

voice

IN OUR OWN

National Black Women's

Reproductive Justice

Agenda

August 2016 Newsletter

Hyde Amendment is Bad Policy (and Unpopular too!)

Marcela Howell, Founder and Executive Director, In Our Own Voice put pen to paper to highlight the devastating impact of the Hyde Amendment on Black women and other women of color. Responding to an article published in *The Hill* claiming that Democrats are being pressured to vote against their conscious on abortion issues, Marcela sets the record straight about the "harmful myths about the Hyde Amendment, an annual budget rider that denies insurance coverage to women who receive their health care from the government."

To read more, click [here](#).



Women Now 2016

For three days last month, over 200 women from the African diaspora met for the Women Now Summit in Durban, South Africa to discuss critical areas of concern for women's human rights. Using an intersectional lens, including race, economic status, gender equality, women's empowerment, gender-based trauma and violence, the women addressed the issues of sexual and reproductive rights, health and justice. The meeting proceeded the International AIDS Conference 2016, and provided an opportunity to highlight women and girls of African descent who bear the brunt of the HIV pandemic among women worldwide.

In Our Own Voice strategic partner SisterLove, Inc. led by Dazon Dixon Diallo, Founder and Executive Director, co-convened the summit. Workshop presentations by Michelle Batchelor, Deputy Director of In Our Own Voice and Issachar Curbeon, Get Smart B4U Get Sexy Program Coordinator of Black Women for Wellness, were part of the summit.

To learn more about the WomenNow 2016 summit visit there website at www.womennow2016.org.



Organizational Partner Updates

SisterReach will host Vacation Body School (VBS) for faith communities and faith-based organizations that recognize the need for young people to have the most accurate and complete information about their bodies, in order to make the best decisions for themselves. VBS is a three day comprehensive sexual and reproductive health, healthy relationships and self-management learning community for rising 7th-12th graders. To learn more about this event click [here](#).



SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW! issued a call to action in response to the most recent murders of young Black men. The statement calls for the end to "over-policing, racial biases within the criminal justice system and continued racism in our communities." Over 20 organizations signed the statement. To read more, click [here](#).

SisterLove, Inc. is looking for volunteers, ages 13-14, interested in becoming *Healthy Love* Youth Leaders. Youth leaders can take part in a Reproductive Justice advocacy training, and collectively plan two advocacy events.

To learn more about this program, click [here](#).



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