

# voice

IN OUR OWN

## National Black Women's

### Reproductive Justice

Agenda

## March 2016 Newsletter

### **In Our Own Voice and Partner Organizations Rally to Protect Abortion Access**

Abortion access advocates came out en masse on March 2, 2016 to rally as the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) heard oral arguments in [Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt](#)—the most significant abortion case in almost 25 years. In Our Own Voice along with our partners, Black Women for Wellness, Black Women's Health Imperative, New Voices for Reproductive Justice, SisterLove, Inc. and Sister Reach, joined the thousands on the steps of SCOTUS and via social media to make sure that the voices of Black women and girls were felt.

La'Tasha D. Mayes, [New Voices for Reproductive Justice](#), fired up the crowd and reminded everyone that Black women are disproportionately impacted by TRAP (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers) laws, and asserted our obligation to 'lead, fight and win' equal access to safe and affordable abortions. Click [here](#) to view the video.



### **In Our Own Voice and Organizational Partner Executive Directors Met to Coordinate 2016-2017 Agenda**

The Executive Directors from the five initial partner organizations met for two days in Washington, DC, February 29-March 1. During this twice annual meeting the Executive Directors and In Our Own Voice leadership each presented the previous years accomplishments, and discussed ongoing and upcoming

activities. This is the third time that the Executive Directors have met since the launch of In Our Own Voice in January 2015. It was decided at this meeting to expand membership to two more Black women focused Reproductive Justice organizations, Sister Reach and Women With A Vision.

The Executive Directors will meet again in June 2016.



## In Our Own Voice Is Growing!

We are happy to welcome the two newest members to the In Our Own Voice family:

### Sister Reach

Based in Memphis, TN, **SisterReach** was founded in October 2011 by Cherrisse Scott, and was formed to offer women and girls in Memphis, TN and the surrounding Mid South area a framework of Reproductive Justice(RJ). **SisterReach** is a grassroots organization focused on empowering, organizing and mobilizing women and girls in the community around their reproductive and sexual health, so that they can make informed decisions about themselves; enabling them to become advocates for themselves. The goal is to support women and girls to lead healthy lives, have healthy families and live in healthy communities by offering fundamental comprehensive education about their sexual and reproductive health.



### Women With A Vision

Based in New Orleans, LA, **Women With A Vision, Inc.** (WWAV) is a community-based non-profit, founded in 1989 by a grassroots collective of African-American women in response to the spread of HIV/AIDS in communities of color.

Created by and for women of color, WWAV is a social justice non-profit that addresses issues faced by women within our community and region. Major areas of focus include Sex Worker



## Organizational Partner Updates

### WOMEN OF COLOR<sup>®</sup> HERSTORY MONTH

[New Voices for Reproductive Justice](#) is hosting a series of events as part of their annual Women of Color HERStory Month. To get a list of events click [here](#).

On Friday, March 11 join New Voices for the Women of Color Political Lunch™ 2016. This year's theme is "Women of Color and the 2016 Presidential Elections." Panelists include Jessica L. Byrd, Principal of [Three Point Strategies](#), Co-Founder of WOCHM and The Root 100 2015 honoree, Glynda Carr, Co-Founder of [Higher Heights Leadership Fund](#), Jessica Gonzáles-Rojas, Executive Director of [National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health](#) and Kimberly Kaplan, Graduate Student at [American Public University System & Former Candidate for Pittsburgh City Council - District 5](#).



[Black Women for Wellness](#) recently published a five year study of the black beauty industry. Natural evolutions one hair story, a compilation of results, cultural insights, health, and research around Black women's hair and health.

To access the report click [here](#).

Black Women for Wellness has also entered into an agreement with Southern California Library and Occidental College. Southern California Library to archive Black Women for Wellness history, collected over the last 18 years, since 1997.



[SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW](#) is seeking a creative, energetic, and knowledgeable Program Specialist/Organizer to join the SPARK team in Atlanta! To learn more about this position click [here](#).

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