



**BLACK WOMEN
FOR WELLNESS**
ANNUAL REPRODUCTIVE
JUSTICE CONFERENCE

A NEW ERA OF JUSTICE

**25TH ANNUAL REPRODUCTIVE
JUSTICE CONFERENCE**

2024 PROGRAM



WELCOME ADDRESS

Black Women for Wellness welcomes you to **A New Era of Justice, Our Bodies, Our Voices, Our Freedom**, our 25th Annual Reproductive Justice conference.

Indeed we have entered A New Era, and with every transition, it is turbulent. There are wins, like California's declaration of being a sanctuary state for those seeking abortion as well as passing policy like the Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act, and Momnibus Bill. California has also implemented programs like the Abundant Birth Program and allocated funds that support our values like the Reproductive Freedom Fund.

Black women's bodies are indeed on the frontlines in this new era of justice ushered in by the Dodd decision, the conservative Supreme Court and the willingness of many state governments to erode a woman's right to autonomy. Across the country we have seen the impact across the reproductive field, infertility treatments questioned, decreased access to maternity care by the creation of maternity deserts especially with for-profit hospitals and yes bans on abortion. Black Women for Wellness' annual Reproductive Justice Conference will bring updates across the spectrum -- from how implicit bias and the Backlash (increase in anti-black racism), the criminalization of women seeking abortion care, including the impacts of maternity deserts, maternal mortality and how environmental justice has a role in our reproductive health status. And YES, we will include a youth track as our future should be fully informed and ready for the baton pass into leadership.

Black Women for Wellness is inviting you to engage, learn, share and please do not let this information stay in this conference setting. Utilize your spheres of influence to engage our diverse communities. The experts, leaders, researchers, advocates and healthcare workers here today have much to gain from our collective knowledge, and indeed our liberty is at stake.

Thank you / Asante Sana for investing your time and resources with BWW today. We acknowledge that our new era is turbulent, however the tools shared here will certainly lend to our bodies, our voices and our basic human right to freedom. Many thanks to the staff, volunteers and team who carefully crafted an impactful day, looking forward to your interaction, insights, comments and engagement as we strive toward reproductive justice for Black communities.

Peace,

- *Janette Robinson Flint*

Executive Director and Founding Member,
Black Women for Wellness





LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Dear Esteemed Attendees,

We are thrilled to welcome you to the Reproductive Justice Conference, marking 25 years of dedicated advocacy and transformative work for the health and well-being of Black women and girls. As we gather to celebrate this significant milestone, we reflect on Black Women For Wellness's journey, honor our achievements, and envision a future where justice, equity, and empowerment are realities for all.

Over the past quarter-century, Black Women for Wellness (BWW) has been at the forefront of the fight for reproductive justice. Our mission has been clear: to address the disparities and injustices that uniquely affect Black women and girls, from maternal health to environmental hazards, from beauty justice to comprehensive sex education. Our work is rooted in the understanding that reproductive justice is not just about the right to have or not have children, but the right to raise our children in safe and healthy environments.

This conference is not just a celebration of our past, but a call to action for the future. We are here to share knowledge, build alliances, and amplify the voices of those who have been marginalized. We are here to inspire, to educate, and to mobilize. Your presence today is a testament to the power of community and the importance of solidarity in our shared pursuit of justice.

As we engage in meaningful conversations and workshops over the next few days, we encourage you to bring your passion, your ideas, and your commitment. Let us learn from each other, support each other, and work together to create lasting change. This conference is a space for healing, for growth, and for empowerment. It is a space where we can collectively envision and work towards a future that honors the dignity and humanity of Black women and girls.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all of you—activists, scholars, healthcare providers, community leaders, and allies. Your dedication and tireless efforts are the foundation upon which we build our movement. Together, we have accomplished so much, and together, we will continue to break barriers and set new standards for reproductive justice.

Thank you for being part of this incredible journey. Here's to 25 years of advocacy, and to many more years of progress and empowerment.

In solidarity,
Your Co- Chairs,

Arnedra Jordan
Project Manager, Black Women for Wellness

Erika Gist
Program Analyst, Black Women for Wellness





PROGRAM COORDINATORS WELCOME

Welcome to Black Women for Wellness's 25th Annual Reproductive Justice Conference. We are so happy to have you here, and we are excited to engage with you this season. Your presence here today reaffirms your commitment to do all that you can to gain knowledge that will better equip you to fight for women and girls to be happy, healthy, and free to the fullest extent. I hope that the sessions you attend today make you feel well-informed, empowered, and encourage you to keep fighting this fight alongside us, as we need champions like you to keep this movement moving forward. Your dedication to the Reproductive Justice Movement has not gone unnoticed. We see you, we hear you, and we appreciate you.

-Adia James

Adia James, RJ Conference Coordinator, UC Irvine School of Medicine

Hello everyone, and welcome to the 2024 Reproductive Conference! I'm Ifeoma Ajufu, a rising junior majoring in Global and Public Health. As one of the interns for this conference, I'll be facilitating the international track today, where we'll explore global efforts in reproductive justice. This experience has shown me the immense effort involved in organizing nonprofit events, and I hope you find today's sessions both educational and inspiring as we delve into the critical topic of reproductive justice.

-Ifeoma Ajufu

Ifeoma Ajuntu - RJ Conference Intern, Cornell University





BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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HOLLY J. MITCHELL
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT



August 15, 2024

Dear Friends and Honored Guests,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Black Women for Wellness Annual Reproductive Justice Conference. I am thrilled to join you in celebrating and advancing the health and well-being of Black women and girls.

