



April 2017 Newsletter

Rally to Kill the Global Gag Rule

On March 8, *In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda* joined more than 40 advocacy organizations, representing U.S. and international organizations, to protest Trump's reinstatement of the global gag rule (aka, the Mexico City Policy). The march and rally, held on International Women's Day, brought together medical professionals, women's health and rights advocates, human rights and justice organizations, faith-based organizations and other progressive activists in a march from Freedom Plaza to Lafayette Park. Our deputy director, Michelle Batchelor, and Dazon Dixon Diallo, executive director of SisterLove, one of our partner organizations, were speakers at the rally following the march.

Trump's Global Gag Rule, is a massive expansion of a failed policy that prohibits non-U.S. organizations that receive U.S. global assistance funding from providing, referring or even mentioning abortion services. Trump's dangerously broad global gag rule targets not only family planning programs, but also HIV prevention, malaria, tuberculosis, and maternal and child survival programs. Studies show that the global gag rule leads to decreased access to contraception, increased unsafe abortions and disrupts HIV prevention efforts.



To learn more about the global gag rule, and actions you can take, click [here](#).



& Girls Conference

In Our Own Voice was excited to participate in the first "& Girl Conference" hosted by Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ), co-chair for the Congressional Caucus on Black Women & Girls, on April 1 in Newark, NJ. The conference was attended by over 300 Black young women and girls, ages 10-23 years old. The conference was designed to assess what issues Black girls believe impact their lives as a foundation to craft policy proposals that will improve conditions for Black girls.

In Our Own Voice, joined one of our partner organization Black Women's Health Imperative, to facilitate two sessions on Black

Girls Success and Black Girls Leadership for 14-18 year olds. They shared their own successes and leadership examples with participants and also discussed obstacles to success, including issues surround gun violence and sexual harassment.

For more information on this event click [here](#).



Women of Color RJ Activists Join Forces

In Our Own Voice partnered with National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH) and National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) to take collective action in opposition to the nomination of Neil Gorsuch to the United States Supreme Court. A letter and testimony from In Our Own Voice, NLIRH, NAPAWF and 43 other reproductive justice organizations were submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee outlining Judge Gorsuch's hostile record on women of color, youth, LGBTQ people and immigrants. To view the full letter, click [here](#).

In Our Own Voice, NLIRH and NAPAWF were also joined by the National Partnership for Women & Families to create a fact sheet titled, The House Republican Repeal Bill Threatens Reproductive Justice for Women of Color. in opposition to the American Health Care Act (AHCA), the GOPs failed health care bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). In it, advocates, legislators and organizations were provided with talking points highlighting the positive impact that the ACA has had on the health of women of color, and how detrimental the proposed AHCA would be to the immediate and long-term health of women of color. To view the full letter, click [here](#).



Partner Updates

As part of Louisiana's Black Women's Advocacy Day, Women with a Vision will be hosting a legislative briefing on the policies impacting Black women on April 26th. For more information on this event click [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE | APRIL 26th, 2017



WOMEN WITH A VISION PRESENTS

OUR VOICE

LOUISIANA BLACK WOMEN'S ADVOCACY DAY

OUR TIME

Join Women With a Vision and our community partners across Louisiana on April 26th, 2017 for a day dedicated to engaging Black women in the legislative process to advocate for issues directly affecting them.

OUR VOICE, OUR TIME offers a day filled with networking and information sharing about issues and policies that enhance and enrich the lives of Black women and their communities. Attendees will gain a better understanding of the process and the tools needed to be leaders on policy changes impacting Black women in Louisiana.

#MyExistenceIsPolitical

Donate Today!

