



*Programs & Training*

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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# About Us

In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda is a national-state partnership that amplifies and lifts the voices of Black women leaders to secure sexual and reproductive justice for Black women, girls, and gender-expansive people. Our strategic partners are 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. Together, we deliver proactive advocacy and policy solutions to address issues at the intersections of race, gender, class, sexual orientation and gender identity within the situational impacts of economics, politics and culture that make up the lived experience of Black women in the United States.



# Introduction

The Next Generation Leadership Institute is the leading Reproductive Justice fellowship for students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). It is designed to empower changemakers to address critical Reproductive Justice-related issues on their campuses and beyond.

In 2025, our fellows met extraordinary challenges with vision and determination. Against a backdrop of political uncertainty and heightened tensions, they launched innovative programs to advance menstrual equity, contraceptive access, maternal care, civic engagement, comprehensive sexual health, pleasure justice, mental health, and wellness.

This year's Annual Report celebrates key initiatives that ensure youth voices continue to guide our movement. Through every challenge, our commitment to uplifting and sustaining young leaders remains unwavering. As you read this report, we invite you to celebrate the milestones our fellows achieved, the communities they strengthened, and the future they are boldly shaping for Reproductive Justice.





# 2025 Campus Programming



*Victoria Hackshaw's vision board showcasing student participant's collective perspective on what their Reproductive Justice Future entails created during Howard University's Dream in Power campus program.*

The Next Generation Leadership Institute is dedicated to developing interactive and engaging campus programming to address Reproductive Justice issues at HBCUs across the nation. In 2025, fellows focused on a variety of issues that directly impacted their campus communities, including menstrual equity, contraceptive access, maternal care, civic engagement, comprehensive sexual health and pleasure justice, and mental health and wellness. These issues often overlap and influence one another. For example, a key programmatic initiative highlighted by the Next Generation Leadership Institute is the importance of advocacy and civic engagement to expand access to inclusive sexual health education and resources, including contraceptives. How to understand and develop impactful solutions for these issues varies by our HBCUs, as each campus requires a unique approach. Hence, our fellows adapted their campus programs using a data-centered approach guided by a campus needs assessment that surveyed peers about current resource and programmatic gaps. From there, the Next Generation Leadership Institute fellows cultivated impactful programming to bring innovative solutions to real-world problems.

# Menstrual Equity

Fellows at Xavier University, Tougaloo College, Langston University, Dillard University, North Carolina A&T University, Howard University, and Lincoln University mobilized their campus communities to address menstrual equity. They organized to pack and distribute menstrual products on their respective campuses as well as in their local communities to support community members who may have limited or no access to affordable menstrual products. An initiative developed by Nayla McClure from Tougaloo College also included partnering with a local middle school in Jackson, MS, to develop a menstrual care closet at the school. Incorporating culture, Xavier University of Louisiana fellows Christina Anderson and Alicia Spight enlisted the help of New Orleans Bounce music artist and community advocate Vickeelo to aid in packing and distributing menstrual products throughout the university community.



*Alicia Spight, Vickeelo, Christina Anderson, and Janea Perry and their respective menstrual equity campus programs.*





# Contraceptive Access

Fellows developed a variety of programs to increase student's knowledge of and access to contraceptives. In 2025, fellows from Spelman College, Johnson C. Smith University, and Langston University launched Reproductive Justice Hotlines on their campuses, and provided safer sex materials like condoms, lubricant, dental dams, emergency contraception, and pregnancy tests. Through her campus programming, Patricia Joseph from Hampton University developed Women's Circle & Plan Ahead; distributed safe sex kits; educated participants on contraceptive options; and highlighted campus resources like the Hampton University Reproductive Hotline, which provides free contraceptives to campus students within 24 hours of the initial request.



*Patricia Joseph during her campus program, Plan Ahead, educating campus peers on contraceptives and providing safer sex kits.*



## Maternal Care

Fellows tackled maternal health gaps within their respective campus communities. At Johnson C. Smith University, Kevin Napier developed AO Cares; at Howard University, Victoria Hackshaw-Gittens developed Healing Hearts; and, at Langston University, Janea Perry developed Beyond the Bump. These programs mobilized campuses to pack and distribute materials for community baby showers and resource drives to provide expectant parents with diapers, wipes, bottles, and other supplies.



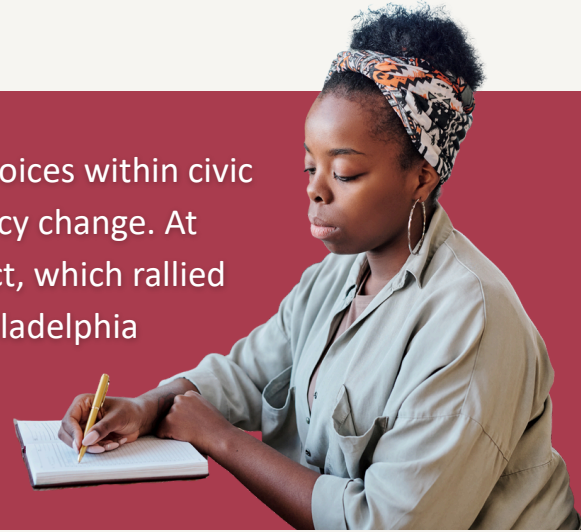
*Langston University Fellow Janea Perry and Beyond the Bump campus program participants.*





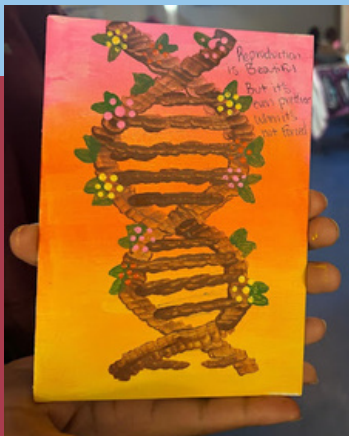
## Civic Engagement

Programs highlighted the importance of centering youth voices within civic engagement efforts such as voting and advocating for policy change. At Lincoln University, Destiny Moore developed Ink for Impact, which rallied her peers to participate in a letter-writing campaign to Philadelphia City Councilmember Kendra Brooks highlighting current Reproductive Justice issues Lincoln University students face on and around their campus community.



## Comprehensive Sexual Health and Pleasure Justice

Programs addressed key topics including consent, sexual assault, LGBTQIA+ liberation, and the importance of pleasure. At Spelman College, Kennedy Munson and Angel Ware developed Sex in the Dark, Erotic Expressions & Red Light Night. These programs cultivated safe and affirming spaces where Queer students could access information about sexual health, pleasure, and relationships tailored to their unique experiences and needs. At Johnson C. Smith University, Kevin Napier developed Say Sum!, which discussed consent and provided bystander intervention strategies to safely intervene and report sexual harassment or assault. At Dillard University, Semira Morgan hosted Our Voices, Our Bodies, which empowered participants to visualize what Reproductive Justice means to them through art.



*Left to Right: Dillard University student artwork from Our Voices, Our Bodies, hosted by Semira Morgan; Angel Ware and Erotic Expressions campus program participants.*

# Mental Health and Wellness

Using holistic approaches such as yoga, meditation, and hair care, Tougaloo fellow, Nayla McClure, developed Let's Talk Sis: Crowns and Conversations, and, at North Carolina A&T University, Alexandra Njie developed Stretch the Stigma. Both programs highlighted the importance of incorporating radical rest and community, and prioritizing the importance of taking a moment to breathe, stretch, and reset.



*From left to right: Alexandra Njie and Stretch the Stigma participants after a yoga and meditation session discussing mental and physical wellness during menstrual cycles; Let's Talk Sis: Crowns & Conversations participants learning about mental health and self-care through a natural hair care demonstration.*

In 2025, youth advocates at HBCUs, including the Next Generation Leadership Institute fellows, faced adversity on and off their campuses as they challenged attacks on fundamental Reproductive Justice rights. The Next Generation Leadership Institute fellows were successful in connecting with their campus communities, filling programmatic and resource gaps, mobilizing, and applying collective youth power to tackle challenges head-on through strategic and innovative solutions that made a lasting change on their HBCU campuses and local communities.



# 2025 Programmatic Wins

In 2025, the Next Generation Leadership Institute fellows organized 35 campus programs across the nation. These programs centered the voices of youth who are developing innovative solutions to Reproductive Justice issues tailored to the uniqueness of their respective HBCUs. Fellows mobilized to fill resource gaps on their campuses; distributed more than 2,000 menstrual products and 936 safe sex kits through their campus programming; and created Reproductive Justice hotlines servicing students on-demand, as requested.

**35**

campus programs  
organized nationwide

**2,000+**

menstrual products  
distributed

**3**

Reproductive Justice  
hotlines created to serve  
students on demand

**936**

safe sex kits distributed

# 2025 Summit/Fall Retreat



*In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda Founder, Marcella Howell; President and CEO, Dr. Regina Davis Moss; Founding Mother of the Reproductive Justice Movement, Loretta Ross; and Director, Programs & Training, Giovanteey Bishop; Program Manager De'Ajane Terrell; and the 2024-26 Next Generation Leadership Institute cohort.*

The 2025 Next Generation Leadership Institute Fall Retreat was a powerful gathering that energized our fellows and reaffirmed the transformative leadership of Black women and youth. The Retreat, which convenes concurrently with the In Our Own Voice Summit, centered on the theme “Reproductive Justice in Action: Black Women Leading with Joy, Justice, Policy, and Power.” The Retreat brought together fellows, partners, and In Our Own Voice staff for an immersive experience rooted in strategy, collective care, and movement-building. Designed as a space that intentionally centered joy, the Retreat grounded fellows in the core tenants and history of Reproductive Justice and equipped them with the skills and confidence to lead boldly on their HBCU campuses. In each session, fellows expanded their analysis as advocates; sharpened their organizing skills; and deepened their commitment to building sustainable, student-led efforts rooted in power, purpose, and collective care.



The Retreat opened with a dynamic advocacy training led by Kae Goode, Leaux Blackwell, and Chisom Ukoha from SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW! The training centered Black trans leadership and underscored the essential role of intersectionality in advancing Reproductive Justice. Fellows examined how inclusive, values-driven leadership strengthens our movement and explored the power of solidarity in building lasting collective power. This grounding session set a clear, intentional tone for a Retreat rooted in inclusion, accountability, and liberation.

Building on this grounding, De’Ajane Terrell, Program Manager at In Our Own Voice, led a campus advocacy training that moved fellows from values to practice. With a shared understanding of inclusive leadership and collective power. Fellows engaged in hands-on, skill-building exercises to design and sustain Reproductive Justice programming on their HBCU campuses. This session emphasized movement sustainability and equipped fellows with concrete strategies to mobilize peers, build coalitions, and navigate institutional challenges with clarity and purpose—all of which are essential for effective, long-term organizing.

With organizing skills sharpened and strategies taking shape, the Retreat transitioned into the “Vision to Action” session, where fellows presented their campus work plans to Marcela Howell, Founder of In Our Own Voice and the visionary architect of the Next Generation Leadership Institute. As the originator of the fellowship, Marcela was deeply impressed by the intentionality of the fellows’ Fall 2025 work plans, as well as by their ability to clearly articulate how their work would advance Reproductive Justice on their campuses and in their communities.

Marcela also expressed pride in the stewardship of the fellowship under the Programs & Training Team, affirming that the leadership, structure, and outcomes of the Institute have exceeded her original vision for the program. This powerful intergenerational exchange reinforced shared leadership and collective wisdom, as Marcela uplifted the fellows’ advocacy efforts underscoring the impact of their campus-based organizing and the strength of the next generation of Reproductive Justice leaders.

After solidifying skills, vision, and strategy, the Retreat deepened fellows' understanding of how policy connects to system change through a session entitled "Policy: The Heartbeat of Reproductive Justice." Led by Camille Kidd and De'Ajane Terrell from In Our Own Voice, this session grounded fellows in policy-driven advocacy as articulated in the *2025 Black Reproductive Justice Policy Agenda*. Fellows gained a clear framework for translating campus organizing into policy impact and learned how to effectively advocate for the pending Real Education and Access for Healthy Youth Act (REAHYA) of 2025 (H.R. 3527). REAHYA will ensure that young people have access to resources and health services to make informed decisions regarding their sexual health and futures. As the fellows prepare to enter their second year at the Institute, this session reinforced the importance of legislation and policy to sustain momentum and scale movement victories.



*In Our Own Voice Board of Directors' members: Chair Jennifer Augustine, Joy Calloway, Kim Kendrick, Tonya Denise Field, and 2024-26 Cohort of Next Generation Leadership Institute Fellows.*



To further expand fellows' leadership beyond advocacy and organizing, the "Youth Advisory Council Overview" session introduced pathways for youth leadership within organizational governance. Fellows engaged in meaningful dialogue with In Our Own Voice Board of Directors' members Jennifer Augustine, Joy Calloway, Kim Kendrick, and Tonya Denise Fields. These leaders shared their insights on Board service, leadership responsibility, and influence in decision-making spaces. This session demonstrated In Our Own Voice's commitment to embedding youth voices at every level of organizational leadership and power.



*In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda Board President Jennifer Augustine and Tougaloo fellow, Nayla McClure.*

As the participants moved from planning to partnership, the "Speed Networking" session strengthened collaboration by creating space for fellows to pitch their semester work plans to experienced Reproductive Justice leaders, policy experts, and organizational partners. These exchanges sparked new partnerships, sharpened program strategies, and affirmed the fellows' leadership and vision.

***North Carolina A&T Fellow Alexandra Nije reflected, "Speed networking during the In Our Own Voice Summit was amazing. Sharing my programs and passion with other advocates brought valuable conversations and new perspectives."***



Recognizing that sustainable leadership requires both care and strategy, the Retreat concluded with a mindfulness and wellness session, “The Revolution Will Not Be Overworked,” led by Erin Julianna of WellnessWeRX. Fellows received practical tools for resilience, rest, and well-being that are crucial to sustaining long-term advocacy. Many described the session as a powerful reset that emphasized the importance of mental health alongside movement work.

*As fellow Victoria Hackshaw-Gittens reflected, “‘The Revolution Will Not Be Overworked’ reminded me of how essential rest is, especially as a Reproductive Justice advocate. We often pour into our communities, but caring for our own well-being and mental health is just as important.”*





*Caroline Drury, Senior Policy Advisor; Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. (D-NC); and the 2024-26 Cohort of Next Generation Leadership Institute fellows.*

Culminating the Summit's arc from learning to action, Advocacy Day provided fellows with the opportunity to put their training into practice. Students had the opportunity to speak directly with the office of Representative Alma Adams (D-NC), Chair of the HBCU Caucus, and sponsor of the REAHYA. Students spoke with Representative Adam's Senior Policy Advisor, Caroline Drury. During this exchange, fellows courageously shared personal stories about the absence of comprehensive sexual health education in their communities and on their campuses, making clear the real-world consequences of these gaps for young people's health, autonomy, and futures.

Fellows also lifted up how the Real Education and Access for Healthy Youth Act (REAHYA) would equip them and their peers with medically accurate, culturally responsive, and affirming sexual health education. This experience powerfully demonstrated the impact of youth-led advocacy and underscored the essential role of policy in advancing Reproductive Justice. The fellows' leadership affirmed what is possible when young people are trusted, resourced, and positioned at the forefront of movement-building not only as beneficiaries of progressive policy, but as architects of the change their communities need.

Together, the In Our Own Voice Summit and 2025 Fall Retreat illuminated the strength, brilliance, and resolve of the next generation of Reproductive Justice leaders who are grounded in joy, driven by policy, and are unwavering in their commitment to building power for Black women and their communities.

# Alumni Group

Being a Reproductive Justice champion does not end after attending the Graduation Retreat. The Programs & Training Team is committed to keeping Next Generation Leadership Institute alumni in the fold of the Reproductive Justice movement through the development of the Alumni Group.

The Next Generation Leadership Institute's Alumni Group was developed to maintain continued learning, resource-sharing, and networking with current and past Next Generation Leadership Institute fellows from across the nation. To connect this widely dispersed group, the Programs & Training Team leveraged the Discord platform to support the group's development and cultivate community for mentorship; enhance communication between current fellows and alumni; and foster professional development.

The Alumni Group was launched in August 2025 with an inaugural *Virtual Social Hour*, during which current and past fellows engaged in activities that fostered networking and connections. Current fellows connected with alumnae/i to discuss mentorship opportunities to support their areas of interest, including campus program development and their post-undergraduate experiences as Reproductive Justice advocates.

As the Next Generation Leadership Institute continues to grow, the Program & Training Team is dedicated to expanding the Alumni Group's capacity to support additional programming, professional development, and mentorship with leaders across the Reproductive Justice movement.



2024-2026 cohort attending the Next Generation Leadership Institute Panel.



# Youth Advisory Council

The Programs & Training Team is reimagining the Reproductive Justice movement and ensuring that it is powered by the vision and determination of young people. This year, that vision became a reality with the launch of the Youth Advisory Council and the appointment of its inaugural member, Youma Diabira.

This Council boldly places young leaders at the forefront of In Our Own Voice's mission by elevating a Next Generation Leadership Institute alumnae/i to serve on the organization's Board of Directors. Adding youth leadership directly into Board-level strategy and governance will cultivate an organization that is more resilient, responsive, and innovative, shaped by the fresh perspectives and forward-thinking solutions that young leaders provide. The Council also forges powerful intergenerational partnerships to create a lasting Reproductive Justice movement where mentorship, professional growth, and hands-on leadership are embedded values.

Youma Diabira is a Xavier University alumna, educator, and community organizer who is dedicated to advancing Reproductive Justice and equity. As an undergraduate, she co-founded Xavier's Emergency Contraceptive Dispensary in March 2023, which still operates and has served more than 300 students free of charge at the nation's only Catholic HBCU. Her advocacy also contributed to the university's first condom distribution program, marking a historic step forward in campus health equity and student access to reproductive health resources.

Reflecting on her new role, Youma shared:

*"I am eager to join the Youth Advisory Council to continue this work beyond fellowship and undergrad, ensuring my voice and leadership remain engaged in advancing Reproductive Justice nationally. I am most excited about the opportunity to serve at the Board level and to participate in decision-making that is intentional, strategic, and long-lasting. The three-year term especially appeals to me, as I value work that allows time to grow, build continuity, and achieve outcomes that extend far beyond a single moment."*

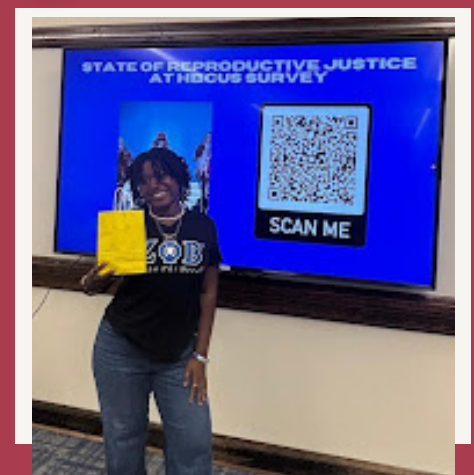
With the launch of the Youth Advisory Council, it is with great pride that we welcome Youma Diabira as the first and inaugural Next Generation Leadership Institute alumna to serve in this Board-level leadership role, setting a powerful precedent for youth leadership within In Our Own Voice and across the broader Reproductive Justice movement.



*Inaugural Youth Advisory Council Member: Youma Diabira.*

## The State of Reproductive Justice at HBCUs Survey

HBCU voices are more essential than ever. To ensure that In Our Own Voices' efforts reflect HBCU community priorities, the Programs & Training Team launched the State of Reproductive Justice at HBCUs Survey. The survey is designed to gather feedback from HBCU students, alumni, faculty, and staff about the diverse needs, barriers, and insights shaping Reproductive Justice on our campuses. The survey captured 122 responses from students, alumni, faculty, and staff from 22 HBCUs. Participants were recruited directly through Next Generation Leadership Institute campus programs; partner networks; and In Our Own Voice tabling sessions, social media blasts, and email outreach.



*Victoria Hackshaw-Gittens promoting the State of the Reproductive Justice Survey at Howard University.*



This survey is a critical step forward to advance systemic change through listening, learning, and acting on what matters most to our HBCUs. In the survey, 68% of students reported that they were unaware whether their institution provided abortion care resources, such as referrals, counseling, and/or transportation services. Similarly, 52% of respondents were unsure whether their campus health services offered inclusive care for LGBTQIA+ students, such as STI testing, hormone therapy, or language that affirms LGBTQIA+ individuals. This gap in knowledge about what resources and options exist on campus creates the risk of misinformation that can lead students to seek support from non-campus organizations like fake abortion clinics or anti-equity groups.

Despite these gaps, survey respondents also highlighted key areas to amplify Reproductive Justice on their HBCU campuses. Half (52%) of students reported that they were aware of sexual health or Reproductive Justice education programs on their campuses. While students are seeking out strong peer-led programs and initiatives that amplify their campus needs, 47% reported that they are not yet participating in such programs. But, there is clear interest: 68% of students expressed an interest in joining or forming a student-led Reproductive Justice coalition. This finding underscores the importance of accessible and inclusive educational opportunities on HBCU campuses.

With respect to HBCU needs, 48% of students reported that their campuses provide accessible safe sex materials such as condoms, dental dams, lubricant, and free STI screenings. Yet, students also highlighted that campuses need to improve programs that provide access to free birth control and pregnancy tests, as well as inclusive trainings on sexual assault prevention.

The survey results have become a powerful catalyst for targeted training, advocacy, and policy recommendations that center HBCU students. These findings will help envision and prioritize future activities to provide culturally responsive programmatic offerings and direct service support at HBCUs through In Our Own Voice and the Next Generation Leadership Institute.

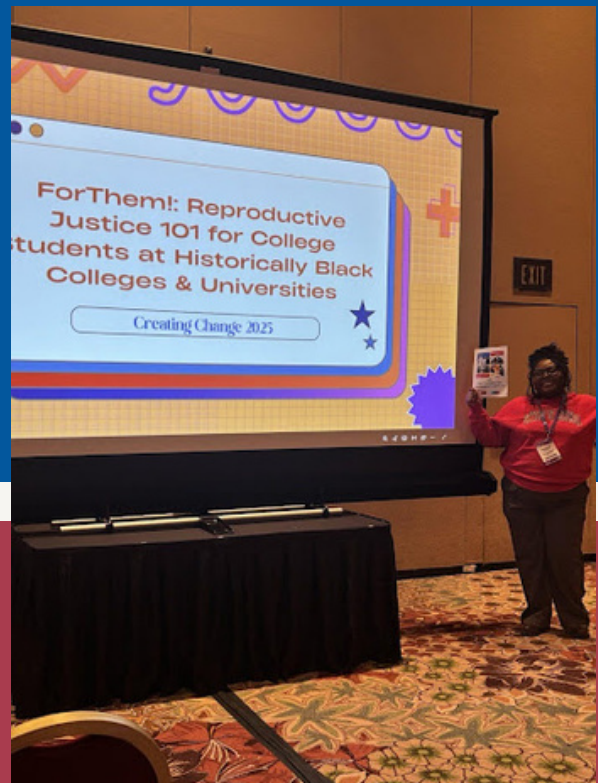


*Beyonce Reid, from Howard University, the recipient of the blue Telfar bag raffle for the The State of Reproductive Justice at HBCU's Survey*

# 2025 Conferences

Connecting with In Our Own Voice's Reproductive Justice network was a key 2025 priority, in order to deepen partnerships, support programmatic initiatives, and strategize with allied movement thought leaders. In 2025, the Programs & Training Team attended three conferences: the National LGBTQ Task Force's Creating Change, the College Board's HBCU Conference, and Collective Power for Reproductive Justice's annual conference.

At Creating Change, the Programs & Training Team presented *ForThem! Reproductive Justice 101 for Historically Black Colleges and Universities*. This session provided HBCU students and faculty with the foundational tools of Reproductive Justice and its connection to LGBTQIA+ Liberation. The workshop highlighted examples of how current Reproductive Justice leaders are making an impact on their campuses through the work of Next Generation Leadership Institute fellows and centering the lived experiences of Queer students at HBCUs.



Left to right: Director, Programs & Training Team, Giovanteey Bishop, presenting the 2024 Annual Report at the 2025 Creating Change Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada; Program Manager De'Ajane Terrell presenting the 2024 Annual Report in front of the ForThem! Presentation.



The College Board's HBCU Conference was an opportunity to connect with leaders from across the nation and identify Reproductive Justice champions at HBCUs. Each HBCU has its own set of unique needs and challenges, which requires a tailored approach.

Connecting with faculty and staff at the HBCU Conference helped the Programs & Training Team understand what Reproductive Justice issue gaps were present on campus and discuss the Next Generation Leadership Institute's programmatic work.

Finally, attending the Collective Power conference created a space for the Programs & Training Team to connect with youth leaders advancing Reproductive Justice across the nation. A highlight was attending the College Abortion Doula workshop presented by the Massachusetts college students who developed the Campus Abortion Doula Network. With support from Advocates for Youth, these students collaborated with five neighboring Massachusetts campuses to adopt the service model and provide their peers with resources and support when receiving abortion services.



*Featuring the Director, Programs & Training Team, Giovanteey Bishop, and Program Manager De'Ajane Terrell attending the HBCU Conference in Los Angeles, California.*



*Left to right: In Our Own Voice Programs & Training Team reconnecting with Loretta Ross, one of the founding mothers of the Reproductive Justice Movement, at Collective Power Conference in Amherst, Massachusetts; In Our Own Voice Programs & Trainings team connecting with strategic partner staff from Black Women for Wellness.*

# In Conclusion: Letter from the Director

*Dear Partners,  
Collaborators, and  
Champions of  
Reproductive Justice,*

The past year demanded more from us than ever before—2025 was a year that called for boldness, resilience, and the unwavering belief that change is possible, even in the face of adversity. What we achieved together is nothing short of extraordinary. Amidst unprecedented political turbulence, our Next Generation Leadership Institute fellows and the wider HBCU community faced immense obstacles. Yet, we witnessed something profound: the unstoppable force of youth leadership rising to meet the moment with unshakable resolve. Every challenge our fellows overcame became an opportunity to innovate, organize, and reimagine Reproductive Justice on their terms.

This report offers a snapshot of the Next Generation Leadership Institute's reach and highlights its notable achievements, including hosting 35 campus programs and distributing more than 2,000 menstrual products and 936 safe sex kits.

*The true heart of the Programs & Training Team's work lies in our commitment to uplifting and sustaining our young changemakers and the fierce support we provide to our Next Generation Leadership Institute fellows. When In Our Own Voice says our work is youth-focused, we mean it: every step forward has been guided by the voices and visions of youth at the center.*



**GIOVANTEEY BISHOP, MSA**  
*Director, Programs and Training*



As we close out 2025, we move forward with an unshakable commitment to the next generation of Reproductive Justice leaders. In Our Own Voice is proud to continue investing in young people, and we are preparing to recruit a new class of Next Generation Leadership Institute fellows who will carry this movement forward with boldness, brilliance, and purpose.

We are also launching powerful new programmatic initiatives designed to expand access to training, strengthen organizing, and grow a national base of informed, equipped, and activated Reproductive Justice advocates.

With your continued partnership, we are well-positioned to meet this moment with clarity, courage, and collective purpose. Our work will remain rooted in uplifting young people, expanding opportunity, and strengthening leadership across our communities. As we rise together in service of this movement, we do so with confidence in what we are building and in the young people leading the way.

*Please continue to amplify the Next Generation Leadership Institute and share the program with potential applicants.*