

It's not just white men, all men are self-absorbed asses (except some that are not part of the norm and have experienced more shit in their lives)

I also was an ass like that before my stroke and even after only when I got educated by the university of colour and I was experiencing prejudice because of the wheelchair that changed a bit. Now I became friends with some neuro-diverse and became much more aware of consent and how nice it is to be honest about my needs and see they trust me by being honest about their needs. Last night I did not go to the social thing I was invited to because I felt like being alone, I was out of social energy and that was accepted, instead of getting fragile or acting insulted because I do not want to be around them.

Back to the story

The situation today

I was going back home and had to wait because they were pruning trees, so I went to the side of the road and I was struggling a bit in the gravel the woman in the shop said stuff I said no she repeated while motioning to push me I said tidak, she repeated and said help? I said no, I kept struggling but I felt I was making progress so did not try anything else. The lady accepted this and went back to what she had been doing. Then one of the workers came and said stuff in bahasa, I said tidak(tidak), the lady explained, he insisted I waved my arm indicating to him that he should back off or go away, he said stuff and took a step in my direction so I was forced to show them that I do not need their help because I can walk and push the chair anywhere I need.

I was very annoyed that this man forced me to behave according to his expectations because he is a man his opinion is the truth any woman or handicapped person can not know it better than them so he does not accept,

only when I felt threatened enough that he would grab me that I got up to show him that I do not need or want his help that he backed off, I do not like to get up because it wastes more energy and there is a much bigger risk of falling and because I have to have my handles down to signal to everybody that I am a self-reliant wheelchair user I have to bend to push my wheelchair which increases the chance of falling.

And this happens very often everywhere, in different countries in Europe and Asia, and always it are the men that refuse my rejection of help, women and other minorities/less privileged than the local norm are better at accepting my rejection.

The times I get really angry is always with men

I just remember an incident with a man that did not accept that it was my choice to sit on the zebra crossing blocking the cars with a sign stating cars are bastards and the shopping mall should be as accessible for rolling people including bikes and scootmobiles as for cars.

He still kept offering to push me to the other side and when he started to move towards me I told him to stay away, when he was so close that he started to move around me I screamed at him: "Ik trap je in elkaar als je mijn rolstoel aanraakt" (I will kick your ass if you touch my wheelchair) against all reason he did accept this threat and backed away, no I am not physically able to kick anybody's ass but this man, finally accepted that I did not want to be "helped"

before that I maybe had a micro aggression, and an unintended compliment, the compliment was by a local not noticing the wheelchair or the disability but the white person in it I heard the word bule repeated a couple times and was happy about this because most of the time people don't seem to

notice that there is a person in the chair.

But when I had an iced tea at a food stall they also put down a plate of soto, I did not ask for it, they did not mention it so I ignored it, halfway through my drink the shopkeeper asked makan? (eat?) I said tidak bakpao and pointed at my stomach, I think she understood I did not feel like eating because I already had breakfast. This could be a micro aggression in the form of giving a meal to the poor wheelchair user, but it can also be a tactic to entice me into eating it and paying her out of guilt or because it looked and smelt so good. I think it was the last and not a micro aggression. I thanked for the drink and payed for it