



Notes From Beyond The Margins

Vol. 1, No. 1 May 2024

MAPs Without Maps.

When it comes to MAP rights activism...we're self taught.



Message from the editor

Hi! Welcome to MEDAL's **first** newsletter: *MAPs Without MAPs*.

A lot of the duties that go into launching a non-profit organization are new and unfamiliar to our board of volunteer activists. Being the first MAP rights activist organization (that we're aware of) makes things even more disorienting. There's a hell of a lot left unknown about the reliability of mapping the markers from other movements to a MAP liberation movement, and I have enough experience and education in activism to have a seriously

healthy fear of the unknown.

Now I get why no one has done this before. Speaking of which, non profits need newsletters whether or not any of its workers have done one before. I hope you enjoy this newsletter, and if you do it's because Steve, Katie, Lecter, LC, and Logan are amazing (self taught nonprofessional) editors.

Since we're new I'll give you the basic gist. We have met weekly since Oct 2023. Creating minorattracted.org has been our biggest project. On top of that we've been plugging away on research and prep work for some activism projects. We have far more projects in planning than we do projects that are active. We've even engaged in some direct action when we needed to stand up for one of our members. I'm incredibly impressed with the valuable work we've done, but in my opinion the best thing we've done together is end our weekly meeting with a dance party that lasts for one song.

We're very happy to have you with us.

Best,

MytheBe

New alt. website address

Anyone can also get to minorattracted.org by using visitmedal.org instead. The idea for this was to have something people could share that was less conspicuous.

Activism opportunity

A map rights forum user shared [this link](#), and wrote:

“They're seeking input on identifying determinants of mental health disparities and developing culturally responsive interventions to address such disparities. In other words, this is a chance to speak up about MAPs and mental health. I plan on writing something about MAPs, and encourage everyone who can to send in something before the deadline of May 31st.”

Sexplanations campaign

An early MEDAL campaign goal was to become one of the expert guests featured on the Sexplantations Youtube channel or podcast, so we could expand on their MAP-friendly/neutral [Virtuous Pedophiles video](#) by discussing pedophilia and other MAP attractions as regular sexual orientations.

Steve and I crafted the perfect email that let Sexplanations know who we (MEDAL) are,

what our intentions were, and asked them if it would be possible to meet so they could suss out if they'd be comfortable working with us. There was lively discussion in our meetings about whether the email should say that we're people with sexual and "romantic" or sexual and "emotional" attractions to minors. Let us know what you think by reaching out to me at mythebe@proton.me; and if you know anyone working at Sexplanations, do me a favor and ask them if deciding to use "emotional" instead of "romantic" was the reason we never got a reply.

A Glimpse Behind Hidden Curtains

Website colorblind accessibility upgrade

Website colorblind accessibility upgrade

One of the things that makes MEDAL different is our dedication to diversity, and reaching MAPs who face difficulties based on more than just their sexual orientation. This obviously includes trans MAPs and BIPOC MAPs, but also disabled MAPs.

One very common (if mild) form of disability within the MAP community is colorblindness. One in twelve male MAPs experience some type of colorblindness, or at least I assume so based on the average male. As with everything else, most organizations put a ton of thought into the look of their website without considering any of the 300,000,000 people with colorblindness when it comes to choosing an attractive color palette for their design. MAPs with colorblindness deserve the same amount of care and attention that goes into making things beautiful for everyone else.

MEDAL is lucky to have LC on our board, who among his many talents, happens to have one of the several different forms of colorblindness as well as some education on this topic. Lecter designed our website's color palette to reflect the gender non binary version of the MAP pride flag, and LC helped to adjust the saturation and lightness of each hue to be more accommodating. After all, what's the point of a non binary color palette if it isn't accessible to non binary MAPs with colorblindness. We used [Adobe's Color Accessibility tool](#) to test our palette, and we're pleased to know that minorattracted.org is accessible to people with colorblindness.

People with regular vision, and people with regular colorblindness vision have told us our accessible color palette looks great, and we think so too, but that doesn't mean everyone will enjoy it because there's no accounting for taste.

In Conclusion

Lastly, thank you so much for checking out this newsletter because unopened newsletters can result in platforms being banned from sending mass emails.