This Annual Reproductive Justice Conference provides the necessary platform to transform, encourage, and celebrate the health and reproductive rights of Black women and girls. Today's conference will gather community to discuss health that is centered in care, and the critical political and economic climate Black women and girls are facing regarding their fundamental rights.

I'd like to honor and congratulate Black Women for Wellness Executive Director - Janette Robinson Flint, for her leadership in contributing to transform and empower the next generation of leaders in reproductive healthcare. Janette's mission to advocate on behalf of Black women and girls in the areas of health, education, and economic empowerment is admirable. Through her leadership, she has remained committed to the empowerment of Black women and girls who benefit from her dedication.

The intersections of historical and structural racism, gender oppression, and inequities in healthcare, contribute to disproportionate health outcomes for Black women and girls. I have been committed to addressing reproductive inequities and remain committed to advance change, and ensure access to high quality, comprehensive, culturally relevant reproductive health care.

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the more than 2 million people who reside in the Second Supervisorial District, I extend my best wishes for your continued success and for a most memorable event.

Sincerely,

Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor, Second District
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors



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PROGRAM AGENDA

BREAKFAST/ RESOURCE TABLE (SOLIS/YOSEMITE HALL)

GROUNDING - REV. VANESSA MCKENZIE

WELCOME - JANETTE ROBINSON FLINT (SOLIS/YOSEMITE HALL)

DIGNITARIES (SOLIS/YOSEMITE HALL)

- PRESENTER: ANDIRA HANCOCK-GREER

SPEAKER - ATTORNEY GENERAL ROB BONTA

VIDEO PRESENTATION - LONNELL SCHULER

KEYNOTE PANEL - DESIGNING OUR FUTURE: PERSPECTIVES AND VISIONS FOR A NEW ERA OF JUSTICE AND LIBERATION

- DAZON DIXON
- DEON HAYWOOD
- MODERATOR: LAKISHA CAMESE

BREAK OUT SESSION I

- MEN'S TRACK (JOSHUA TREE)
- MATERNAL HEALTH TRACK (SOLIS/YOSEMITE HALL)
- YOUTH TRACK (CATALINA)
- GROWN AND SEXY TRACK (SIERRA)
- ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TRACK (SOLIS)
- IN/FERTILITY TRACK (CABRILLO)
- CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TRACK (REDWOOD)

LUNCH (SOLIS/YOSEMITE HALL + COURTYARD)

MEET THE FIERCE AUNTIES AND RITES OF PASSAGE GIRLS

**KEYNOTE PANEL - HOT TOPICS IN POLICY:
OPPORTUNITIES FOR RJ AT THE SYSTEMS LEVEL
(SOLIS/YOSEMITE HALL)**

- SANDRA O. POOLE
- JODI JACOBSON
- TIFFANY QUARRELS
- MODERATOR: LAKISHA CAMESE

BREAK OUT SESSION II

- MEN'S TRACK (JOSHUA TREE)
- MATERNAL HEALTH TRACK (MOJAVE)
- YOUTH TRACK (CATALINA)
- GROWN AND SEXY TRACK (MOVES TO REDWOOD IN THE AFTERNOON)
- BREAST HEALTH TRACK (SOLIS)
- INTERNATIONAL TRACK (CEL LOMBARD)
- MEDICAL TRACK (CABRILLO)

DANCE BREAK - DJ COOKIE

POWER TALKS (SOLIS/YOSEMITE HALL)

- MODERATOR: KENDALL WARTHER

CLOSING - JANETTE ROBINSON FLINT





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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Morning Schedule

MEN'S TRACK (JOSHUA TREE)

- **TITLE:** OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH FOR BLACK MEN
- **TRACK CHAIR:** NEVON WATSON
- **DESCRIPTION:** EXPLORE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CHALLENGES AFFECTING BLACK MEN'S ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES, AND DISCUSS STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME THESE OBSTACLES.

MATERNAL HEALTH TRACK (SOLIS/YOSEMITE HALL)

- **TITLE:** FROM EUGENICS TO EQUITY: NAVIGATING GENETICS AND MATERNAL HEALTH
- **TRACK CHAIR:** GABRIELLE BROWN
- **PANELISTS:** AARIN ABLES WILLIAMS; HELEN KIM
- **DESCRIPTION:** DELVE INTO THE INTERSECTION OF GENETICS AND BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH, FOCUSING ON REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE AND THE IMPACT OF HISTORICAL EUGENICS.

YOUTH TRACK (CATALINA)

- **TITLE:** REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE 101 YOUTH ADVOCACY JEOPARDY
- **TRACK CHAIR:** LONNELL SCHULER
- **DESCRIPTION:** ENGAGE IN A JEOPARDY-STYLE SESSION TO LEARN ABOUT REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE BASICS, ADVOCACY, AND THE IMPACT OF RACE, GENDER, AND CLASS.





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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Morning Schedule

CONTINUED

GROWN AND SEXY TRACK (CEL LOMBARD)

- **TITLE:** MENOPAUSE: LEARN HOW TO THRIVE AND BE FABULOUS THROUGH MENOPAUSE AND BEYOND.
- **TRACK CHAIR:** KIM ROBINSON
- **PANELIST:** DR. SHARON MALONE
- **DESCRIPTION:** THIS SESSION WILL COVER DISPARITIES IN WOMEN'S AND BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH, MENOPAUSE STIGMATIZATION, MODERN HEALTHCARE INEFFICIENCIES, HEALTHY AGING, HORMONE MANAGEMENT, DOCTOR VISIT PREPARATION, HEALTHCARE ADVOCACY, TRUMP'S ABORTION STANCE, THE MENOPAUSE RESEARCH ACT, AND THE CURRENT DOCTOR SHORTAGE.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TRACK (SOLIS)

- **TITLE:** HOUSING FOR HOMIES & HUNNIES: GREEN SOCIAL HOUSING FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM
- **TRACK CHAIRS:** TIANNA SHAW WAKEMAN; ZOE CUNLIFFE
- **PANELISTS:** VIVIAN BRECKENRIDGE & SIM BILIAL
- **DESCRIPTION:** DISCUSS THE NEED FOR GREEN SOCIAL HOUSING TO ENSURE REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM, FOCUSING ON THE CHALLENGES OF AFFORDABLE AND SAFE HOUSING.

