A collection of yellow and orange starburst shapes scattered across the top of the page.

# What is Reproductive Justice?

Part 1 in a 3-part series





# REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

means living in a world where we can make decisions about our bodies, and that we have the resources we need to take care of our bodies.

It means being able to take pleasure in our bodies.

It means having what we need to take care of our children, partners, and family members so they are healthy and safe.

It means having communities of love and support so we all can thrive.

# What is reproductive justice?

## Reproductive justice means:

All people should have the right to:

- governance over our own bodies (also called bodily autonomy);
- access information and resources needed to make choices about our own bodies;
- have children or not have children;
- parent the children we have in safe environments and communities.

## Reproductive justice is...

### A human right.

Reproductive justice is based on the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is an internationally-accepted body of law. It details the rights of individuals and how government should protect those rights.

### About access, not just choice.

Mainstream movements have focused on keeping abortion legal as an individual choice. That is necessary, but not enough. Even when abortion is legal, many people who become pregnant cannot afford it or cannot travel hundreds of miles to the nearest clinic.

**There is no choice where there is no access.**



# Reproductive justice is...



## Not just about abortion.



Abortion access is critical. Pregnant people often have difficulty finding good prenatal care and pregnancy care. Alternative birth options are also hard to find. Reproductive justice also means having access to:

- contraception
- comprehensive sex education
- sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention and care
- sexual and domestic violence help
- adequate wages to support their families
- safe homes, and so much more (see ideas for policy solutions in Part 2 of this series).

## A culture shift.

Reproductive justice requires society to make changes in our norms, relationships, and institutions. We must invest in and trust young people with access to information and education. We must provide tools to build and sustain a culture of consent, of universal human dignity, and of power and autonomy.



# To achieve reproductive justice we must...



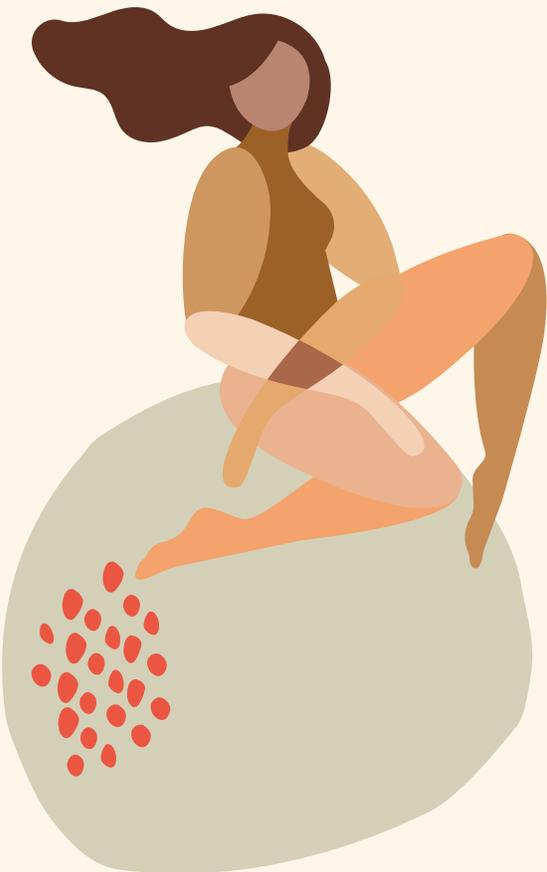
## Analyze power systems.

Reproductive politics in the U.S. works to limit and control people's lives. It is sexist and racist. This control interferes with an individual's or community's ability to have choice and autonomy. Reproductive justice works to understand, address, and ultimately eradicate these dynamics.



## Address intersecting oppressions.

Audre Lorde said, "There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives." Historically marginalized and oppressed people face multiple oppressions. We can only win freedom by addressing how they operate and impact one another.





# To achieve reproductive justice we must...



## Center the most historically marginalized and oppressed voices.

We will not be free until the most vulnerable people have free access to the resources we need to live without fear or discrimination.



## Join together across issues and identities.

All oppressions impact our reproductive lives. Reproductive justice is about being able to parent children without fear of police brutality. It's about having access to respectful and competent healthcare for trans people. It is as much about these things as it is about access to safe and legal abortion care. Achieving reproductive justice calls for us to come together, across movements, to build power to win freedom for all oppressed people.



Adapted from SisterSong  
Women of Color Reproductive  
Justice Collective.

Retrieved from  
[http://sistersong.net/  
reproductive-justice/](http://sistersong.net/reproductive-justice/)

# Resources



## **SisterSong: What is Reproductive Justice?**

<https://www.sistersong.net/reproductive-justice/>

## **Loretta Ross: Reproductive Justice 101**

(1:58 min video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQHolmVzN1c>

## **Loretta Ross & Dr. Kimberly Scott: Reproductive Justice**

(11:49 min video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPzqlmullgU>

## **In Our Own Voice: The History of Reproductive Justice**

(2:08 min video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihwvHHInrIU>

## **Abortion Funds' Multimedia Reproductive Justice Syllabus**

<https://abortionfunds.org/syllabus>

**Sexual and Reproductive Justice Resources**, compiled by the NYC Health Department and Sexual and Reproductive Justice Community Engagement Group:  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/ms/srj-resource-list.pdf>

## **VAWnet Reproductive Justice & Violence Against Women: Understanding the Intersections**

<https://vawnet.org/sc/reproductive-justice-violence-against-women-understanding-intersections>

## **VAWnet Reproductive Justice and Domestic and Sexual Violence**

<https://vawnet.org/sc/paradigm-intersectionality-holistic-framework-ensure-complete-well-being>

## **Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs**

### **Connections: Reproductive Justice issue Summer 2013**

[http://www.ncdsv.org/images/WCSAP\\_Connections-Reproductive-Justice\\_Summer2013.pdf](http://www.ncdsv.org/images/WCSAP_Connections-Reproductive-Justice_Summer2013.pdf)

## **Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance**

**Reproductive Freedom & Choice for Survivors: Resources for Advocates**  
[bit.ly/rjforadvocates](http://bit.ly/rjforadvocates)





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Virginia Sexual &  
Domestic Violence  
Action Alliance

[www.vsdvalliance.org](http://www.vsdvalliance.org)  
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## Our Reproductive Justice Series

**Part 1** What is Reproductive Justice?

**Part 2** How Does Reproductive Justice Intersect with Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence?

**Part 3** How Can We Foster Reproductive Justice within Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies?