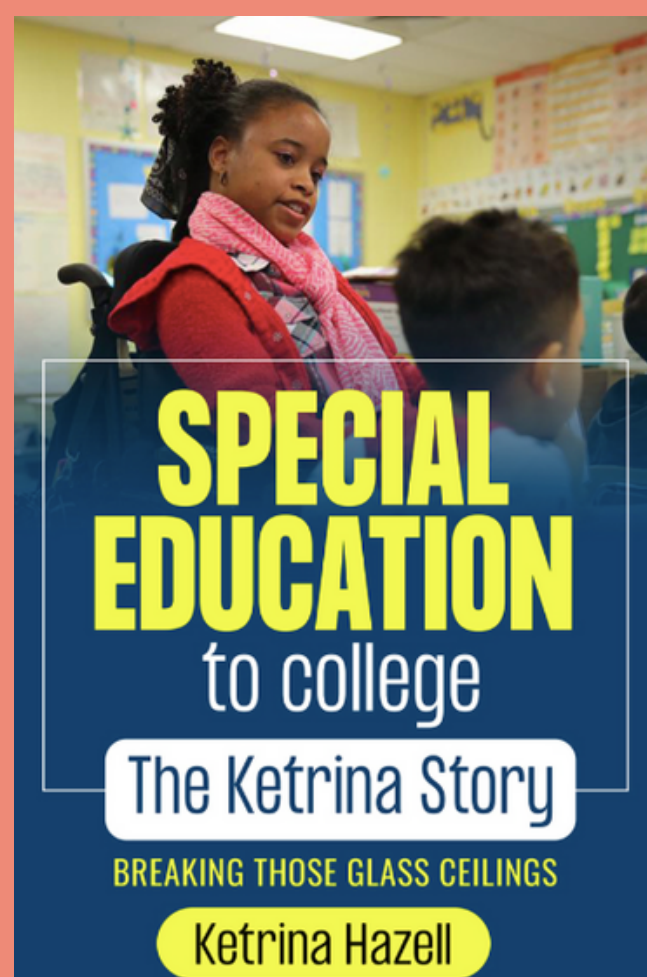


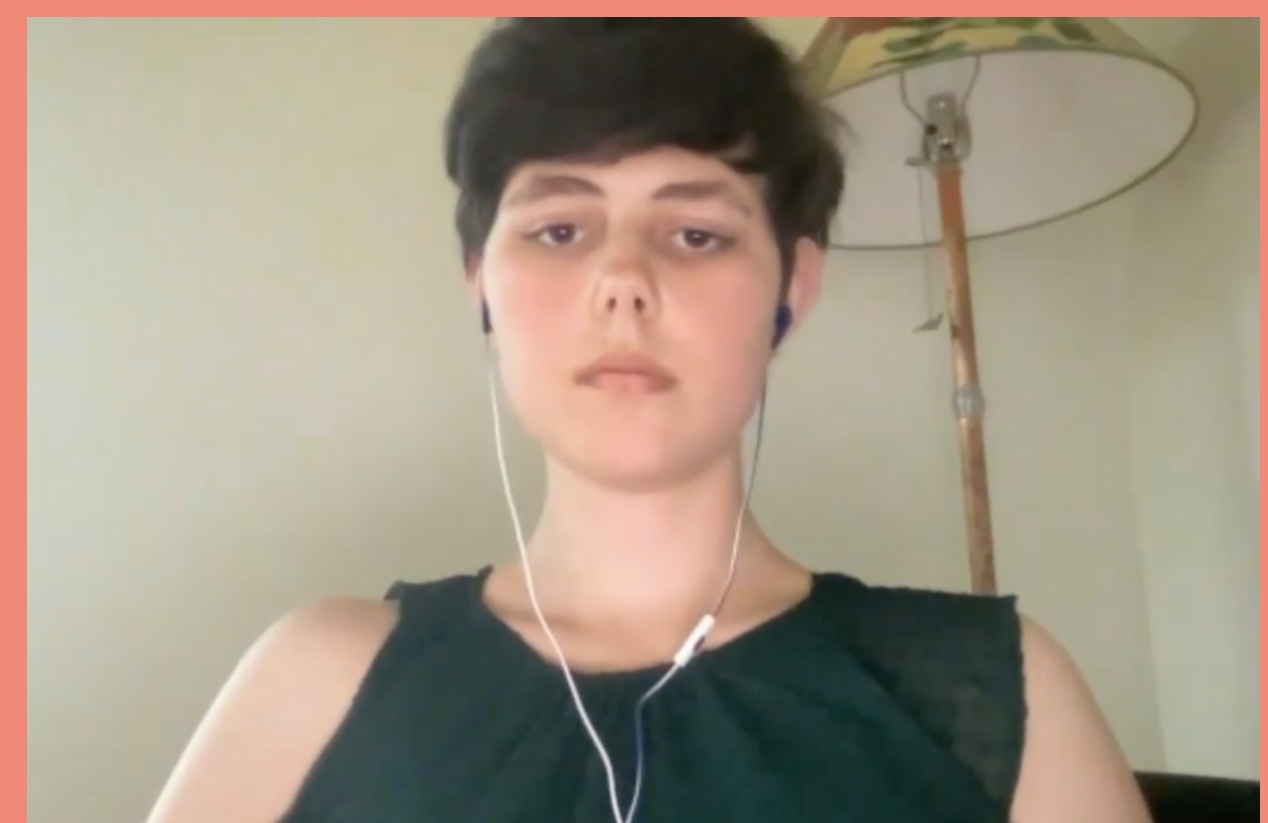
## TWO INDOMINATABLE YOUNG DECISION-MAKERS STRIVING TO BE “ARCHITECTS OF THEIR OWN LIVES”

Trina and Luisa are different in many ways, but both were at risk of guardianship because their parents were told that it was the only way to “protect” them. Trina found supported decision-making and SDMNY on her own, at a presentation we did at the Brooklyn Public Library, and knew immediately that it was the alternative she needed. Luisa’s parents had actually begun guardianship proceeding, but the Guardian ad Litem appointed by the Court, who visited Luisa and her parents, thought that guardianship might not be necessary, and referred them to SDMNY. Both Trina and Luisa went through the SDMNY facilitation process, and both signed their SDMAs with enthusiastic supporters—in Luisa’s case, both of her parents, who then withdrew her petition for guardianship.



You may have heard Trina speak about what SDM, and SDMNY means to her (Good News [6/3/2022]) but there’s something new to share about her remarkable journey. She has written, and just published a book that she, as a passionate self-advocate wrote to encourage others with disabilities to push through the prejudices and barriers that might otherwise keep them from their best lives.

Luisa is also a passionate self-advocate, with a message for others. She's part of our Self-Advocate Coaching Project (Good News [6/3/2022]) and has just finished a video in which she speaks about her challenges and how she has overcome them, including how supported decision-making has given power to her own voice. (You can view her video [here](#).)



We are so proud of these extraordinary young people, of their courage and perseverance, and how they exemplify the right of everyone to make their own decisions, with the support of trusted persons in their lives, regardless of their disability.

### CONGRATULATIONS TRINA AND LUISA, AND THANKS FOR SHARING YOUR JOURNEYS!