



Healthy Baby
Network

Reproductive Justice; A Human Rights Framework

September 21, 2018

Restorative Justice

Harm can
be
individual
or
systemic

- Bringing healing after a criminal harm through restorative collaboration between victim and perpetrator
- Harm is viewed as a violation of people and relationships
- Response to harm is to build relationships and heal people

Reproductive Health Equity

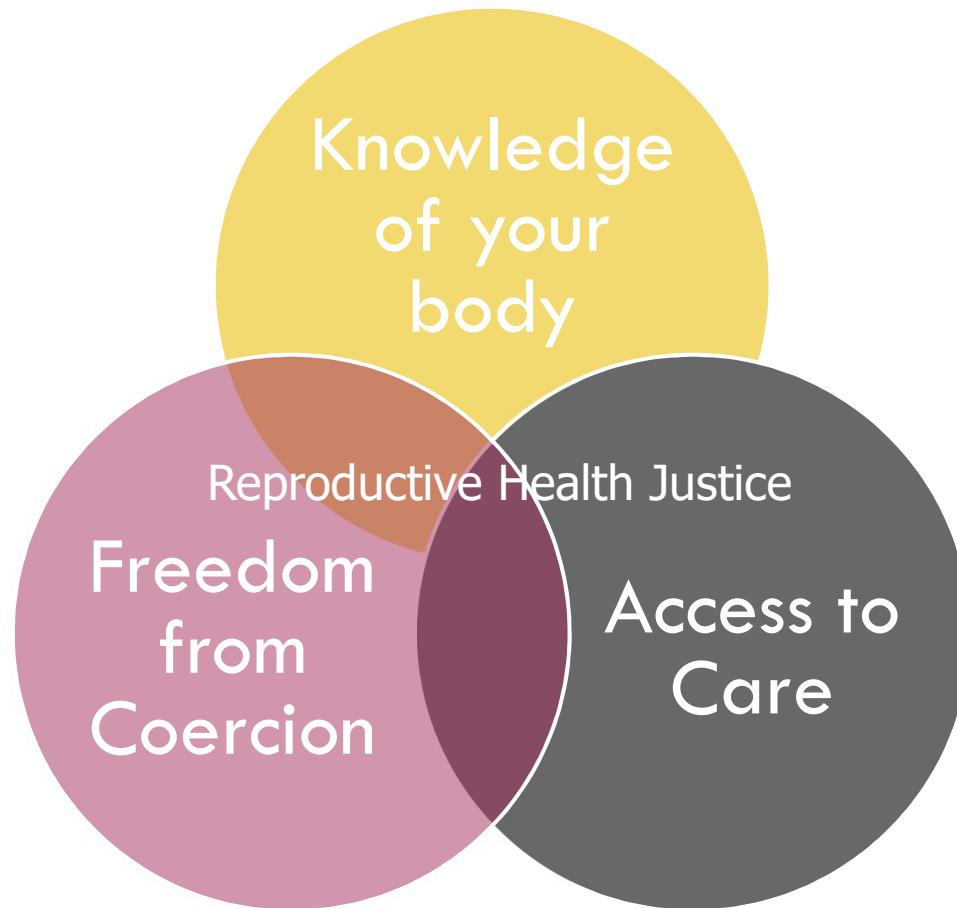
Describes an affirmative social reality of economic opportunity, educational attainment, and meaningful health choices for women and girls



A Human Rights Framework

The basic right to determine what happens in your own body

The right to decide whether and when to become a parent, the right to dignity in care, and the right to parent one's child in safety and dignity



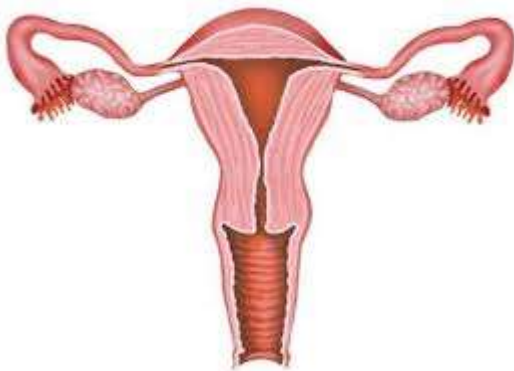
SIX Core Human Rights Treaties



- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- In Int'l Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
- Convention of the Rights of the child
- Convention against Torture
- Int'l Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- Convention of Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Reproductive Justice Affects Humans

You don't have to have a vagina to care about reproductive health — you have to have a heart.



