



Engaging advocates to protect and defend reproductive health care access in Louisiana

What is Reproductive Justice*?

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.

Every woman has the human right to:

- 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

This manifests in the lives of women through:

- Wage discrimination and persistent economic insecurity;
- Criminalizing pregnancy through punitive child endangerment laws;
- Immigration restrictions and enforcement;
- Preventing LGBTQ individuals from parenting or accessing health care and services;
- Discriminatory foster care enforcement;
- Inaccessibility of reproductive health care and feminine hygiene products for incarcerated women; and
- The poor treatment of pregnant and parenting women in the criminal justice system.

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