

voice

IN OUR OWN

National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

Marcela's Call to Action



Happy holidays! This is the time of year that many of us are wrapping presents, spending quality time with family, or planning for the year ahead. As we prepare to step into a new year, I am also taking a step back and reflecting on this past year. In 2019, we saw both victories and setbacks. But **we're fighting back**, and our weapons are advocacy, education, and empowerment.

- Abortion Bans - This year 19 states passed more than 25 abortion restrictions. These restrictions range from outright bans on abortions to restrictions targeting abortion providers. Earlier this month In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda joined our partner organization Women with a Vision and other RJ advocates from across the country in filing an amicus brief in Supreme Court case, *June Medical Services, LLC v. Gee*. The brief challenges Louisiana's law requiring abortion doctors to have hospital admitting privileges.

We're fighting back and demanding that the highest court in the nation protect abortion rights for all Louisianans, especially Black women, femmes, queer, trans and gender non-conforming people, and youth.

- Women of Color Polling – Under the collaborative – Intersections of Our Lives – In Our Own Voice, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, and National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum commissioned a survey of 2,663 women of color who voted in the 2018 election to ask what issues they most cared about. Their answers: 1) ending racial and ethnic discrimination, 2) ensuring everyone had access to health care, and 3) ensuring everyone had access to clean water.
- Voting Rights - On Dec. 6, the House of Representatives passed the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019 (HR 4) by a vote of 228-187, with all but

one Republican voting against it. The bill establishes new criteria for determining which states and political subdivisions must obtain pre-clearance before changes to voting practices could be changed. Supporters of the bill believe it will help eliminate some of the barriers to voting for people of color and young people.

We're fighting back and I ask that you join me in this fight by:

1. Contacting your elected representatives at the national, state, and local levels. Tell them to support voting rights and oppose these onerous abortion bans.
2. If your weapon of choice is a pen, you can also write a *Letter to the Editor* about an important issue you care about and submit it to your local newspaper.
3. Your most powerful weapon, however, is your VOTE! Join our "I AM A VOTER" 2020 campaign and vote in local, state, and federal elections for candidates who are committed to protect Reproductive Justice for all people.

I hope you enjoy the final days of 2019 and use them to rest, refresh, and reinvigorate as we prepare to defend our rights in the new year.

We're fighting back in 2020. Join us.

Marcela Howell

Founder & President

In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda

2019 in Photos: In Our Own Voice in Action



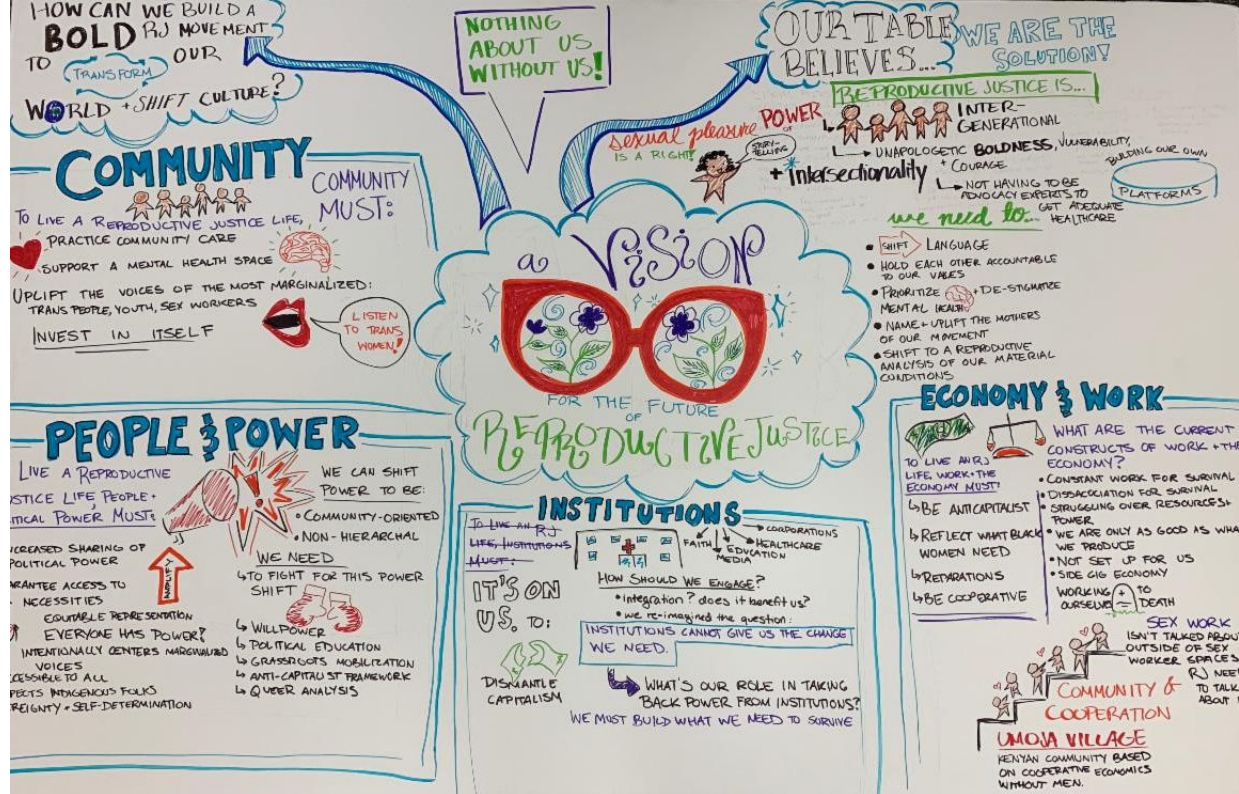
Our Founder & President, Marcela Howell, testified before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform on the harmful impact of restrictions on abortion care



Four of our Next Generation Leadership Institute fellows visiting Capitol Hill for the Intersections Of Our Lives advocacy day



In Our Own Voice brought our eight partner organizations together for the fifth annual Strategic Summit



In Our Own Voice hosted the "Living A Reproductive Justice Life" conference. Attendees created a vision for the future of Reproductive Justice. Graphic recorder Saif Wideman visually captured our time together



Intersections of Our Lives released polling data on priorities of women of color voters



In Our Own Voice collaborated with Mission Forward on "Hear Her: A Call to Action on Maternal Mortality"



In Our Own Voice fought against the abortion bans that tried to harm many states this year

Following Our Fellows

Our Next Generation Leadership Institute fellows are living Reproductive Justice lives by providing creative forums on their

college campuses that give their fellow students RJ lessons. Here's a look back at some of their actives in 2019.

Dillard University, Louisiana: "Relationship Violence and Reproductive Health"



Kaylan Tanner and LydiaPaige Moffett hosted a round table discussion unpacking relationship violence and reproductive health. The event brought out a diverse group of audience members from the campus community. The discussion touched on topics spanning from reproductive coercion, pregnancy pressure, and intimate partner violence. The audience had the opportunity to learn more about the resources and tools offered by the university to combat intimate partner violence.

LeMoyne-Owen College, Tennessee: "Boys Need RJ Too"

Jenieya Peterson hosted "Boys Need RJ Too," a panel discussion highlighting the importance of college-age men being involved in the Reproductive Justice movement. The panel was comprised of a diverse group of students and LeMoyne Owen community leaders. Cherisse Scott, CEO and Founder of our partner organization, SisterReach served as a panelist.



Lincoln University, Pennsylvania



Civil Rights Legend Angela Davis supporting Next Generation Leadership fellow Shanya Hutchinson's presentation at the National Women's Studies Association conference



Next Generation Leadership fellows at Lincoln University presented A Walk for a Cause: Fashion Show, a creative collision of fashion and advocacy

Hampton University, Virginia



Next Generation Leadership fellow Aman Tune speaking on Comprehensive Sex-Ed in schools at the State Sex Ed Summit



Next Generation fellows at Hampton University hosted a discussion titled "Voting Through a Reproductive Justice Lens"

Spelman College, Atlanta, Ga.



Next Generation fellows at Spelman College presented to future lawyers with a program titled "So you have a Law Degree: Now What?"

The Next Generation Leadership Institute is designed to provide a leadership pipeline specifically for the Black women's Reproductive Justice movement. The Institute is a two-year paid fellowship program that serves as a formal pipeline for training activists on Reproductive Justice and the intersectional issues that impact the lives of Black women, femmes, and girls. Fellows are selected from HBCUs and are trained in advocacy, community organizing, and strategic communications to become young leaders in the Reproductive Justice movement.

Thank You For Your Support in 2019



Thanks to your generous support we can continue our fight for Reproductive

Justice for Black women, femmes, queer, trans and gender non-conforming people, and youth. Please consider making an end of year contribution to help us continue this important work.

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IN THE NEWS

[“How Crisis Pregnancy Centers Endanger the Health and Rights of Women of Color,” Ms. Magazine](#)

[“House Passes Voting Rights Measure to Restore Portions of Law Guttled in 2015,” Washington Informer](#)



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