Branding = How we think about things

Who buys which product?

What is the story of the product?



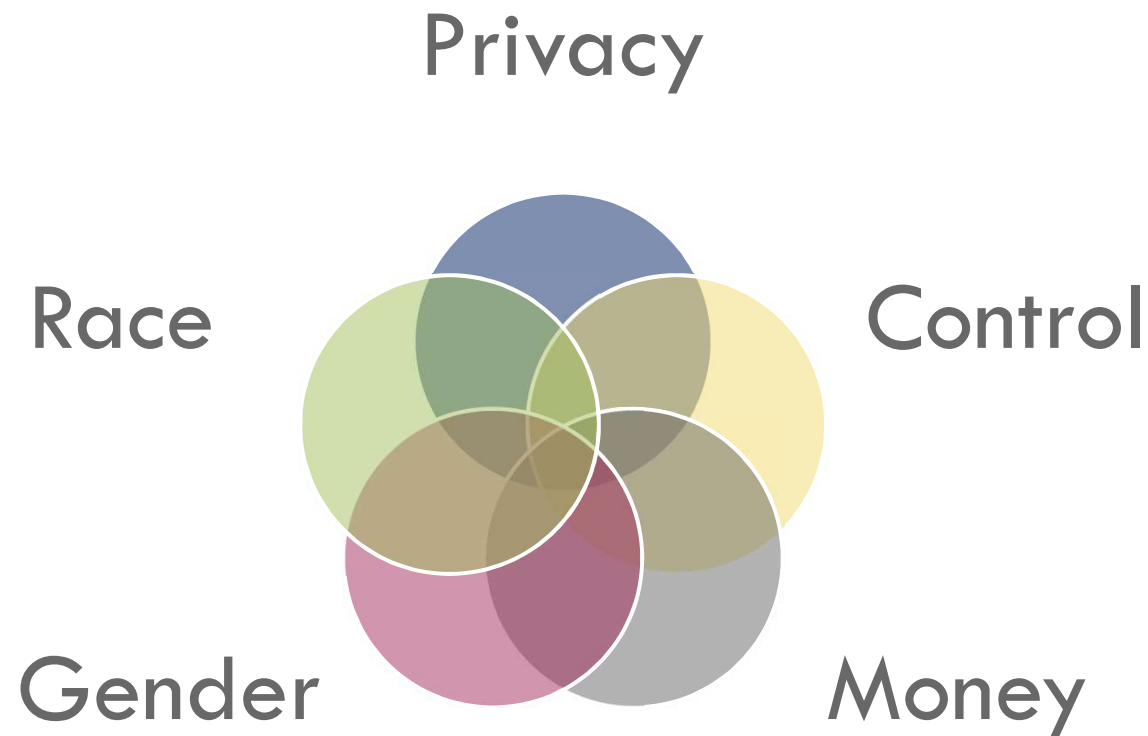
Who controls the conversation?



Whose story do we care about?



What is it really about?



Reproductive Justice is a Human Right.

All persons who reproduce require a safe and dignified context in which to parent.

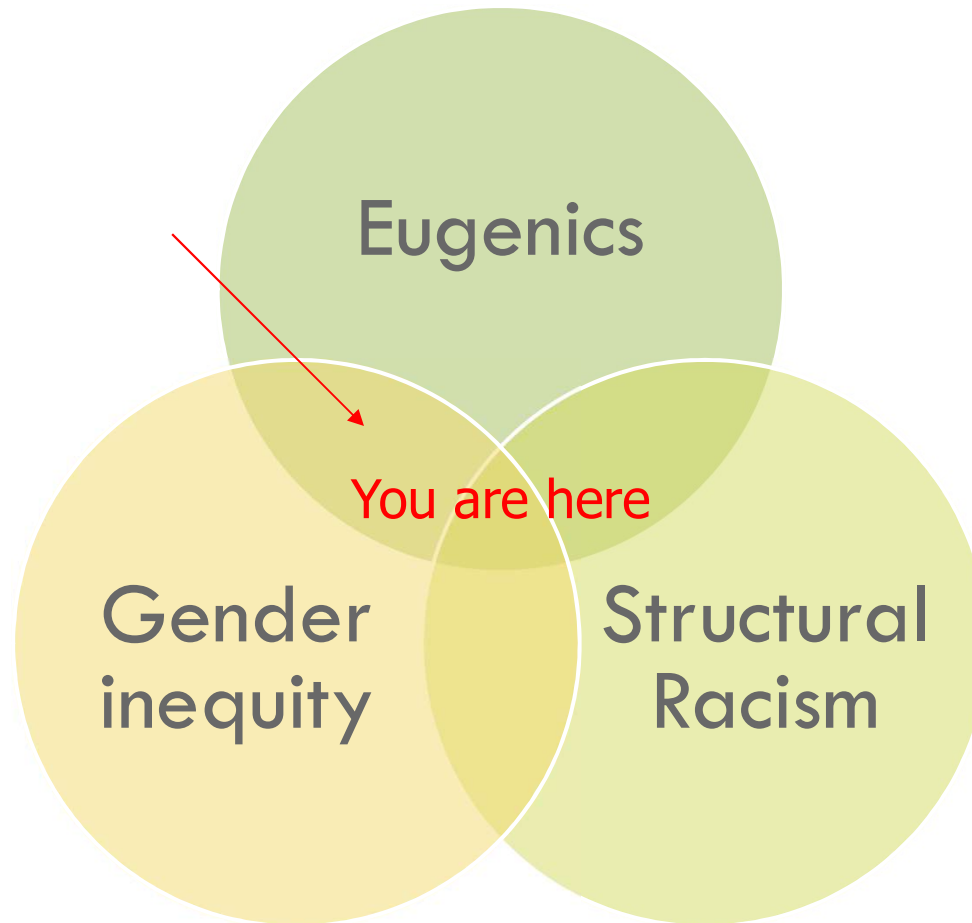
Safe and dignified:

- ☐ Fertility Management
- ☐ Pregnancy
- ☐ Childbirth
- ☐ Parenting

For anyone:

- ☐ Who can become pregnant
- ☐ Who can become a parent

US policy & culture at the intersection..



Eugenics

Eugenics was a popular movement, in the early part of the 1900s, with the idea that breeding humans could produce a more desirable and high functioning species.

- ❑ Forced sterilizations of poor women, women of color, and women considered 'mentally defective.'
- ❑ In *Buck v Bell* (1927), upholding a Virginia law allowing the forced sterilization of 'feeble minded' women, Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote: "3 generations of imbeciles is enough."
- ❑ Forced sterilization (more than 60,000 US Citizens were forcibly sterilized between 1907 and 1937 – at the peak of this practice, Spanish surnamed patients were 3.5 times more likely to be sterilized).

Who are Women?

- A. 47 % of the US Workforce
- B. 80% of single parents and 50% of two parent families
- C. A group who earn 78% of the salary their male counterparts earn and are more likely to live in poverty
- D. A group less likely to have medicines appropriately tested for them and more likely to have their pain ignored
- E. ALL OF THE ABOVE

(https://www.dol.gov/wb/stats/facts_over_time.htm#earn)

Women Work Harder to be Poorer

In Rochester:

Gender & Poverty

Median Male Income

High School Diploma Only.....\$32,769

Median Female Income

High School Diploma Only\$22,594

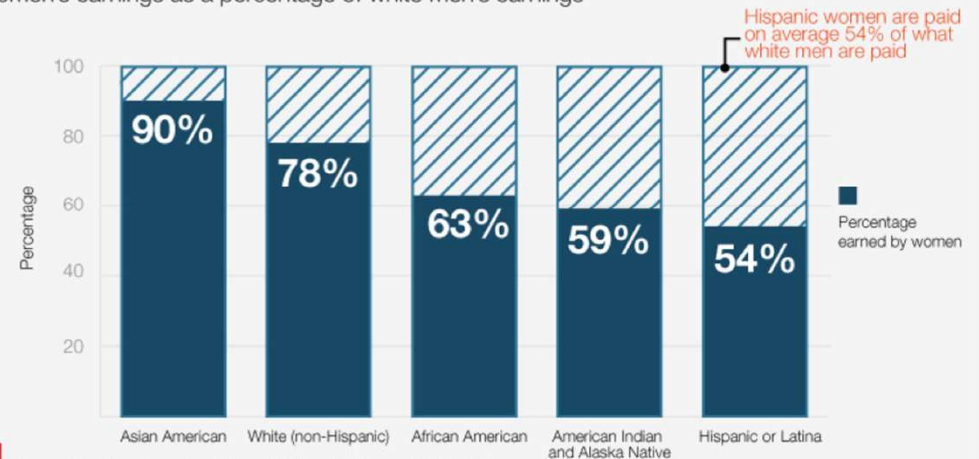
Families - Female Head of Household

w/Children Living in Poverty
.....43.3%

Nationally:

Gender pay gap by race

Women's earnings as a percentage of white men's earnings



Source: The American Association of University Women (Spring 2016)

Women Bear the Economic Burden of Child bearing

- In lost wages due to hours of work missed for maternity or childcare needs
- In medical cost
- In average wage reduction per child for women who become mothers

This hits women with low SES and women of color the hardest

At 48% of all homes with children, single female heads of household with children under 18 are the largest demographic group in Rochester

78%

The percentage of female heads of household with children under 18 living below the Self-Sufficiency Standard in the city of Rochester



Reproductive Justice is about who decides

The decision to become:

&

The decision to stay:

PREGNANT / NOT PREGNANT

PREGNANT / NOT PREGNANT

Is one of the most profound life choices a woman can make;

- Financially
- Professionally
- Emotionally
- Physically



So Who decides?

Geography

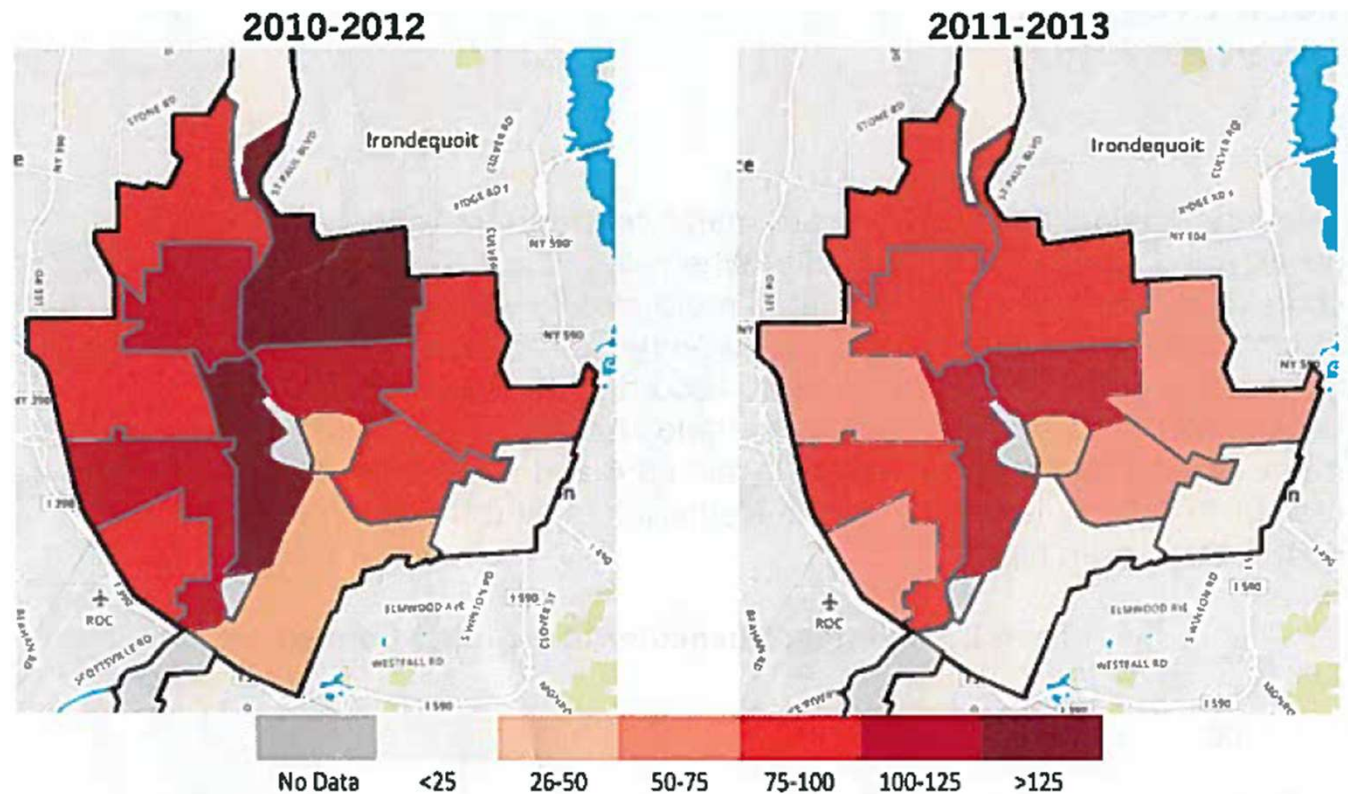
Education

Wealth

Race

Safety

3 Year Average of Teen Pregnancy Incidence in Rochester
(pregnancies per 1000 ♀ ages 15-19)

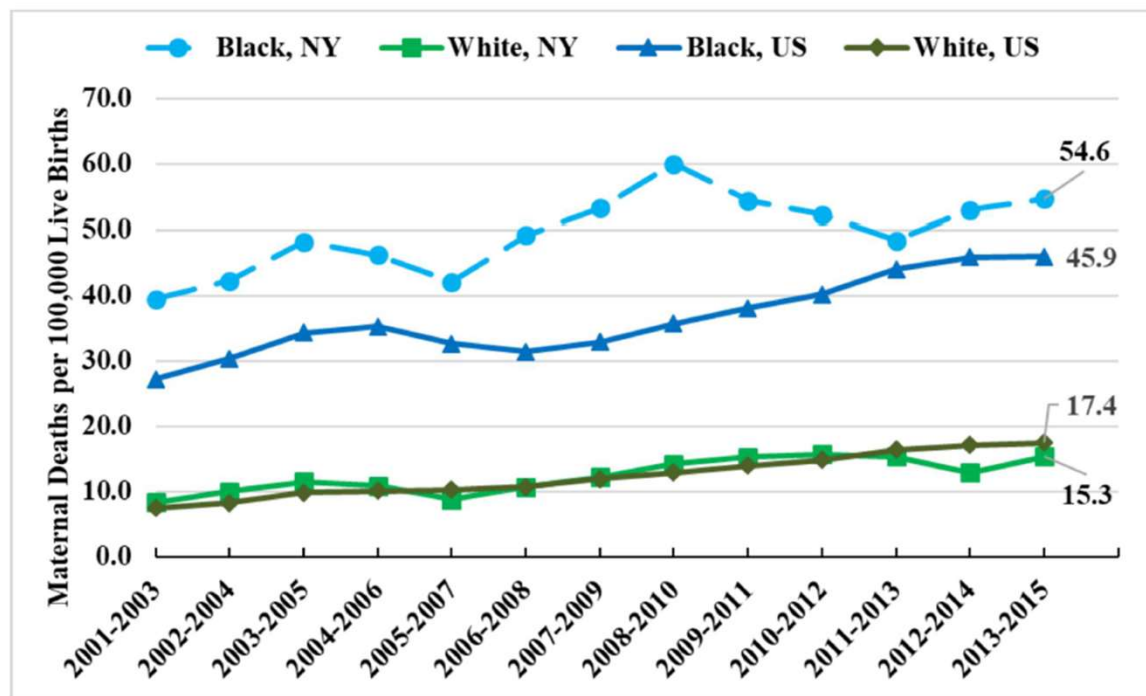


https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2014/table07.htm

Black Maternal Mortality

- 3 of 4 black mothers deliver in ~25% quarter of the country's hospitals.
- SMM for Black women was 3 times that of white women.
- SMM for women with Medicaid or Family Plus was higher than women with private insurance (261.1 v 168.2 per 10,000 deliveries.)
- SMM was highest among women living in high poverty zip codes with 30% and more living below FPL, excluding Black women, whose SMM rate are high, regardless.
- Brookdale University Hospital Medical Center
 - – Low income, un-gentrified areas of Brooklyn have 4x the complication rates of nearby neighborhoods
 - – More than half of mothers who hemorrhaged during delivery experienced complications at
 - – ~65% of all SMM cases needed a blood transfusion

