

**REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE:**  
What are you already doing?

Kris Bein & Michelle Dixon-Wall



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**Intersections**

- Large activity brainstorm.
- What are the issues that affect bodies that have experienced societal marginalization (i.e., racism, ableism, transphobia)?

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**Reproductive Justice is**

- “a positive approach that links sexuality, health, and human rights to social justice movements by placing abortion and reproductive health issues in the larger context of the well-being and health of women, families and communities because reproductive justice seamlessly integrates those individual and group human rights particularly important to marginalized communities. We believe that the ability of any woman to determine her own reproductive destiny is directly linked to the conditions in her community and these conditions are not just a matter of individual choice and access.”

Loretta Ross,  
Sistersong/ Trust Black Women Partnership

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### Trauma Informed Care

- A survivor-centered approach that comprises safety, trust, cultural competence, collaboration, and choice
- Supporting a survivor's choices is important to healing and reclaiming their own power

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### Tenants of RJ

- Decide if and when she will have a baby and the conditions under which she will give birth.
- Decide if she will not have a baby and her options for preventing or ending a pregnancy.
- Parent the children she already has with the necessary social supports in safe environments and healthy communities, and without fear of violence from individuals or the government.

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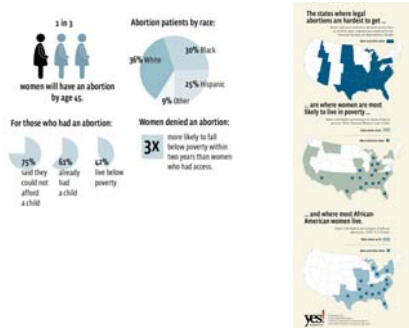
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### Reproductive Rights: Poverty & Race




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### Intersections

- When diverse social justice groups are able to build a shared language and analysis around reproductive justice, it can open up a range of opportunities for movement building.
- Reproductive justice aims to transform power inequities and create long-term systemic change, and therefore relies on the leadership of communities most impacted by reproductive oppression.

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### Personal Assessment

- "Knowing Your Limits" individual activity
- Discussion/Debrief activity

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### Choice-centered advocacy

"If someone is raped and gets pregnant, should they have an abortion?"

1. Validate the survivor for asking the question.
  - "That is an important question. I am glad you are asking it."
  - "A lot of people ask that question. Let's talk about it."
  - Validation can be verbal or non-verbal. Body language and facial expressions are also important.

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### Choice-centered advocacy

"If someone is raped and gets pregnant, should they have an abortion?"

- 2. Identify the question as a belief or a value question.
  - "This is not a question that I can just answer yes or no to. The idea of what is okay is really different for different people. I can help you explore what feels okay for you."

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### Choice-centered advocacy

"If someone is raped and gets pregnant, should they have an abortion?"

- 3. Focus on the facts.
  - "Abortions are fairly common. 3 out of 10 women in the U.S. have an abortion by the time they are 45 years old."
  - "If you are trying to decide if abortion is the right choice for you, you probably have many things to think about. Learning the facts about abortion may help you in making your decision. We can do some of that research together if that would be helpful."

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### Choice-centered advocacy

"If someone is raped and gets pregnant, should they have an abortion?"

- 4. Describe the range of beliefs.
  - "Of course, people have a lot of different beliefs about when and if it's okay to have an abortion. What are some of the things you have heard?"
  - "Some people think abortion should be illegal and have moral objections to it. Some people think it is okay in some circumstances, like rape. Some people think it's up to the individual to make a choice regardless of the circumstances."

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### Choice-centered advocacy

"If someone is raped and gets pregnant, should they have an abortion?"

- 5. State your belief only if it is a universal advocacy value.
- "I support any choice you want to make. That's my job. The assault that happened to you was not your fault and your choice was taken away from you in that moment."
- "I want to make sure now that you have the ability to make each choice your own, based on your values, your beliefs, and what you want to happen now. Making your own choice is a powerful way to heal after you have had a very important choice taken away from you."

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### Values Activity

- Validate the survivor in their choice or for asking the question.
- Identify the choice or question as a belief or value.
- Answer or identify the factual points.
- Describe the range of beliefs.
- State your belief only if it is a universal advocacy value.

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### Back to Trauma-Informed Care

- Beauty and strength of advocacy is our ability to help survivors make sense of overwhelming situations and empower them.
- Looking holistically at RJ is one more way we can help survivors regain more control over their lives.

**You got this.**

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## The End.

- <http://www.trustblackwomen.org/>
- <https://pregnantsurvivors.org/>
- <http://www.vawnet.org/special-collections/ReproductiveJustice.php>
- <http://www.westernstatescenter.org/our-work/we-are-brave>

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