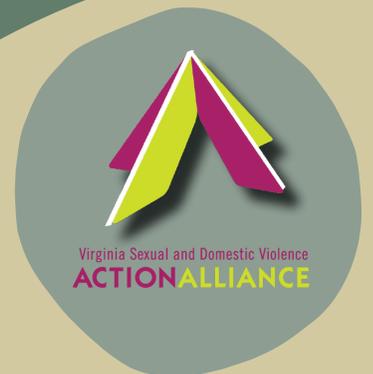


# How Does Reproductive Justice Intersect With Sexual & Intimate Partner Violence?

Part 2 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.



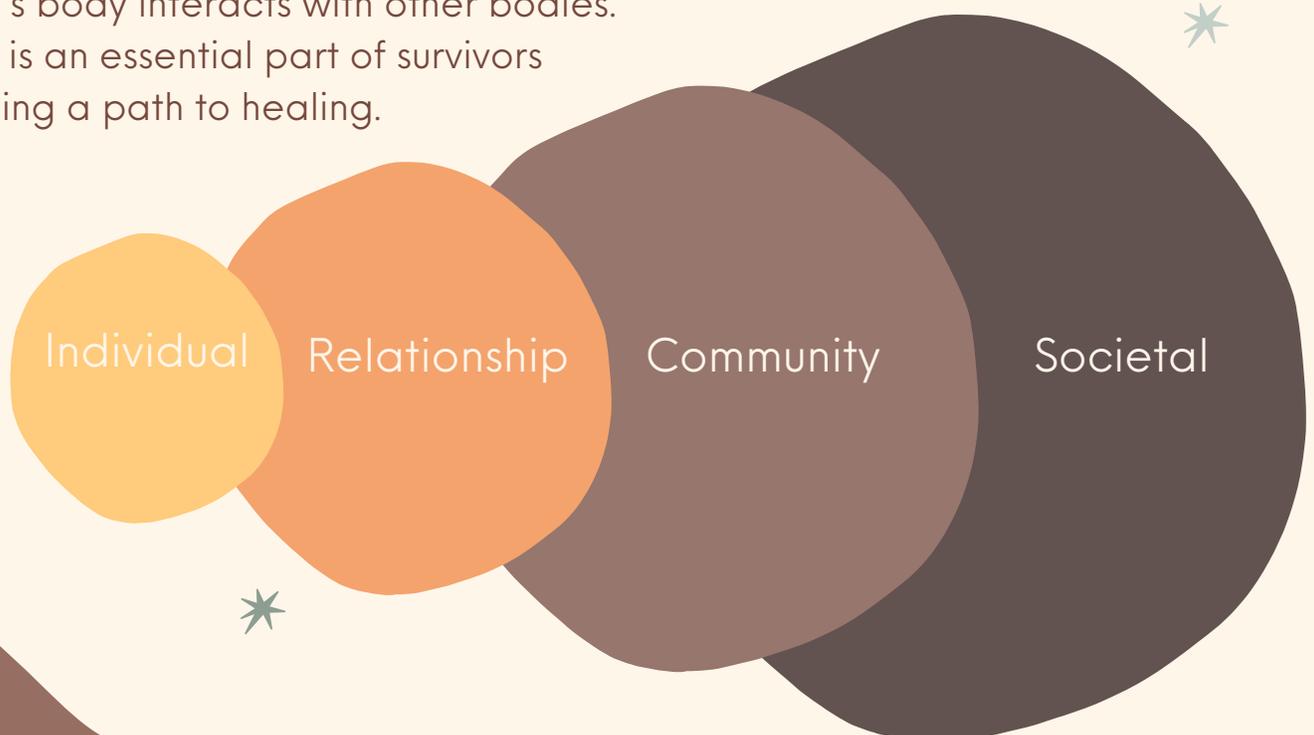
# Reproductive justice intersects with sexual & intimate partner violence

## On an individual level...

A person's sexual and reproductive health are affected by experiences of sexual and intimate partner violence. When violence happens, survivors face problems beyond how violence affects them physically and emotionally. They face possibilities of infections, pregnancy and/or infertility, which affects their sexual and reproductive health.

