

voice

IN OUR OWN

National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

June 2020

Marcela's Voice



Greetings!

As we move into our fifteenth week of working from home, the In Our Own Voice family continues to evaluate how we do our work in this new, virtual world. Like everyone else, we are being creative with webinars and video conferences coupled with traditional methods like media outreach to raise awareness about Black women and Reproductive Justice.

We are excited about the recent [Supreme Court ruling in June Medical Services, LLC v. Gee](#) to overturn Louisiana's law requiring doctors who provide abortion care to have hospital admitting privileges. Our partner organization, Women with a Vision took the lead on writing the RJ Amicus Brief for this case. This victory is in part the result of Black women leaders' unwavering strength throughout the long fight for Reproductive Justice in the South. We have set an example for all to follow by refusing to give up even in the face of tremendous odds.

The last several months of protest in support of racial equality has lifted all our spirits as we watch people of all ages and races band together to proclaim that Black Lives Matter. I was honored to be able to lift up the voices of Black women and the importance of Reproductive Justice in my [Juneteenth op-ed](#) that was published by The Hill. I used the opportunity to highlight why we march, why we protest, and why we vote. Here are a few

excerpts from the op-ed:

***This is why we march!** From slavery, to the Jim Crow South, to today's era of over-policing, mass incarceration and attacks on voting rights, it's easy to trace the history of violence against Black bodies within the United States.*

***This is why we protest!** Hundreds of thousands of people in every state, and in countries across the world, have taken to the streets after watching George Floyd's 8-minute, 46-second excruciating death. This violent incident has galvanized people of all races, ages and experiences to finally see, even for a brief time, the lived experience of many black families.*

***This is why we vote!** We have the power to elect a new generation of leaders who emerge from the hope of this historic moment. Our votes also secured the leadership of black women mayors across the country, like Ella Jones who became the first African-American elected mayor in Ferguson, Mo.*

We must — and we will — fight on, with black women on the front lines, making our voices heard and our demands known: for justice, safety, equity, empowerment, bodily autonomy and recognition of our full personhood.

Continue to stay safe and be well. We're counting on you to be at the polls on Nov. 3, 2020, to make sure the voices of Black women are heard.

Respectfully,

Marcela Howell

Founder & President

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

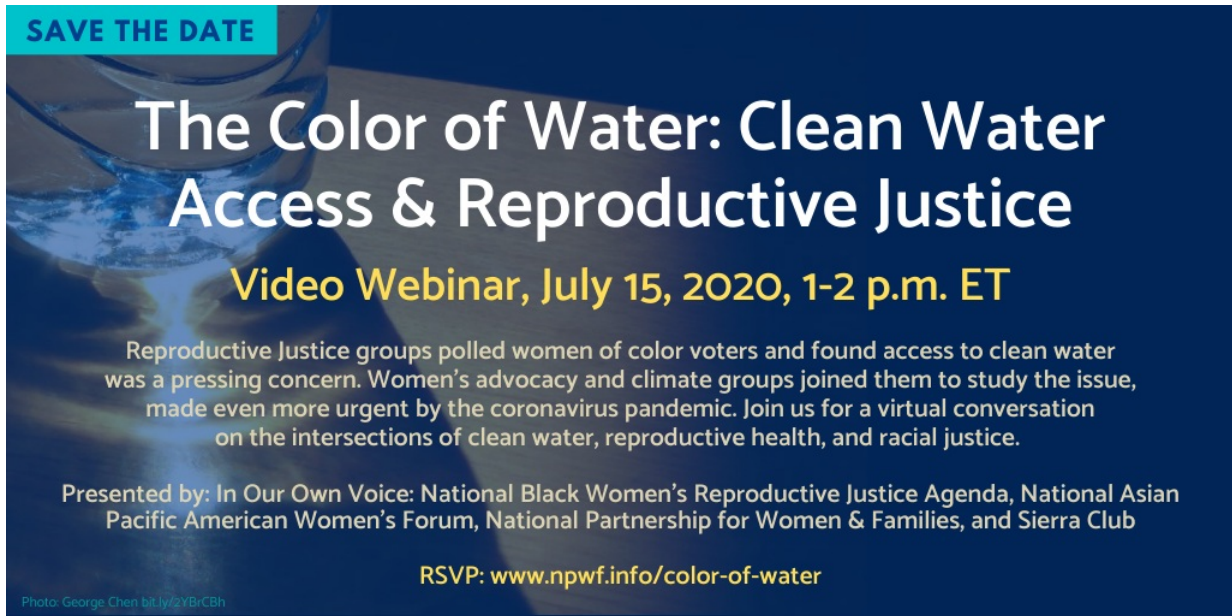


Policy Update

This month, Government Affairs' focus has been lifting up Reproductive

Justice perspectives and policy priorities in Tennessee and Mississippi, highlighting legislative interventions that address the timely connection between climate change, environmental racism and adverse maternal health outcomes facing Black women, and building solidarity and collective power in response to rampant police and gender-based violence. Read our latest blog to learn more about this work.

[READ THE BLOG!](#)



SAVE THE DATE

The Color of Water: Clean Water Access & Reproductive Justice

Video Webinar, July 15, 2020, 1-2 p.m. ET

Reproductive Justice groups polled women of color voters and found access to clean water was a pressing concern. Women's advocacy and climate groups joined them to study the issue, made even more urgent by the coronavirus pandemic. Join us for a virtual conversation on the intersections of clean water, reproductive health, and racial justice.

Presented by: In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, National Partnership for Women & Families, and Sierra Club

RSVP: www.npwf.info/color-of-water

Photo: George Chen bil.ly/2YBrCBh

[REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR](#)

Following Our Fellows

Our Next Generation

Leadership Institute team remains focused on finding opportunities to uplift our fellows, as COVID-19 persists. Earlier this month, Program

Manager Giovanteey Bishop attended [The State of the Black College Student:](#)

[Exploring How Higher Education Can Support A Generation During COVID-](#)

[19](#), a virtual summit hosted by Blavity and The United Negro College Fund. She also served as a distinguished speaker on [Platform's](#), The Real (Working) World DC: Nonprofit panel. Check out [this blog](#) to learn more about these events and how In Our Own Voice continues to lead the charge on supporting HBCU students.



Exciting news, the review process is underway for the Next Generation Leadership Institute 2020-2022 cohort. We are pushing forward with selecting the finale 12 candidates, more updates will follow soon. Stay tuned!

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.

Rolling out the Welcome Mat!



De'Jonnae Boyd



Michelle Batchelor

We would like to welcome **De'Jonnae Boyd** and **Michelle Batchelor** to the *In Our Own Voice* team.

Michelle is no stranger to the organization as she was *In Our Own Voice's* very first Vice President of Government Affairs. She will be serving in that role again on an interim basis while we complete a search for the permanent position.

De'Jonnae will serve as our new Director of Content and Digital Strategies. She is a strategic storyteller who works across platforms to connect audiences with issues that matter.

Our Partners In Action

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our state partners are working hard to ensure community access to crucial information and services during this difficult time. Here are some of the ways they continue to provide support their local communities.



Nourbese Flint at [Black Women for Wellness](#) created this graphic in response to a call from activists in Philadelphia for graphic artists to help memorialize the beloved life of friend, daughter, sister, and fashionista, Dominique "Rem'mie" Fells, who was and remains loved by so many in Philadelphia and beyond. #SayHerName

Philadelphians to honor Breonna Taylor, Dominique "Rem'mie" Fells and the hundreds of Black women and folx deserving of honor and remembrance.



IN THE NEWS

- ["Roe v. Wade isn't safe: The Supreme Court just struck down an anti-abortion law. Here's why access is still at risk," VOX, June 29, 2020](#)
- ["'Listen to Black women': Black women's health is intersectional justice," PublicSource, June 19, 2020](#)
- ["The spirit of Juneteenth lives on in national uprising for black emancipation," The Hill, June 19, 2020](#)
- ["Black Reproductive Justice Advocates Call For Defunding Police In Wake Of Violent Police Response To Protesters," Essence, June 9, 2020](#)

ICYMI:

- [Reproductive Justice Polling in the South: What Black Women Think in Tennessee and Mississippi Webinar](#)
- [Maternal Health, Climate Change, and Birth Outcomes Webinar](#)
(Password: *WRD*0619*HRW*)



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