IN/FERTILITY TRACK (CABRILLO)

- **TITLE:** FERTILE GROUND: EMPOWERING BLACK WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
- **TRACK CHAIR:** CHARITY BROWN
- **PANELIST:** DR. SHANEE PORTER, VICTORIOUS WANJIRO, DR. JADE S. SASSER, ALYSSA NEWMAN
- **DESCRIPTION:** ADDRESS FERTILITY CHALLENGES FOR BLACK WOMEN, EXPLORING HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS, TREATMENTS, AND HOLISTIC WELLNESS PRACTICES.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TRACK (REDWOOD)

- **TITLE:** OUR VOTE, OUR FUTURE: HOW VOTING IMPACTS REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE
- **TRACK CHAIR:** MERON SHITA
- **DESCRIPTION:** UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF VOTING ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND STRATEGIES FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TO SUPPORT REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS.





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Afternoon Schedule

MEN'S TRACK (JOSHUA TREE)

- **TITLE:** EMPOWERING BLACK MEN IN ADVOCACY FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
- **TRACK CHAIR:** NEVON WATSON
- **DESCRIPTION:** LEARN HOW BLACK MEN CAN ADVOCATE FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, WITH PRACTICAL TOOLS AND SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE MOVEMENT.

MATERNAL HEALTH TRACK (MOJAVE)

- **TITLE:** DIGNITY IN PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH ACT
- **TRACK CHAIR:** ADJOA JONES
- **DESCRIPTION:** EXPLORE THE DIGNITY IN PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH ACT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR EQUITABLE CARE DURING PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH.

YOUTH TRACK (CATALINA)

- **TITLE:** CHOICES; A FILM SCREENING
- **TRACK CHAIR:** LONNELL SCHULER
- **PANELIST:** KAMEISHIA WOOTEN
- **DESCRIPTION:** DISCUSS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE THEMES IN THE FILM "CHOICES," ANALYZING ITS IMPACT ON REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

GROWN AND SEXY TRACK (REDWOOD)

- **TITLE:** MENOPAUSE: LEARN HOW TO THRIVE AND BE FABULOUS THROUGH MENOPAUSE AND BEYOND.
- **TRACK CHAIR:** KIM ROBINSON
- **PANELIST:** RENEE FEATHERSTONE
- **DESCRIPTION:** THIS SESSION WILL COVER DISPARITIES IN WOMEN'S AND BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH, MENOPAUSE STIGMATIZATION, MODERN HEALTHCARE INEFFICIENCIES, HEALTHY AGING, HORMONE MANAGEMENT, DOCTOR VISIT PREPARATION, HEALTHCARE ADVOCACY, TRUMP'S ABORTION STANCE, THE MENOPAUSE RESEARCH ACT, AND THE CURRENT DOCTOR SHORTAGE.





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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Afternoon Schedule

CONTINUED

BREAST HEALTH TRACK (SOLIS)

- **TITLE:** NON-TOXIC, BETTER BLACK BEAUTY TRAINING
- **TRACK CHAIR:** ARNEDRA JORDAN
- **PANELISTS:** DEDE TETEH-BROOKS, JANET NUDELMAN, LAURA DOBBS GILLAN, NYISHA GREEN-WASHINGTON
- **DESCRIPTION:** LEARN ABOUT HARMFUL CHEMICALS IN BEAUTY PRODUCTS AND HOW TO MAKE SAFER CHOICES FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS.

INTERNATIONAL TRACK (CEL LOMBARD)

- **TITLE:** TACKLING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH FROM THE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
- **TRACK CHAIR:** IFEOMA AJUFO
- **PANELISTS:** AUTUMN BREON, FRIEDA AFARY
- **DESCRIPTION:** ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS ON GLOBAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH POLICIES AND CHALLENGES, COMPARING INTERNATIONAL APPROACHES TO REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE.

MEDICAL TRACK (CABRILLO)

- **TITLE:** HEALTH LITERACY EDUCATION AS A MODALITY TO REPRODUCTIVE AUTONOMY
- **TRACK CHAIR:** ADIA "JA'NEA" JAMES
- **DESCRIPTION:** IMPROVE HEALTH LITERACY TO NAVIGATE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE, FOCUSING ON CULTURALLY-SPECIFIC EDUCATION AND PATIENT RIGHTS.





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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Power Talks

DR. TSHEMA NASH - INTERNATIONAL MATERNAL HEALTH

- **TITLE:** SUPPORTING SIS: GLOBAL APPROACHES IN SUPPORTING WOMEN THROUGH PREGNANCY AND POSTPARTUM
- **DESCRIPTION:** THIS POWERTALK WILL HIGHLIGHT WAYS IN WHICH WOMEN ARE SUPPORTED THROUGH PREGNANCY AND POSTPARTUM AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING COMMUNITY AND COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES, TO SPARK IDEAS OF HOW THIS MIGHT BE INTEGRATED IN THE WORK WE DO.

DR. TERI DAVIS - MENTAL HEALTH

- **TITLE:** YOUR PAIN IS REAL, YOUR HEALING IS POSSIBLE.
- **DESCRIPTION:** THIS POWERTALK WILL ADDRESS THE HEALING POWER OF THERAPY, ITS BENEFITS (AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT IT) AND ITS ABILITY TO BECOME "UN-STUCK" IN LIFE. THERAPY HELPS YOU TO UNDERSTAND WHO YOU ARE, TRIGGERS THAT HOLD YOU BACK AND HOW TO RE-STRUCTURE A LIFE THAT YOU CAN BE PROUD OF. HEALING IS YOUR TRUE POWER!

KAREN BALUMBU-BENNETT - PERINATAL POPULATION

- **TITLE:** WHEN THE 'HELPER' NEEDS HELP: PROVIDING PERINATAL SUPPORT, WHILE STRUGGLING WITH YOUR OWN FERTILITY CHALLENGES AND/OR PREGNANCY LOSS.
- **DESCRIPTION:** THIS PRESENTATION WILL EXPLORE THE CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH SUPPORTING THE PERINATAL POPULATION WHEN THE PROVIDER/HELPER IS STRUGGLING WITH THEIR OWN INFERTILITY AND/OR PREGNANCY LOSS. ONE IN 6 COUPLES STRUGGLE WITH FERTILITY CHALLENGES AND PERINATAL AND MATERNAL HEALTH WORKERS ARE NOT EXEMPT. THIS PRESENTATION WILL EXPLORE THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES HELPING PROFESSIONALS FACE AND THE IMPLICATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH NOT RECEIVING ADEQUATE SUPPORT.

APRIL FOSTER - HOUSING AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

- **TITLE:** HOUSING AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
- **DESCRIPTION:** APRIL WILL TALK ABOUT HOUSING JUSTICE AND THE IMPACT IT HAS ON BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS WHO LIVE AT OR BELOW THE POVERTY LINE. SPECIFICALLY, AS IT PERTAINS TO PERIOD POVERTY AND HYGIENE POVERTY.





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Power Talks

CONTINUED

SONITA MOSS - CAREGIVING FOR DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER'S

- **TITLE:** BLACK WOMEN NEED CARE TOO: THE ESSENTIAL NEED TO EXPAND SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS
- **DESCRIPTION:** BLACK WOMEN IN THE U.S. DISPROPORTIONATELY FACE SIMULTANEOUS RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTING, WORKING, COMMUNAL LEADERSHIP AND NOW A RISING PHENOMENON: STEPPING IN AS A CAREGIVER FOR FAMILY MEMBERS FACING COGNITIVE ISSUES LIKE DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE. BLACK WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO BEAR THE CHALLENGES OF BEING A CAREGIVER. CAREGIVER STRESS IS A RISING THREAT, BUT IT CAN BE MITIGATED WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM LOCAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES. IMPORTANTLY, IT CAN BE MITIGATED THROUGH COMMUNAL SUPPORT. THIS TALK WILL DISCUSS THE RISE OF CAREGIVING AND THE SUPPORTIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT EXIST TO SUPPORT BLACK WOMEN AND FEMMES WHO ARE AMIDST THEIR CAREGIVER JOURNEY.

FRANCINE COEYTAUX - PLAN C

- **TITLE:** SISTERS HELPING SISTERS – MAILING ABORTION PILLS AND PROVIDING INFORMATION TO ALL WHO ASKS, IN ALL 50 STATES.
- **DESCRIPTION:** TALK WILL DESCRIBE THE AMAZING ABORTION ACCESS LANDSCAPE THAT LEADERS IN CA, INCLUDING BWV, HAVE MADE HAPPEN.

DIONA NICOLE MURRAY - REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND INFERTILITY

- **TITLE:** ROOTING OUT INEQUITY: REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE AND THE UNTREATED EPIDEMIC AMONG BLACK WOMEN
- **DESCRIPTION:** THIS TALK ADDRESSES REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INEQUITIES AFFECTING BLACK WOMEN, INCLUDING UNTREATED CONDITIONS LIKE ENDOMETRIOSIS, FIBROIDS, AND PCOS. DIONA NICOLE MURRAY, A WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCHER, EXAMINES HOW RACISM AND BIAS LEAD TO POOR QUALITY OF LIFE AND HIGHER INFERTILITY RATES. SHE HIGHLIGHTS THE ISSUES OF NORMALIZING EXCESSIVE MENSTRUAL BLEEDING, DISMISSING BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH CONCERNS, AND RELYING ON QUICK FIXES LIKE BIRTH CONTROL AND HYSTERECTOMIES. MURRAY ADVOCATES FOR EDUCATION, SUPPORT, AND ADVOCACY, EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF AUTHENTIC BLACK VOICES AND PRESENTING HER NON-PROFIT, BARREN FRUIT, AS A MODEL FOR EQUITABLE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE ACCESS.





**BLACK WOMEN
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MEET THE SPEAKERS

Keynote Speaker

DÁZON DIXON DIALLO

**DESIGNING OUR FUTURE:
PERSPECTIVES AND VISIONS FOR A
NEW ERA OF JUSTICE AND LIBERATION**



Dázon Dixon Diallo is a recognized visionary and advocate in the struggle for human rights through sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice, and the fight against HIV, STIs and Gender-based Violence. Dázon is Founder and President of SisterLove, Inc, established in 1989, the first Sexual and Reproductive Justice organization focused on women and HIV in the southeastern United States. She is a proud member of In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda Partnership, where she advocates for sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice in public health and prevention policies and programs. Dr. Diallo is a co-chair for the Act Now End AIDS National Coalition. She is a member of several bodies of influence including the Women-At-Risk Subcommittee of the HIV Prevention Trials Network, UNFPA Global Advisory Council, the Women's Research Initiative (WRI) and a founding member of SisterSong Reproductive Justice Collective. In 2020, Diallo was appointed to the IAPAC-Lancet HIV Commission on the Future of Urban HIV Response. She is the creator and convener of the WomenNOW! Institute for SRHRJ for Girls & Women of African Descent worldwide. She has achieved a deep reach with a diverse community of listeners for 30 years, as producer and host of a weekly radio program focused on black women, called "Sisters' Time/WomenSpeak" on WRFG 89.3FM in Atlanta and wrfg.org. Dr. Diallo holds a master's degree in public health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (C'97) and bachelor's degree from Spelman College (C'86) in Atlanta. In 2012, Dr. Diallo had the distinct honor to receive an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from her alma mater, Spelman College.

Diallo has blazed many trails with her compassionate leadership, and unique sense of humor and empathy. In the HIV/STI and sexual/reproductive justice arenas and to her credit, she has: developed and implemented "Healthy Love", a home-grown intervention that is in the CDC's National Compendium of Effective Evidence-based HIV Prevention Interventions; established the first transitional housing program in the South for Women living with HIV and their children; and engaged a long-term vision to develop the leadership of Women Living with HIV in the fight against HIV/STIs and promoting women's human rights - it's called the 2020 Leading Women's Society & Institute. In 1999, Diallo opened SisterLove International South Africa (SLISA) in Johannesburg where they currently implement national capacity building and promote community engagement for human rights and reproductive justice advocacy, and high impact combination prevention of HIV and Gender-based Violence in adolescent girls and young women. As an "Ideas Maven", Diallo is a consummate innovator, inspiring leader and visionary thinker. She has been recognized and honored, and has received numerous awards over the 40 years she has been working in health justice, women's liberation and human rights.

Dázon Dixon Diallo continues to learn and lead in the fight for sexual, reproductive, gender, racial and economic justice with authenticity, transparency and integrity.

Dázon is originally from Fort Valley (Peach County) GA.

She loves Traveling, Music and Storytelling. And Grace, Gratitude and Forgiveness are her Superpowers!





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MEET THE SPEAKERS

Moderator

LAKISHA CAMESE

**DESIGNING OUR FUTURE: PERSPECTIVES AND
VISIONS FOR A NEW ERA OF JUSTICE AND
LIBERATION**



LaKisha G. Camese is a dedicated public policy and social justice advocate with experience in medical cannabis lobbying, post-conviction exonerations, and voter protection. She holds a Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center and a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Southern University at New Orleans. LaKisha has worked as a DNA Paralegal, served in various legal and advocacy roles, and contributed to legislation and community outreach. At Ilera Holistic Healthcare, she increased diversity hiring and community outreach. She now serves as a Policy Analyst with Black Women for Wellness Action Project, focusing on reproductive rights advocacy. In her free time, LaKisha enjoys baking and caring for plants.

Keynote Speaker

DEON HAYWOOD

**DESIGNING OUR FUTURE:
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For more than 25 years, Deon has worked as a human rights defender and advocate for Black women, working class and low-income women, and LGBTQ communities in the Deep South. As the Executive Director of Women With A Vision (WWAV) in New Orleans, she led the organization after Hurricane Katrina in successfully changing the "crime against nature" statute being used to criminalize street-based sex work, thereby securing the removal of more than 800 people from the Louisiana sex offender registry. Through her relentless advocacy, she has grown WWAV into a leading voice on Black women and criminalization in the American South, advancing community-led policy solutions on the international and national stages and at home in Louisiana. For this work, she has been honored with numerous awards by groups across the United States in recognition of her leadership at the intersection of HIV/AIDS, harm reduction, LGBTQ rights, reproductive justice, anti-criminalization, and ending mass incarceration, including the Center for Constitutional Rights, SisterSong, Ms. Foundation, National Organization of Women (NOW), ACLU Louisiana, the Human Rights Campaign, the Red Door Foundation, Philadelphia FIGHT, Planned Parenthood, Forum for Equality, TheBody.com, BET.com, and Frontline Defender's Dublin Platform. In 2018, she was appointed to the New Orleans Human Relations Commission to advance this body's work on Human Rights and Equity.





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MEET THE SPEAKERS

Keynote Speaker

SANDRA O. POOLE

**HOT TOPICS IN POLICY:
OPPORTUNITIES FOR RJ AT THE
SYSTEMS LEVELION NAME**



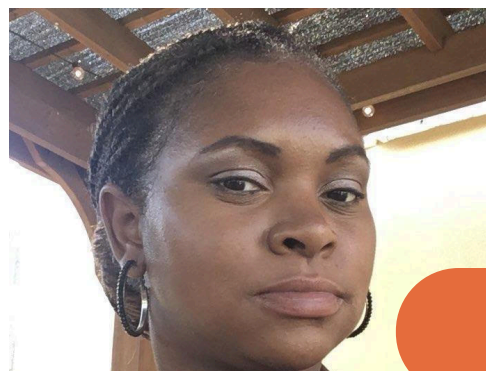
Sandra O. Poole is a Health Policy Advocate for Western Center on Law and Poverty. In this capacity she advocates with the legislature and administrative agencies to reduce health disparities and increase access to health care for low-income and marginalized communities. Prior to joining Western Center on Law and Poverty, Sandra worked as a Policy Manager at a California Health Plan and served as the Interim President/CEO of the California Black Health Network where she advocated for reducing health disparities in the African American community.

Ms. Poole has also held executive positions with non-profit mental health organizations. She was also previously employed by the State of California in Executive Management/Deputy Director positions at the Department of Social Services, Department of Child Support Services and the Employment Development Department. In addition to her employment with the State of California, Ms. Poole was employed earlier in her career by Riverside County Department of Public Social Services serving in various positions within the department.

Keynote Speaker

TIFFANY QUARRELS

**HOT TOPICS IN POLICY:
OPPORTUNITIES FOR RJ AT THE
SYSTEMS LEVEL**



Tiffany Quarles is the current Vice President of the CJEC and Co-Chair of LEAP, both grass roots lineage-based reparations organizations that seek to advance and empower Black Americans through political advocacy. She recently has been appointed as an Executive Board Member of the New Frontier Democratic Club as the chair of the Young Professionals Committee





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Keynote Speaker



JODI JACOBSON

**HOT TOPICS IN POLICY:
OPPORTUNITIES FOR RJ AT THE
SYSTEMS LEVELION NAME**

Jodi Jacobson is a career-long advocate working at the intersections of public health, human rights, and democracy globally and domestically, with a specific focus on reproductive and sexual health and rights. She is a policy analyst and advocate, lobbyist, writer, and fundraiser with an entrepreneurial mindset and a track record of building successful organizations, publications, and departments from the ground up. She is the former founder and executive director of the Center for Health and Gender Equity, the founder and editor-in-chief of Rewire.News, and the founder and executive director of Healthcare Across Borders. From 2019 to 2023, Jodi was the Senior Director of Foundation Relations at the Movement Voter Project where she raised \$40 million for grassroots organizing. Jodi has managed large coalitions (such as the 80-organization HIV and AIDS coalition that worked on PEPFAR) and works regularly in coalition with a wide range of health professionals, researchers, movement organizations, elected officials, government administrators, policymakers, international agencies and the media in the United States and many other countries.

Moderator



LAKISHA CAMESE

**HOT TOPICS IN POLICY: OPPORTUNITIES FOR RJ AT
THE SYSTEMS LEVEL**

LaKisha G. Camese is a dedicated public policy and social justice advocate with experience in medical cannabis lobbying, post-conviction exonerations, and voter protection. She holds a Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center and a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Southern University at New Orleans. LaKisha has worked as a DNA Paralegal, served in various legal and advocacy roles, and contributed to legislation and community outreach. At Ilera Holistic Healthcare, she increased diversity hiring and community outreach. She now serves as a Policy Analyst with Black Women for Wellness Action Project, focusing on reproductive rights advocacy. In her free time, LaKisha enjoys baking and caring for plants.





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MEET THE SPEAKERS



HELEN KIM

FROM EUGENICS TO EQUITY: NAVIGATING GENETICS AND MATERNAL HEALTH

Helen Kim, MS, MA, CGC, is a board-certified genetic counselor and public engagement associate at PGED, where she works with BIPOC communities in Los Angeles on genetic health issues. She holds an M.S. from Stanford and is a member of the Alliance for Genomic Justice.



AARIN ABLES WILLIAMS

FROM EUGENICS TO EQUITY: NAVIGATING GENETICS AND MATERNAL HEALTH

Aarin Ables Williams, MS LCGC, is a certified genetic counselor at Kaiser Permanente Southern California and directs the genetic counseling program at Charles Drew University. An alumna of Howard and Stanford, she has served on the National Society of Genetic Counselors' DEI Committee and will be a Director-at-Large from 2025-2027.



ADIA "JA'NEA" JAMES

HEALTH LITERACY EDUCATION AS A MODALITY TO REPRODUCTIVE AUTONOMY

Adia "Ja'Nea" James is a second-year medical student and a PRIME LEAD-ABC Scholar at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine.

Ja'Nea graduated from Pomona College with a B.A. in Gender and Women's Studies on the pre-medical track. After college, she dedicated two years to Black Women for Wellness as the lead program coordinator for the Sisters in Motion Program.

Ja'Nea also collaborates with the Voices for Choices and Rights Coalition, a reproductive and abortion rights organization based in Windhoek, Namibia. Her research interests include Black women's health, gender dynamics in the Black community, and Black healing traditions and rituals.





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NIKKI CHRISTIAN - GENIUS
**DIGNITY IN PREGNANCY AND
CHILDBIRTH ACT**

Nikki Christian-Genius has over 24 years in birth work, including a decade as a labor and delivery nurse and 11 years as a certified nurse midwife in Baltimore. She holds a doctorate in midwifery and has spent the past three years serving women in Los Angeles, where she is currently the sole midwife at USC Keck Medicine.



ELLEN BRANCH
**DIGNITY IN PREGNANCY AND
CHILDBIRTH ACT**

Ellen (she/her) is a Full-Spectrum Doula in Los Angeles, soon to be a midwife. Originally from Eastern North Carolina, she specializes in supporting underserved communities. Certified in lactation education, yoga, and peer support, Ellen enjoys outdoor activities, sunsets, roller skating, and dancing with friends.



AUTUMN BREON
**TACKLING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH FROM THE
GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**

Autumn Breon is a multidisciplinary artist using performance, sculpture, and public installation to explore liberation through a queer Black feminist lens. Her notable works include commissions for Target and Art Production Fund, performances at Hauser & Wirth and Walt Disney Concert Hall, and her recent project, The Care Machine, a vending machine dispensing free reproductive healthcare items.





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MEET THE SPEAKERS



FRIEDA AFARY

TACKLING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH FROM THE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Frieda Afary, Philosophy M.A., M.L.I.S., is an Iranian American public librarian, translator, writer, activist and author of *Socialist Feminism: A New Approach* (Pluto Press, 2022). She produces the blogs, *Iranian Progressives in Translation* and *socialistfeminism.org*. She is also co-chair of PEN America's Translation Committee, and Director-at-Large Elect of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table of the American Library Association.



VIVIAN BRECKENRIDGE

HOUSING FOR HOMIES & HUNNIES

Vivian Breckenridge is the Founder & Executive Director of Just Homes in Oakland, dedicated to building a Regenerative Economy and addressing housing insecurity, environmental justice, and gentrification. With a background in environmental and climate justice advocacy, she has worked with The Greenlining Institute and the CA Green New Deal Coalition, and serves on the boards of Indigenous Youth Voices and Reserva Murciélago.



SIM BILAL

HOUSING FOR HOMIES & HUNNIES

Sim Bilal (he/him) is a Korean, Black, and Chickasaw climate organizer from South Central LA, serving as the State Organizer for the California Green New Deal Coalition. He also works as a Los Angeles County youth climate commissioner, supports local schools through mutual aid, and volunteers as a robotics and coding instructor.





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MEET THE SPEAKERS



VICTORIOUS AKU WANJIRO
**FERTILE GROUND: EMPOWERING
BLACK WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH**

Victorious Aku Wanjiro M.Ed. is a holistic educator and trans-national movement builder who relocated from Los Angeles to Ghana in 2020. She integrates education, activism, and holistic healing to address the effects of capitalism and colonization, while finding inner peace through travel, meditation, and ceremonial dance.



DR. SHANEE PROTER
**FERTILE GROUND: EMPOWERING
BLACK WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH**

Dr. Shanee' Porter is an integrative OB/GYN who combines conventional and holistic practices to support women throughout their reproductive stages. Board-certified in OB/GYN and Integrative Medicine, she uses a patient-centered approach to address root causes and promote wellness, and is also a certified 200-hour yoga teacher.



DR. JADE SASSER
**FERTILE GROUND: EMPOWERING BLACK
WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

Dr. Jade S. Sasser is an Associate Professor at UC Riverside in Gender & Sexuality Studies and Health Equity. Her research explores the intersection of reproductive justice and environmental issues, focusing on how climate change and toxic exposures affect reproductive health and rights. Her notable works include "On Infertile Ground" and "Climate Anxiety and the Kid Question," and she consults for the Ms. Foundation on infertility as a reproductive justice issue.





**BLACK WOMEN
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MEET THE SPEAKERS



ALYSSA NEWMAN

FERTILE GROUND: EMPOWERING BLACK WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Alyssa M. Newman is a Senior Research Scholar at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics and Assistant Professor at Georgetown's Department of Sociology. Her research focuses on race, assisted reproductive technologies, and racial health disparities, with extensive publications on multiraciality, collective identity, and related topics.



SHARON MALONE

MENOPAUSE: LEARN HOW TO THRIVE AND BE FABULOUS THROUGH MENOPAUSE AND BEYOND.

Dr. Sharon Malone, a nationally recognized expert in women's health and bestselling author of *Grown Woman Talk*, serves as the Chief Medical Advisor at Alloy Women's Health, focusing on telehealth for women over 40. Previously a partner at a prominent OB/GYN practice in Washington, D.C., she is board-certified by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and a Certified National Menopause Practitioner.



RENEE FEATHERSTONE

MENOPAUSE: LEARN HOW TO THRIVE AND BE FABULOUS THROUGH MENOPAUSE AND BEYOND.

Renee Featherstone is an Empowerment Coach, Speaker, and Author who helps women over 50 and diverse groups like foster teens and prison inmates live their best lives. Known for her motivational speaking and coaching, her latest book, *Awesome Aging 101*, offers tips for thriving beyond 50.





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MEET THE SPEAKERS



NYISHA GREEN-WASHINGTON
**NON-TOXIC, BETTER BLACK BEAUTY
TRAINING**

Nyisha Green-Washington, Senior Organizing Manager at Breast Cancer Prevention Partners (BCPP), brings extensive grassroots experience in human rights, environmental justice, and reproductive justice from upstate NY and San Diego. With a background in gender equality advocacy, board service, and doula work, Nyisha holds a B.S. in Public Health from Stony Brook University and enjoys roller skating and coloring in their free time.



LAURA DOBBS GILLAN
**NON-TOXIC, BETTER BLACK BEAUTY
TRAINING**

Laura Dobbs Gillan, Program & Policy Manager at Breast Cancer Prevention Partners (BCPP), leverages her background as an environmental health scientist to manage campaigns influencing policies and laws to reduce toxic chemical exposure. She also oversees the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics' Non-Toxic Black Beauty Project and holds a Master of Public Health in Environmental Health from Boston University.



DR. DEDE K. TETEH-BROOKS
**NON-TOXIC, BETTER BLACK BEAUTY
TRAINING**

Dr. Dede K. Tete-Brooks, a public health expert with nearly two decades of experience, is an Assistant Professor at Chapman University. Her research, funded by the NIH, focuses on cancer survivorship disparities and community-based interventions, particularly for Black women, through her Bench to Community Initiative.