## On a relationship level...

Acts of violence often take away power from individuals. It is important to be able to give full and informed consent for all decisions about one's body. This includes how one's body interacts with other bodies. This is an essential part of survivors finding a path to healing.





# Reproductive justice intersects with sexual & intimate partner violence



## On a community level...

Survivors need access to sexual and reproductive health care to help heal from the trauma of violence. This includes all people no matter their income, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, ability, or age.

A survivor of sexual violence who is pregnant must be able to make decisions about whether to end a pregnancy, choose adoption, or raise a child.

Survivors should have access to non-judgmental, safe, legal, affordable, and medically accurate information and care, including counseling and/or trauma-informed advocacy services. This should happen without pressure or added burdens.



# Reproductive justice intersects with sexual & intimate partner violence

## On a societal level...

The state uses power and control over how and when people care for and build families. These harms include:

- housing discrimination
- destruction of environmental protections
- monitoring state benefits
- unequal access to healthcare
- anti-abortion legislation
- mass incarceration
- separating families at the border
- police brutality and murder

**Survivor advocacy must include working to change systems to protect human rights.**



# We can all advocate for policies that foster reproductive justice<sup>1</sup>



## Examples of policies could include:

- Ensure universal paid parental leave, family medical leave, paid sick leave.<sup>2</sup>
- Provide universal pre-K and child tax credits.
- Ensure full access to non-judgmental, safe, legal, affordable, affirming, and medically accurate sexual and reproductive health care, including abortion.
- Reduce the rates of child, infant, and maternal mortality.
- Dismantle disparities based on age, gender identity, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status that limit the ability to control one's own body and health decisions.
- Treat climate justice policies as integral to the ability of people to have healthy lives that lead to healthy families.
- Establish full access to prevention education that promotes sexual and reproductive health and wellness across the lifespan.
- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, safe and long-term elder care.<sup>3</sup>

[1] An example of the Action Alliance advocating for reproductive justice can be found here: <https://dev-vsdvalliance.pantheonsite.io/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2019-Reproductive-Sexual-Health-Priorities.pdf>  
[2] Check out how Virginia scores on how we support survivors' financial security: <https://mapandscorecard.freefrom.org/states/virginia>  
[3] Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy offers family friendly policy solutions for Virginia. See <https://familyfriendlyeconomyva.org/>

# 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**

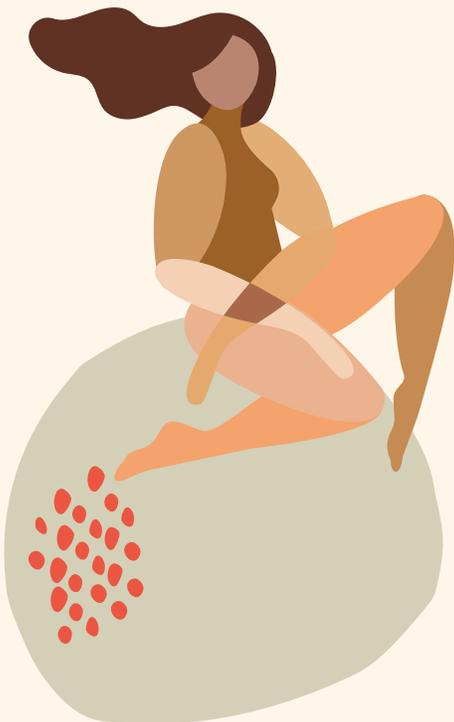
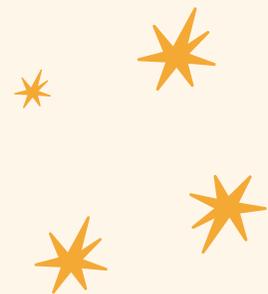
**Reproductive Freedom & Choice for Survivors: Resources for Advocates**  
[bit.ly/rjforadvocates](http://bit.ly/rjforadvocates)





A publication of  
Virginia Sexual &  
Domestic Violence  
Action Alliance

[www.vsdvalliance.org](http://www.vsdvalliance.org)  
@VActionAlliance



## 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 Build and Foster Reproductive Justice within Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies?