

## SSSP Accessibility Committee meeting

June 25, 2025

Present: Natasha Kabir; Rahsaan Mahadeo

### Agenda

- Intros
- [Accessibility for All](#) statement
- Relevant sessions in [program](#)
  - Session 006, 021, 029, 031, 038, 054, 072, 083
- Hotel
  - Elevators to all levels
  - Security can escort in wheelchair
  - Can hotel security escort people in wheelchairs on walking tours?
    - [https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/1023/Walking\\_Tours/](https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/1023/Walking_Tours/)
    - Pace of tours a bit too fast last conference
  - Can volunteers assist?
- General meeting questions
  - Can volunteers at registration desk be more explicit about accessibility needs and accommodations (e.g., location of quiet room)?
    - Can we include printouts at registration desk?
  - Can accessibility statement be read aloud at opening plenary?
  - Will SSSP use an app to communicate consistently about needs (e.g., [Whova](#))
    - App's role in meeting people's needs
    - Encourage people to upload photos on app
    - Apps help make presenter profiles available to all
  - Can SSSP send one more reminder email to all participants about access needs? Some people may have had difficulty responding to previous requests.
- [Review of 2024 survey results](#)
  - Gendered and all-gendered bathrooms
    - "I recognize that SSSP is trying to be gender inclusive and I respect that, but as a woman with significant trauma from men, SSSP's all gender bathrooms have become a source of great anxiety for me. My advisor is a man who also attends this conference, so this adds to the stress. Every time I open the wrong bathroom door and see a urinal, I worry about accidentally walking in on him urinating, so I either risk a UTI or go out of my way to find either solo bathrooms or bathrooms that are still marked by gender. I wonder if there is another way to be more inclusive towards gender nonconforming individuals while also recognizing that many of us AFAB have traumatic experiences with men and may feel safer/more comfortable having a space where one can still assume some privacy from men. To be clear, this is not intended as a rightwing TERF thing--I fully support people using the bathroom that aligns with their gender identity. Maybe in the future the norms will shift and this arrangement will be less jarring, but in the meantime, SSSP is the only space I've seen that tries to present spaces clearly designed with gender in mind as suddenly

genderless. Again, truly not trying to be bigoted, just have had one too many creepy/scary/upsetting experiences while alone with men.” - anonymous response

- What sort of dietary accommodations can be made during receptions and dinner?  
Concerns that SSSP may not be as accommodating to people of different faith traditions that maintain specific dietary restrictions.
- Audio is critical for people with visual impairments

Action item:

- Can SSSP consider an option to collect dietary preferences/restrictions/needs during registration?