October 2016 Newsletter

2016 Strategic Communications for Policy Change Summit
**In Our Own Voice** hosted its fabulous Strategic Communication for Policy Change Summit for its seven partner organizations last month in Washington, DC. More than 68 staff, board members and activists from our organizational partners came together for five days of strategic planning and collaboration.

The theme this year was “Race in America: Where We (Black Women) Enter” and acclaimed scholar on race, gender and the law, Dorothy Roberts delivered the opening keynote address. For forty-five minutes she gave us a mesmerizing presentation highlighting the roles, context and point of entry for Black women at the intersection of race, gender and reproductive justice in the United States.

Summit participants worked in planning groups around leadership development, advocacy and policy, movement building and joint campaigns to develop the next year’s activities for In Our Own Voice. Below are photos from the event.

Check out our [Facebook page](#) for additional photos from the 2016 Summit. And don’t forget to follow us on twitter @blackwomensrj.

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**The Politics of Our Body, the Power of Our Vote**

On September 15, In Our Own Voice joined forces with Planned Parenthood Action Fund and Feminist Majority Foundation for an issue forum during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation’s Annual Legislative Conference. Panelist discussed the important role of Black women’s vote in advancing key issues related to Black women’s health and well-being, as well as strategies for holding politicians accountable to Black women voters in issues of Reproductive Justice.
Organizational Partner Updates

SisterReach has unveiled a new initiative, **BoiTalk**, that centers the often overlooked needs of masculine presenting women of color around their reproductive health and wellness; and offers an exclusive and safe space community centering their experiences when discussing relevant topics like reproductive health, dating violence, and building positive relationships within and without LGBTQ-centered spaces.

SisterReach is also hosting **Reproductive Justice: Summit & Community Forum 2016**, October 28-29.

To learn more about BoiTalk and the Reproductive Justice Summit, click [here](#).

**SPARK OFF!** is a new podcast that will be broadcast once every month. The podcast will center on current reproductive justice events and will feature local special guests.

To learn more click [here](#).

SisterLove, Inc. Hosts **2020 Leading Women’s Society Annual Honors Gala** on October 14 celebrating, raising up and honoring HIV positivewomen who have been living positively for 20 years or more.

For more information on the Gala, click [here](#).
Black Women for Wellness will convene Bold, Brave, Fearless & Fierce; Black Futurism for women & girls October 20. The focus for this year’s conference is on visions for the future of Black women—looking forward 50, 100, 1000 years, how do we define health and wellness for Black women & girls? Attendees will participate in discussions that center visions for the future, then determining the steps and tools to make it a reality.

To learn more about this event, click here.

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In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda | 1300 I Street, Suite 400E, Washington, DC, DC 20005

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