

## REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE FRAMEWORK

The reproductive justice framework encompasses reproductive health and reproductive rights, while also using an intersectional critical analysis to emphasize and address the social, political, and economic systemic inequalities that impacts people's ability to access reproductive health as well as their ability to control their reproductive lives.

## CENTERING THE MOST MARGINALIZED

The reproductive justice framework encompasses a range of issues related to the controlling and regulation of our gender, bodies, sexualities, and labor. A RJ lens utilizes narrative to aid in bringing attention to the specific issues that the most marginalized communities experience.

## 500 WOMENS SCIENTISTS MISSION

The mission of 500 Women Scientists is to serve society by making science open, inclusive, and accessible and transform society by fighting racism, patriarchy, and oppressive societal norms.

The vision of 500 Women Scientists is to be the foremost organization for the transformation of leadership, diversity, and public engagement in science

## RJ AND YOUR WORK

It is through the operationalizing of the RJ lens to focus on specific issues in various communities, we are able to analyze and make important connections between communities impacted by reproductive oppression. A RJ lens allows us to see both the differences and similarities facing to our gender, bodies and sexuality. As such, the RJ framework can support so that we can move our work forward together toward the same vision of reproductive justice.

This resource guide reflects our analysis of the interconnectedness of issues addressed by the Reproductive Justice (RJ) framework.

### Videos/Audio:

- [What is Reproductive Justice?](#)
- [Reproductive Justice with Loretta Ross](#)
- [Reproductive Justice: The Intersectional Movement We All Need Now](#)

### Select Articles and Reports

- [“What is Reproductive Justice?: How Women of Color Activists Are Redefining the Pro Choice Paradigm”](#) by Kimala Price
- [“Queering Reproductive Justice”](#) by Marie-Amelie George
- [“If You Really Care about Environmental Justice, You Should Care about Reproductive Justice!”](#) by National Women’s Law Center and Law Students for Reproductive Justice
- [Fertile Ground: Women Organizing at the Intersections of Environmental Justice and Reproductive Justice](#) by Kristen Zimmerman and Vera Miao
- [“Abortion in Brazil: the case for women's rights, lives, and choices”](#) by
- [“Disrupted: The Reproductive Rights and Justice Issue”](#)
- [“Moving toward Sexual and Reproductive Justice: A Transnational and Multigenerational Feminist Remix”](#)
- [The Blueprint for Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice](#)

### Books:

- *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty* by Dorothy Roberts

Jackson & Marshall Consulting Group LLC –Reproductive Justice Resources

- *Reproductive Justice: An Introduction* by Loretta Ross and Rickie Solinger
- *Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present* by Harriet A. Washington
- *Reproductive Injustice: Racism, Pregnancy, and Premature Birth* by Dána-Ain Davis
- *Queering Family Trees: Race, Reproductive Justice, and Lesbian Motherhood* by Sandra Patton-Imani
- *Reproductive Rights and Wrongs: The Global Politics of Population Control* by Betsy Hartmann
- *Reproducing Race: An Ethnography of Pregnancy as a Site of Racialization* by Khiara Bridges

## KEY DEFINITIONS

Page | 2

The following definitions are a non-exhaustive list of terms that advocates may come across in learning about Reproductive Justice.

**Environmental Justice:** the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

**Intersectionality:** An analytic framework and theory designed to explore the dynamic between co-existing identities (e.g. woman, Black, working class) and connected systems of oppression (e.g. patriarchy, white supremacy, capitalism)

**Latinx:** Pronounced “Latin-ex,” is a gender-neutral way to describe people of Latin American descent. The “x” makes *Latino*, a masculine identifier, gender neutral. It also moves beyond

**LGBT or LGBTQQ:** Shorthand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning people.

**LGBTQ Rights or Equality:** the movement to gain legal privileges that are currently denied to LGBTQ people and/or protections we need in the face of discrimination, with the long-term goal of inserting LGBTQ people into existing social institutions and systems of power.

**LGBTQ Justice or Liberation:** the long-term goal of (re)creating social institutions and equitable systems that are supportive of LGBTQ people and allows us to live as our full, authentic selves.

**Reproductive Health (RH):** An approach that focuses on people’s access to healthcare services, research, and facilities. Particular attention is paid to expanding access to preventative care and culturally competent services. It also includes different methods of birth control and fertility methods, as well as environmental impacts on health. A tenant of RH assumes that people are able to have a responsible, satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so.

**Reproductive Oppression: the control and exploitation**

**Reproductive Rights (RR):** An approach that protects a person’s legal rights to reproductive healthcare services, particularly the right to access abortion and birth control. Many people talk about abortion as a “women’s issue; however, many LGBTQ people—including transgender men, two-spirit, intersex and gender non-conforming individuals—can get pregnant.

**Reproductive Justice (RJ):** A framework that centers the human right to have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and healthy environments, and the right to bodily autonomy. It includes reproductive rights like the legal right to abortion, but it also includes access to affordable healthcare, adequate prenatal and pregnancy care, comprehensive and LGBTQ-inclusive sex education, livable wages, and freedom from violence and discrimination. Ensuring reproductive healthcare is accessible and other critical resources is the main focus of RJ, because having a legal right is meaningless without the ability to exercise that right.

## OPERATIONALIZING REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

**Consciousness raising:** For folks living and working in a similar community to yours, who may not have previously seen or thought about issues of RJ in their communities, will become more aware of RJ issues that might be impacting their own communities.

**Highlighting the interconnectedness of issues:** Seeing that the RJ issues your community is experiencing are similar to the ones impacting other communities will help foster alliances between communities that may have not previously existed. This allows us to reach out and make connections across different communities, support each other and figure out ways to work together.

**Support is a verb:** By learning about how other groups are organizing to fight reproductive oppression in their communities, we hope that activists and organizations will be inspired to take action to addresses similar issues in their own communities.

**Addressing policy work:** From analyzing existing policies to creating and implementing new ones, understanding the nuances of reproductive justice within specific communities allows us to make real changes in the lived experiences of the communities most impacted by reproductive oppression, rather than assuming that all communities are or will be affected equally.

## REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS

A few Black-led RJ organizations to follow and support:

[Black Women for Wellness](#)

[Black Women's Health Imperative](#)

[Feminist Women's Health Center](#)

[New Voices for Reproductive Justice](#)

[SisterLove](#)

[SisterSong](#)

[SPARK! Reproductive Justice Now](#)

[The Afiya Center](#)