

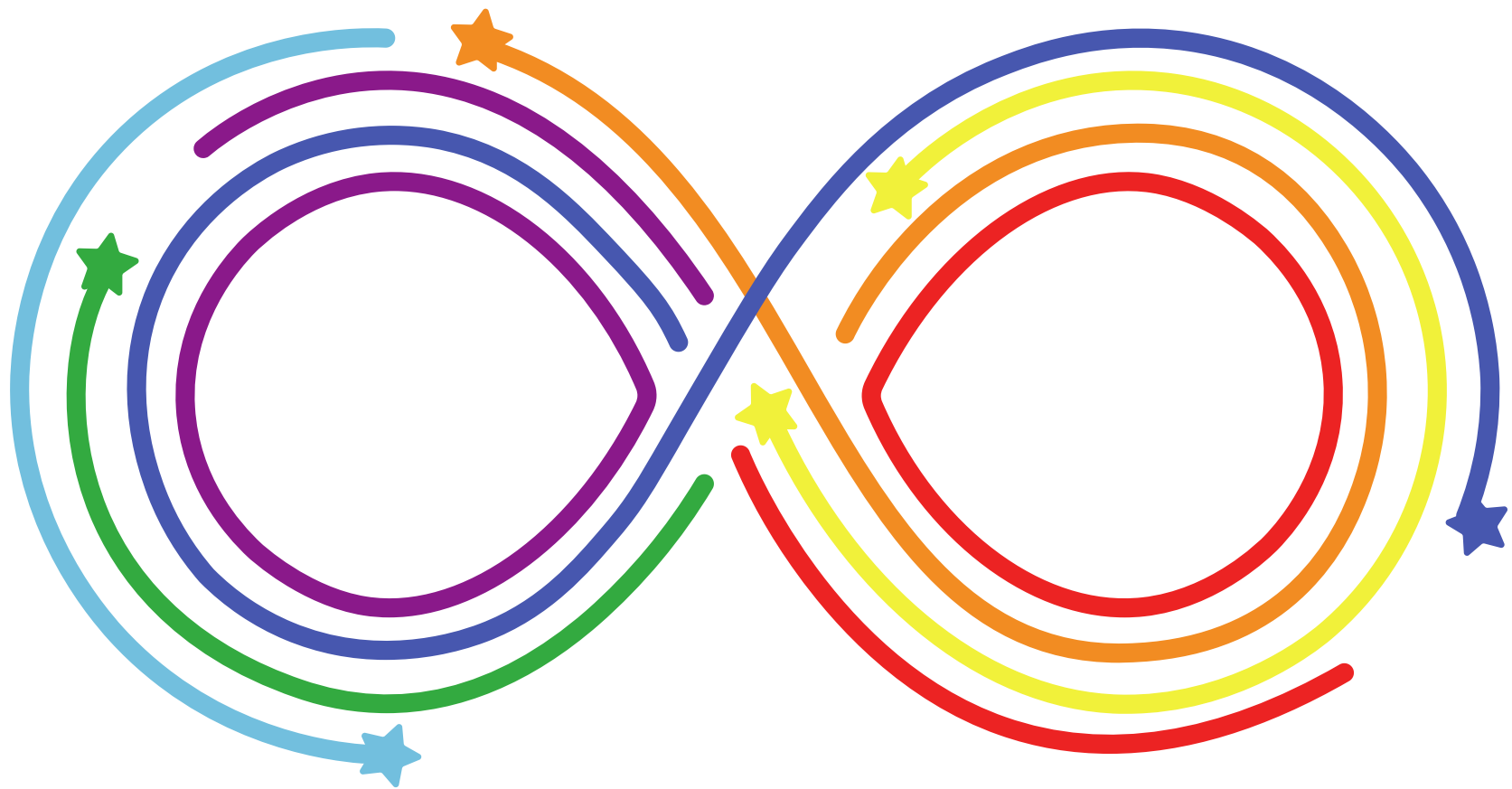
April is coming



Out with the old,
in with the new!



@NeuroClastic



April is hard for Autistic people because the world wants to only talk about us in ways that create distance between Autism and their non-autistic humanity. The world wants to only see a snapshot of autism from an aerial view, looking down on us as lower in the invisible hierarchies people create.



The mainstream continues to have no idea an Autistic community exists. Well-intentioned people cause harm by knowing very little about us, but thinking we need a champion in April. They use offensive language, donate to harmful orgs, and promote non-autistic "experts." People who mostly ignore us give a once-a-year boost to everything we struggle against year-round.

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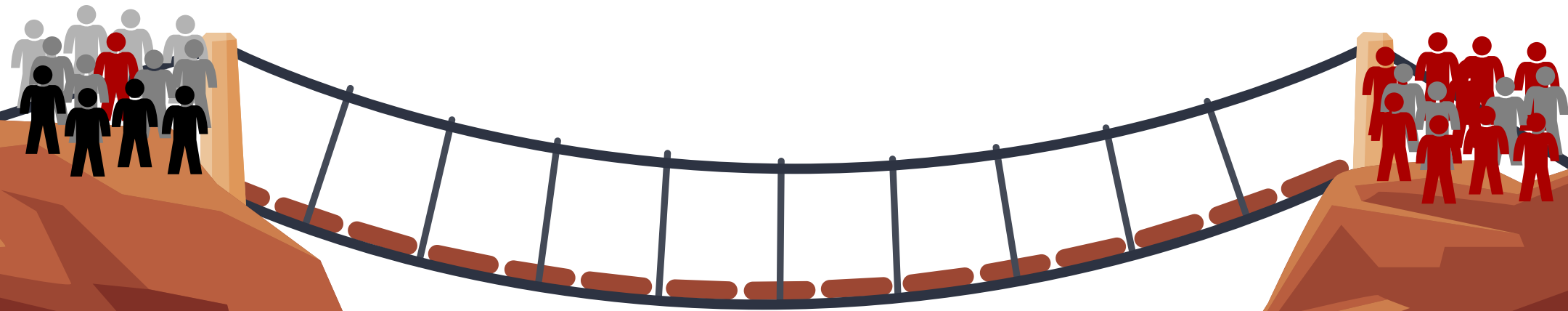


We are tired of starting at puzzle pieces and identity-first language. Let's move forward as a community.

Every April, Autistic people get reminded that most people are unaware that they exist (as teens and adults), have opinions and deep knowledge, and have a community. Then we experience what any marginalized community does—the gap between where we are and where the world is. We seem radical to the mainstream who cannot imagine us outside of being wretched children needing compassion and saviors to rescue them.

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We want to focus on topics that are important to us, but we have to keep re-starting with the most basic principles of disability rights and respectful language for even discussing autism.



Behavior of children

Function labels

Cures & Walks

Autism Speaks

Early intervention

Puzzle pieces

Communication

Autistic lifespan

Underemployment

Sensory wellness

Complex PTSD

Sex & relationships



Autistic people can dive into the Autistic community and learn that there are others out there who “get it” and have created amazing resources. Autistics think that having access to this knowledge base will make all the difference for them. They feel this new sense of hope for a more equitable and accommodating future. Then the world ignores that we exist and that hope is crushed.

All of us are different, but we also have a lot in common. We get the same benefits from engaging in community as anyone would, but only other autistic people really can “get it” and relate from a place of shared experiences. We usually know very little about ourselves until we are immersed in Autistic culture. The way the world understands autism is not very relatable to us.

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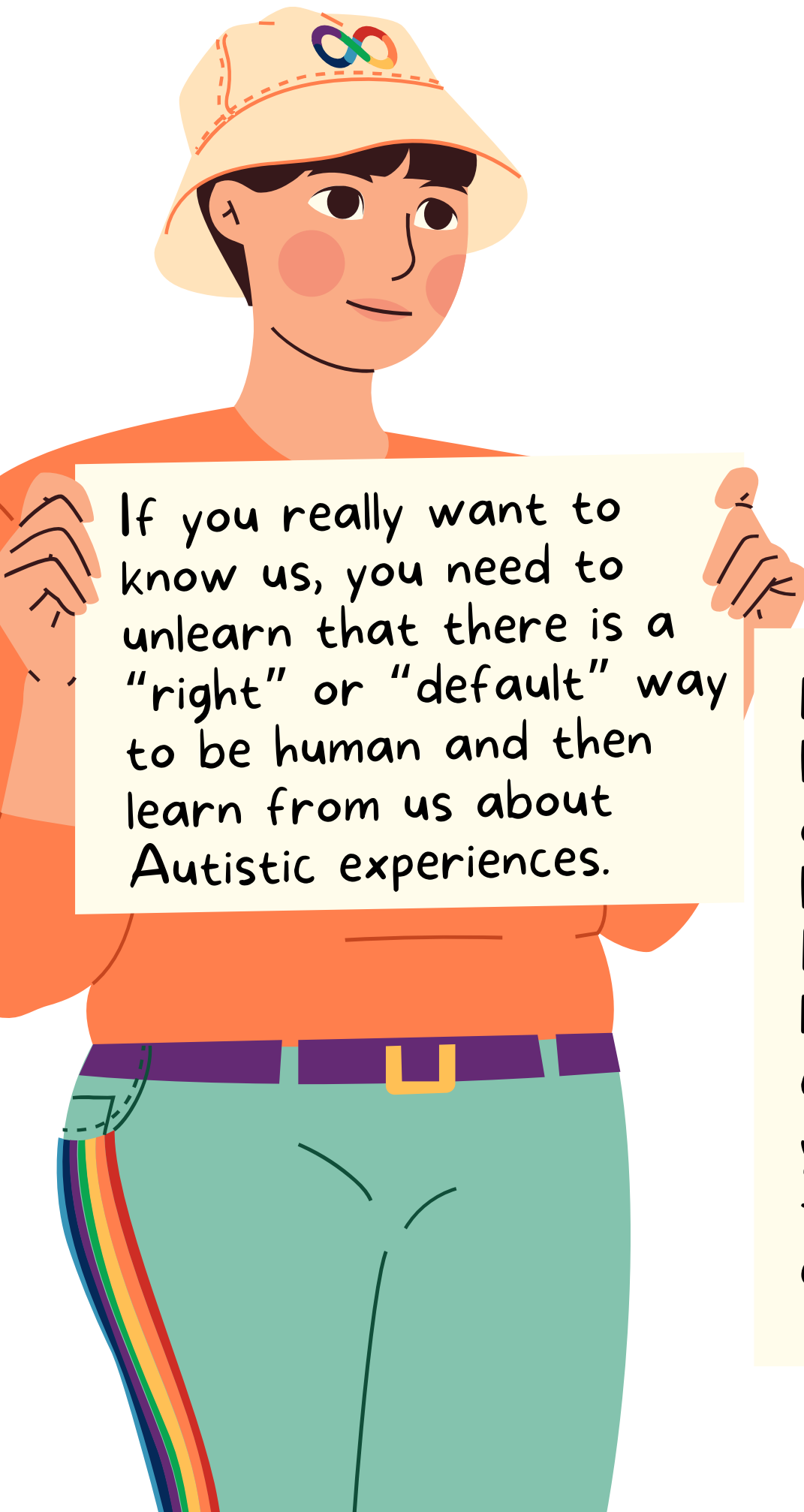




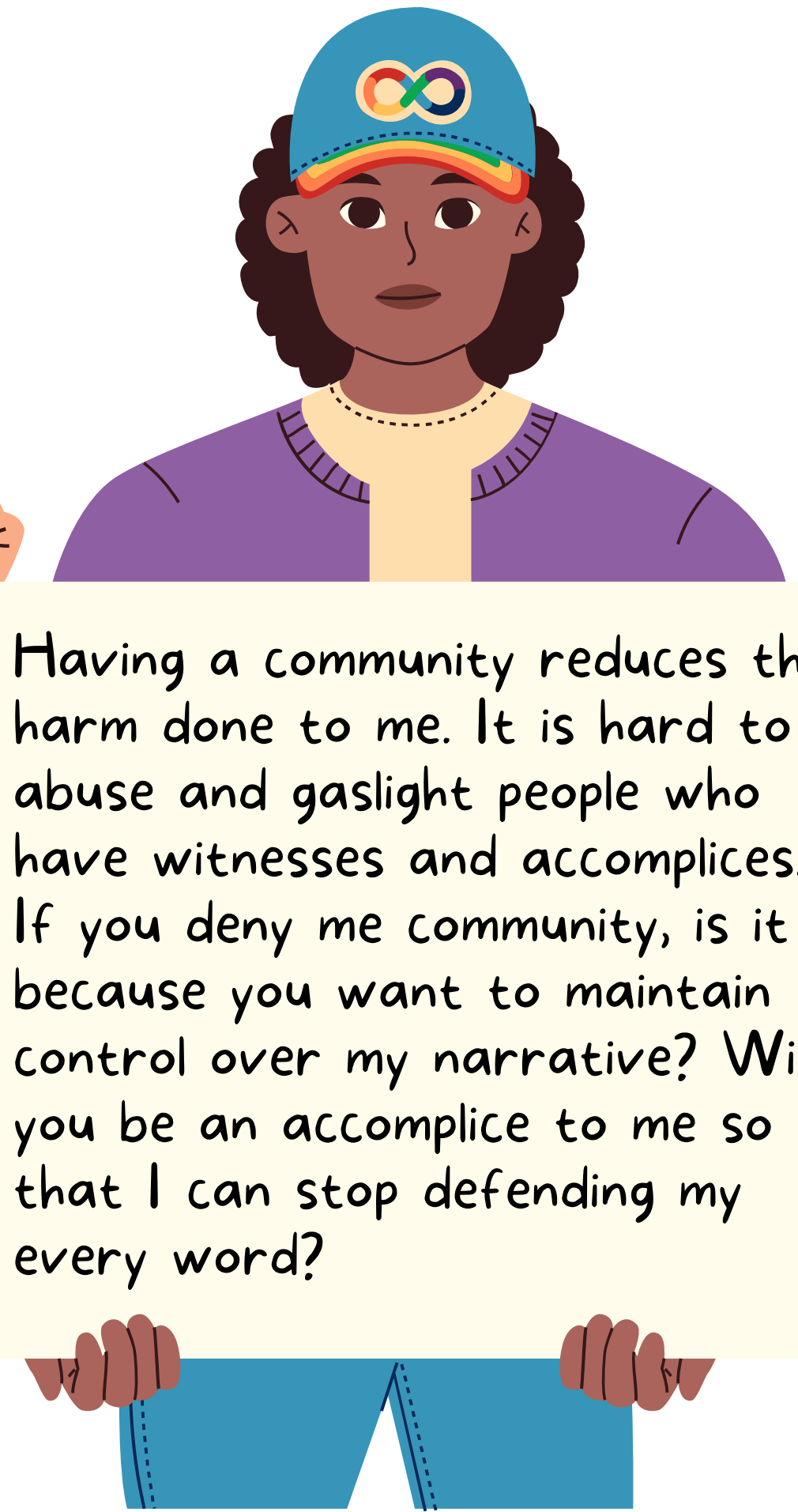
Everything in the world that describes the human experience and perception is written according to the non-autistic experience.

As long as our divergent minds are discussed and measured by typical standards, we are not seen or represented.

Having community is critical for our health and future. We need to create a common language others can learn to be able to understand, accept, and even appreciate us. If you struggle to bring yourself to respect our community, you cannot respect us as individuals.



If you really want to know us, you need to unlearn that there is a "right" or "default" way to be human and then learn from us about Autistic experiences.



Having a community reduces the harm done to me. It is hard to abuse and gaslight people who have witnesses and accomplices. If you deny me community, is it because you want to maintain control over my narrative? Will you be an accomplice to me so that I can stop defending my every word?

As an accomplice,
you can learn
about our
individual
experiences...

Support Autistic-led
orgs and buy from
Autistic-owned
businesses. Invest in
our community.

And our
intersectional
experiences as
members of other
communities

Help make it the
norm to hear
from Autistic
people & meet us
in our community
spaces.