



Morningstar Vancil (in conversation with Marion Abdullah)

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“So when I become disabled it was very hard for me, because I was very independent and the reason it’s hard for me, I’m already been discriminated because the color of my skin. That’s already a discrimination right there. And then another thing, because of my accent. You know, some people think I’m retarded and I’m stupid. And then another discrimination I had to go through is how I look. I’m a very masculine person. So it’s kind of more added discrimination.

And it’s even harder, because what I have is not visible. So people does not believe me, you know, when I tell them I’m hard of hearing, when I tell them I need to sit here because I can’t hear. And they think that I’m faking it, most of the time. So every day when I wake up, I don’t know what I’m going to be discriminated basis of. It could be because of color by skin, could be because how I look, and could be because of my disability. So I don’t know.

And sometime could be all of them. Being female, being a person of color, I just expected to happen every day. If I have a good day where I’m not being discriminated, that’s very rare. That’s very rare.”

“I need all my paperwork. And at that time, my partner Ray was helping me with the paperwork, and what happened – she was Filipino. I had a Filipino doctor, and they’re Catholic. She outed me in front of everybody. She said that if you were married to a man, you wouldn’t have cancer. So she outed me, and I told her my mother had cancer. She got beat up by her husband, so what did that mean? And explain to me why kids got cancer. What did they do to deserve to have that cancer?”



Morningstar Vancil (in conversation with Marion Abdullah) - continued

So my wife was upset. She's a social worker, so. And what they didn't know, I was on the Board of Human Rights Commission. So I filed a complaint. So when I filed a complaint, there was somebody who works there who knew me. He was the secretary of the administrator at the hospital. So what I did is I filed a complaint with the Human Rights Commission.

And it was during my chemo – I was still going to my chemo when I filed that complaint. So they were upset at what happened to me. So they asked me what do I want out of this? I said I want every doctors, nurse, everyone that works in this hospital, to go to LGBT sensitivity training. That's how I become an activist in the middle of my chemotherapy.”