes making fun of nonnative English speakers, particularly applied to Indigenous people and Asian people. Suggested alternatives: “It’s Been A While” and “Sorry, I Can’t”

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Human Rights Day is observed on December 10th. This year is the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world. The Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on December 10, 1948 as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected.

Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Human rights include the right to education, right to food, right to equity, right to life, and many more. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination. This Human Rights Day, let's start believing in our rights and stand up for our fellow human beings.



OPPRESSION

Oppression occurs when one subgroup has more access to power and privilege than another subgroup, and when that power and privilege are used to dominate the other to maintain the status quo. Thus, oppression is both a state and a process, with the state of oppression being unequal group access to power and privilege, and the process of oppression being the ways in which that inequality is maintained.

Questions/Comments/Suggestions for the DEI Committee?

Contact Us: DEI@briencenter.org