Trends in Maternal Mortality as Reported in Vital Records* by Race



*Causes of death from death records A34, O00-O95, O98-O99.

National maternal mortality trends derived from CDC Wonder Database available at <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>

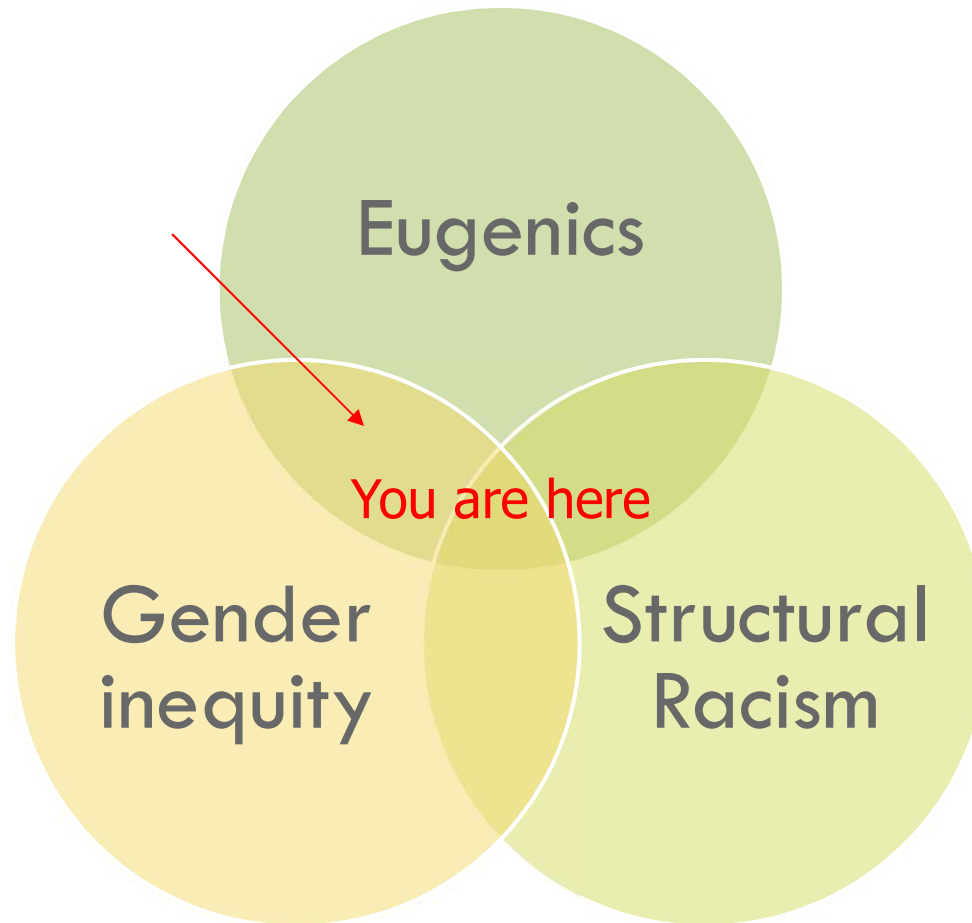


Reproductive Oppression

‘When you can control the ability of a community to have kids, to raise their kids, to parent their kids, you can control that community’s destiny.’

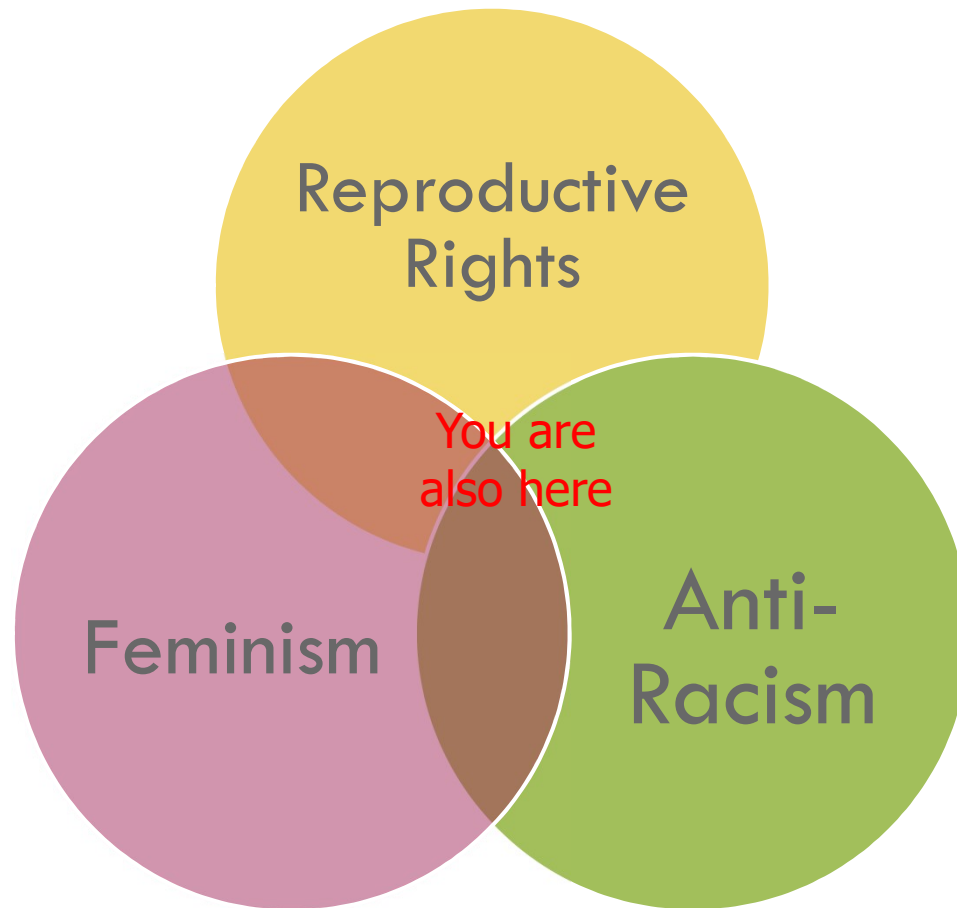
- Loretta Ross, Sistersong

US policy & culture at the intersection..



Change is underway

Reproductive rights have been a tool of oppression, but they can also be a tool of empowerment



Living reproductive justice means:

Patient care is a radical act of restorative justice; a collaboration between patient and provider to dismantle systemic oppression.





REDUCED PRESSURE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

If women around the world had access to family planning, future population growth would be slower than most current estimates, reducing pressure on natural systems that are already over-taxed.

HEALTHIER MOMS AND BABIES

Access to family planning allows women to space their pregnancies, which means babies and moms are far healthier. Healthier women are better able to adapt to a changing environment.

GREATER INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN

Birth-spacing lets parents invest more in kids' well-being. And family planning can help girls complete their education - one of the keys to a resilient society.

WOMEN AT THE CENTER

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- 1 FOOD:** Family planning combats hunger by slowing growth in demand so food production can keep pace.
- 2 WATER:** As population grows, so does demand for water. Slower growth helps reduce pressure on finite water resources.
- 3 FORESTS:** Slower growth can support forest protection, aiding the millions who depend on forests for their well-being.
- 4 BIODIVERSITY:** Slower-growing communities can ease pressure on local wildlife and boost habitat health.
- 5 CLIMATE CHANGE:** Family planning boosts climate resilience, and slower growth can help reduce climate pollution.

When a woman is in charge of her reproductive destiny, she is healthier and more resilient. And the benefits for a sustainable world ripple on. Learn more at resource-media.org/fp



babv

Every mother, Every baby

