



February 2017 Newsletter

So far 2017 has been exactly what we expected -- anxiety provoking and intense. We said goodbye to a much loved President and First Lady - Barack and Michelle Obama - and, at the same time, watched as one of the most ill-suited autocrats took his place. Since Donald Trump and 115th Congress were sworn in, we have been inundated with an endless barrage of terrible Executive Orders, legislation, appointments and Cabinet nominations that are harmful to the American public. Steve Bannon, a titular figure of the racist white nationalist movement has become the senior advisor to the President and has bought with him Administration attacks on religious freedom (Muslim ban), immigrant rights (the Wall and deportation squads), and women's reproductive health and rights (Global Gag Rule). And as Trump resumes his attacks on the media and the Judiciary, you can see the hands of Bannon manipulating the strings.

But, as the international demonstrations and monumental Women's March and show, we are not backing down and we will resist hate, divisiveness and any attempt by this President and this Congress to turn back the clock. **In Our Own Voice** stands as committed as ever to lift of the voices of Black women and girls to advocate for policies that protect and honor our rights. Our fight for Reproductive Justice has always been an intersectional one and we stand with our partners, colleagues and allies so that all people can thrive. For the next four years, we must all stand with undocumented immigrants, Muslim Americans, people with disabilities, LGBTQ people, African American, Hispanic American, Asian American and Native and Indigenous women, men and children. We must stand up for all those Americans who do not fit into Trump's narrow view of who is "worthy" of being in his America.

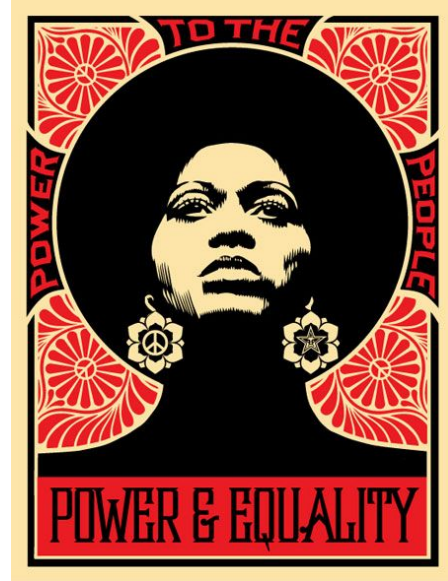


Resisting Hate Is An American Value

On January 14th the Huffington Post published a powerful article written by *In Our Own Voice's* own Marcela Howell, Founder and Executive Director. In the article Marcela takes aim at, and challenges the propaganda that Trump can 'make America great again', stating "*Trump used racism, religious intolerance, sexism and xenophobia to win the election—never caring about the millions of Americans his bigotry hurt along the way...After the election, he told all those he had insulted and disrespected that he really wanted to be the President of all Americans and wanted us to “give him a chance.” As a Black woman who sees Trump for what he is: a walking swarm of privileged ignorance who profits off the fear and hate of others and leaves devastation in his wake*

—I'm all out of chances."

To read the article in full, click [here](#).



Strategic Planning Retreat

In Our Own Voice hosted a strategic planning retreat, January 15-18, in New Orleans with our seven Strategic Partners - Black Women for Wellness, Black Women's Health Imperative, New Voices for Reproductive Justice, SisterLove, Inc., SisterReach, SPARK Reproductive Justice Now, and Women With a Vision - to plot out the next three-year policy agenda for our work. During the packed agenda, we developed innovative and impactful strategies that will center Black women's Reproductive Justice at the forefront of policy and culture change during the current anti-human rights Administration. Our plans include the release of a historical policy report, a multi-city policy tour, and a series of Black RJ roundtables to hear first-hand what Black women are thinking about the issues that impact their lives. Forward our newsletter to your friends and colleagues so that they can sign up.



Think Local: Fight for Reproductive Health, Rights & Justice

In Our Own Voice collaborated with the [National Council of Jewish Women, All*Above All](#) and the [National Institute for Reproductive Health](#) to introduce the *Advancing Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice with Local Resolutions Action Toolkit*. A webinar was hosted on January 26 to introduce the toolkit and the collaboration to each of our partners. We look forward to working within this

Action Toolkit

Advancing Reproductive Rights, Health, and Justice with Local Resolutions



- A collaboration of:
- ▶ National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)
 - ▶ In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda
 - ▶ National Institute for Reproductive Health, and
 - ▶ All Above All

collaboration, and using this comprehensive toolkit, to introduce local resolutions that advance reproductive health, rights and justice.

To access the toolkit and other materials, click [here](#).



EACH Women Act Reintroduced

On January 31 Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) introduced the [Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance \(EACH Woman\) Act \(H.R.771\)](#). This bill has received overwhelming support from 108 other members of Congress, to date. With the reintroduction they have made it clear that we will not go back, we will be bold and we will end Hyde.



To read In Our Own Voice's full statement click [here](#).



Partner Updates



[SPARK Reproductive Justice Now!](#) will be hosting several events in the coming weeks, including; *SOI Advocacy Training and Brunch* on February 19, and the *10th Annual Legislate THIS!* on February 23. To learn more about these event, visit www.sparkrj.org.

Donate Today!



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