



REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE TOOLKIT

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@uuwomensfed
www.uuwf.org

“No woman can call herself free who does not control her own body.”

— Margaret Sanger

“The emphasis must be not on the right to abortion but on the right to privacy and reproductive control.”

— Ruth Bader Ginsburg

“I believe feminism is grounded in supporting the choices of women even if we wouldn’t make certain choices for ourselves.”

— Roxane Gay

“Communities and countries and ultimately the world are only as strong as the health of their women.”

— Michelle Obama

“I’m interested in women’s health because I’m a woman. I’d be a darn fool not to be on my own side.”

— Maya Angelou

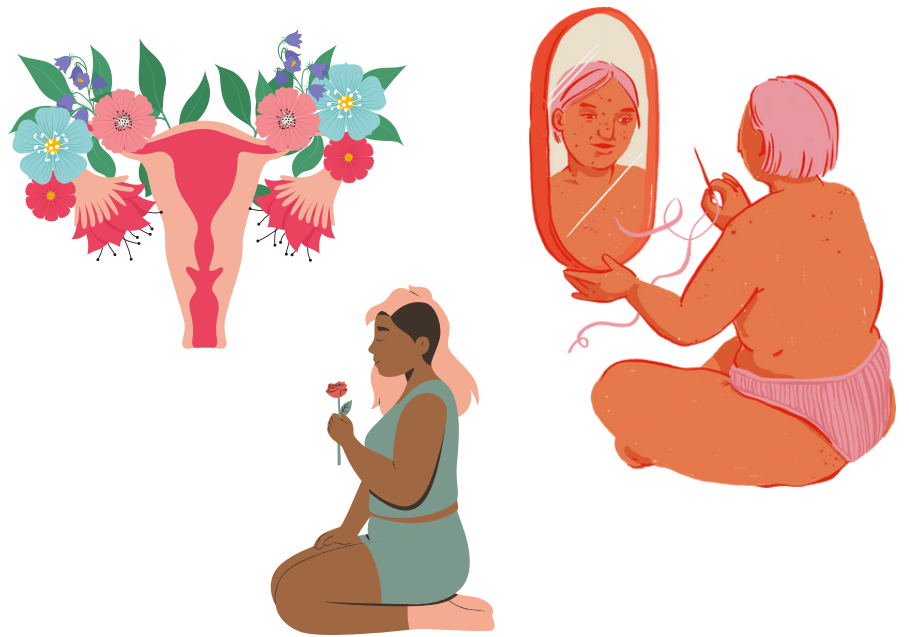


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Did you know?

In the U.S., one in four women will end a pregnancy in her lifetime—yet abortion is now illegal in 13 states, leaving millions without access to care

THE PRINCIPLES AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

We firmly believes that each of us has the right to bodily autonomy, the sacred right to define our own identities, and the right to health care—including reproductive care and abortion.

Our collective religious movement calls on us to understand that the intersections of race and class make it harder for women of color and poor women to have their voices heard.

Our faith reminds us that each body is sacred, and that we each deserve love, care, and support.



UU-ISM AND REPRO JUSTICE, YESTERDAY AND TODAY

UUs have worked throughout U.S. history to secure reproductive rights. At General Assembly in 1963, we passed our first statement in support of reproductive rights, the first denomination to formally support a woman's right to choose.

In Texas, members of a Dallas UU congregation were party to an amicus brief to the SCOTUS in *Roe v Wade*. This same Dallas congregation is now helping lead the resistance to SB8, a near-total ban on abortion that took effect in September of 2021.

We at the UUWF continue this tradition by making women's health one of our priority issues. In 2022, board members of UUWF wrote an Act of Immediate Witness, voted on at GA. It passed with overwhelming support and laid the groundwork for ways that our faith will side with reproductive justice for all.

We stand firmly beside those who are tirelessly working to defend reproductive freedom. Our faith calls us, through our principles and sources, to love and care for one another. We are bound by our covenantal relationships to uphold these ideas that guide us on the path of beloved community and collective liberation. We also stand firm in our call to faithful action in dismantling harmful systems.

[Act of Immediate Witness 2022:
We Do Not Consent: Rejecting Legal
Challenges to Abortion](#)

ORGANIZATIONS TO FOLLOW



SisterSong

a national activist organization dedicated to reproductive justice for women of color

SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW!

leadership pipeline and a political home for Black women, young people, centering Black queer women, trans folx and folx living outside the gender binary

NARAL Pro-Choice America

reproductive freedom organization engaging in lobbying, political action, and advocacy efforts to oppose restrictions on abortion

We Testify

dedicated to the leadership and representation of people who have abortions, increasing the spectrum of abortion storytellers in the public sphere



What is Reproductive Justice?

In 1977, sixteen organizations formed the SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective. Their purpose is to improve institutional policies and systems that impact marginalized communities' reproductive lives (Native American, African American, Latina, and Asian American people).

SisterSong defines reproductive justice as the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.



Reproductive Justice vs Reproductive Rights vs Reproductive Health

Reproductive Justice addresses sexism, classism, racism, ableism; elevates repro rights and health to a human rights issue using a social justice framework; movement building

Reproductive Rights focuses on keeping abortion legal and expanding access to family planning services; fights for a person's 'right to choose' and 'right to privacy'; policy focused

Reproductive Health centers low cost care, culturally competent services, access to all repro health options like birth control, IVF, condoms, etc.



- **Abortifacient** A drug, herb, or device that can cause an abortion (end a pregnancy)
- **Abortion Doula** A person who provides care before, during, and after an abortion, with support varying by patient and their informational, emotional, physical, and practical needs
- **Birth Center** A special health facility for people giving birth and their families
- **Body Autonomy** Your ability to decide what happens to your body without outside influence or control. This can include being able to make decisions about your physical self and deciding what “healthy” looks like for you, free of influence from stereotypes, opinions, or rules of others
- **Cissexism** A system of beliefs, attitudes, and structures that claim that being cisgender is better, more natural, more normal, and more common than other gender modalities. Cissexism erases and shames transgender and nonbinary people
- **Hormonal Contraceptives** Birth control methods that use hormones to prevent pregnancy. These include the implant, the hormonal IUD, the pill, the patch, the ring, and the shot
- **Misogynoir** A term, coined by queer Black feminist Moya Bailey, to specify a type of misogyny directed toward and experienced by Black women (and femmes), where both race and gender influence bias.
- **Misoprostol** A medication that can be used to complete a medication abortion that’s been induced with mifepristone. This process is commonly known as the abortion pill. Although less effective than mifepristone, misoprostol is used alone for abortion in some countries
- **Reproductive Oppression** The controlling and exploiting of women, girls, and individuals through their bodies, sexuality, labor, and reproduction (both biological and social) by families, communities, institutions, and society



Byllye Avery

The founder of the Black Women's Health Imperative (formerly the National Black Women's Health Project) and the Avery Institute for Social Change, Byllye Avery has been a health care activist for over 30 years, focusing on the specific needs of women.

In 1983, she founded The National Black Women's Health Project, dedicated to helping women who need information or help regarding domestic violence, contraception, safe and affordable abortions, as well as birthing plans and options. The Avery Institute for Social Change, organized in 2002, focuses its work on health care reform.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Byllye Avery.

Monica Simpson

A queer, black, NC native, has organized extensively against human rights abuse, the prison industry, racism, and systemic violence against Southern black women and LGBTQ people. Now serving as the executive director of SisterSong, the Southern-based National Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective and also committed to birth justice as a certified doula and founding board member of the Black Mamas Matter Alliance..



Click [here](#) for more information on Monica Simpson.



Dr. Helen Rodríguez Trías

A Puerto Rican doctor and women’s health care activist who changed the face of the women’s health movement, Dr. Helen Rodríguez Trías became the first Latina president of the American Public Health Association. Her work as a physician focused on ending reproductive health disparities faced by low-income people of color.

Click [here](#) for more information on Dr. Helen Rodríguez Trías

Oriaku Njoku

Oriaku Njoku is the co-founder of Access Reproductive Care-Southeast (ARC) and was recently appointed as executive director of the National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF), whose nearly 100 member funds support and connect abortion seekers with essential care post Roe.

Click [here](#) for more information on Oriaku Njoku



Loretta J. Ross

An academic and activist focused on bringing reproductive rights to BIPOC women (and, fun fact, she helped coin the term “women of color” in 1977), Loretta J. Ross co-created the theory of reproductive justice in 1994 and was the national coordinator of the SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective from 2005–2012.

Click [here](#) for more information on Loretta J. Ross



**WATCH, READ,
LISTEN**



*RADICAL
REPRODUCTIVE
JUSTICE:
FOUNDATION,
THEORY, PRACTICE,
CRITIQUE*
BY LORETTA J ROSS
[Learn more](#)

*KILLING THE BLACK
BODY* BY DOROTHY
ROBERTS
[Learn More](#)

*CITE BLACK WOMEN,
THE PODCAST* BY
CHRISTEN SMITH
[Learn more](#)



REPRO RESOURCES

I NEED AN A

Their goal is to provide a simple, up-to-date, and localized source of information for people seeking abortions
[Learn More](#)

PLAN C

Plan C transforms access to abortion in the U.S. by normalizing the self-directed option of abortion pills by mail
[Learn More](#)

ABORTION FUNDS

builds power with members to remove financial and logistical barriers to abortion access by centering people who have abortions and organizing at the intersections of racial, economic, and reproductive justice
[Learn More](#)

TRANS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (TLI)

is a grassroots mobilizing and base building effort to engage Trans* young people of color (TYPOC) to become leaders in their community, to build connections, create trans-positive policy/legislation and health-specific programming
[Learn More](#)

DOPO | ABORTION SUPPORT FOR HER/HIM/THEM

Dopo is the Italian word for 'after,' a moment that is far too often forgotten when it comes to abortions. For many, the post-abortion experience is filled with silence, a lack of support, and stigma. Everything they do at Dopo is with the aim of improving the 'after.'
[Learn More](#)

WATCH, READ,
LISTEN



REPRODUCTIVE
JUSTICE: THE NORTH
STAR IN A WORLD
BEYOND ROE V. WADE
AND THE RIGHT TO
CHOOSE

[Learn More](#)

IN OUR MOTHER'S
GARDEN

[Watch on Netflix](#)

IN OUR OWN VOICE:
NATIONAL BLACK
WOMEN'S
REPRODUCTIVE
JUSTICE AGENDA

[Learn More](#)

ADVOCATES FOR
YOUTH

[Learn More](#)



BE AN ADVOCATE



Support Women's Reproductive Rights Movements

The ability to control decisions pertaining to your own reproductive health allows you to control your own destiny. Add your voice to this movement and support the fight to ensure all women have the right to make their own decisions when it comes to their body and future.

[Learn More](#)

#BadFaithMedicine: Anti-Abortion Fake Clinics

Sign the petition now demanding no federal funding to anti-abortion fake clinics.

[Learn More](#)

Reproductive Freedom Act

A campaign using organizing and advocacy to advance policy that repeals Georgia's medically-unnecessary abortion restrictions and makes abortion care accessible to everyone who needs it.

[Learn More](#)

ACLU Action

In this crisis moment, let's make sure your representatives act: Send a message urging them to pass these two critical pieces of legislation immediately.

Message Recipients: Your U.S. House Representative

[Learn More](#)