**BLACK WOMEN
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MEET THE SPEAKERS



JANET NUDELMAN
**NON-TOXIC, BETTER BLACK BEAUTY
TRAINING**

Janet Nudelman, MA, is the Senior Director of Program & Public Policy at Breast Cancer Prevention Partners (BCPP), where she leverages over 35 years of experience in women's health advocacy. Her leadership has driven significant policy changes, including the passage of landmark laws on chemical safety and the creation of BCPP's Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, which has significantly advanced the clean cosmetics industry.



KAMEISHIA WOOTEN
CHOICES: A FILM SCREENING

Kameishia Wooten is a visionary Writer and Director based in Los Angeles, known for her thought-provoking and inclusive storytelling in seven short films. Her latest work, "Choices," has been recognized at festivals including Hollyshorts and Cannes, and she was awarded the WIF Directing Fellowship supported by Netflix and participated in Ryan Murphy's Half Initiative program in 2022.



FRANCINE COEYTAUX
**OUR VOTE, OUR FUTURE: HOW VOTING
IMPACTS REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE**

Francine Coeytaux, MPH, Co-Founder of Plan C, advocates for at-home abortion pills and has a long history in reproductive health, including work with emergency contraception and medication abortion. Imani Wilson-Shabazz, MPH, a recent UCLA graduate and current PhD candidate, manages partnerships and engagement at Plan C to promote abortion pill access and educates on reproductive health for queer individuals of color.





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MEET THE SPEAKERS



XOCHITL LOPEZ-AYALA

OUR VOTE, OUR FUTURE: HOW VOTING IMPACTS REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE

Xochitl (she/her) is the Policy Advocacy Coordinator at ACCESS Reproductive Justice, where she focuses on advancing legislation for reproductive health services. Previously on the board of the Northwest Abortion Access Fund and Vice President at Kachemak Bay Family Planning, she also contributes to the Homer Pride Planning Committee and is a Movement Makers leadership program graduate.



NORMA RODRIGUEZ

OUR VOTE, OUR FUTURE: HOW VOTING IMPACTS REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE

Norma is the Director of Public Affairs at Planned Parenthood Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley (PPPSPGV), where she directs advocacy, political, and electoral strategies for both PPPSPGV and Planned Parenthood Advocates. With over 15 years in political outreach and grassroots organizing, she previously managed public affairs for The California Endowment's Building Healthy Communities Program and has experience with Fortune 500 companies and SEIU.





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POWER TALKS



KENDALL WARTHER
POWER TALK MODERATOR

Kendall Warther (she/her) is the Development Manager at Black Women for Wellness and a California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo graduate with a B.A. in Political Science. Recognized as one of the top 30 female leaders at her university in 2020, she has extensive experience with nonprofit organizations and international institutions.



KAREN BALUMBU-BENNETT
POWER TALKS

Karen Balumbu-Bennett is a psychotherapist with over 15 years of experience and advanced certification in Perinatal Mental Health. Specializing in supporting individuals through conception challenges and high-risk pregnancies, she integrates her personal experiences into her practice and her memoir, *My Baby Journey: A Guided Journal to Support You Through the Peaks and Valleys of Trying to Conceive*. For more information, visit Karenthetherapist.com.



SONITA MOSS
POWER TALKS

Sonita Moss (she/her) is a sociologist and author specializing in race, gender, and systems of inequality. With a B.A. from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, she currently leads a community-based research project on dementia in the Black LA community as a Project Scientist at UCLA.



APRIL FOSTER
POWER TALKS

April, a George Mason University graduate from the DMV area, has a diverse background in event management across entertainment, corporate, and nonprofit sectors. She is passionate about mission-driven work that fosters social change for the Black community.





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POWER TALKS



KERRY MITCHELL BROWN
POWER TALKS

Dr. Kerry Mitchell Brown, a scholar-practitioner, creates a multidimensional framework for racial equity and organizational transformation, moving beyond traditional diversity practices. With over 20 years of experience, she specializes in facilitating discussions on race, gender, and social justice within various organizations, aiming to drive meaningful change and address anti-Black racism.



DR. TSHEMA NASH
POWER TALKS

Dr. Tshema Nash is the Access to Care Program Officer at Cedars-Sinai, where she supports community health clinics and nonprofits to promote equitable healthcare in LA County. With experience at PCORI, The Commonwealth Fund, and the CDC, Tshema has also worked internationally in Ecuador, Bangladesh, South Africa, and Lesotho.



TERI DAVIS
POWER TALKS

Teri D. Davis, PhD, is a licensed clinical psychologist with over 20 years of experience, running practices in Los Angeles and Oklahoma City. She is the founder of The California Association for Community Engagement and Wellness, which includes The Amani Project, and is a research associate at UCLA School of Medicine.



DIONA NICOLE MURRAY
POWER TALKS

Diona Nicole Murray is the Founder of Barren Fruit®, an organization supporting women facing infertility and reproductive health challenges through faith and advocacy. With a Masters in UX and Interaction Design, she leverages her skills to advocate for women's health, develop impactful tech solutions, and improve policies, while also serving on the Maternal Wellness Village and the Change of HEART Community Advisory Board to address Black maternal mortality.





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MEET THE TRACK CHAIRS

CONFERENCE CHAIRS

HIGH SCHOOL INTERNS



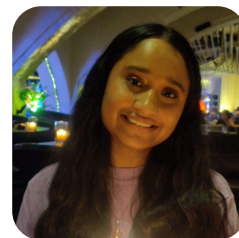
JANETTE ROBINSON-
FLINT



ARNEDRA JORDAN



ERIKA GIST



DHRITI LATHKER



LEAH NADAVALLIL

MATERNAL HEALTH TRACK

INTERNATIONAL TRACK



GABRIELLE BROWN



ADJOA JONES



IFEOMA AJUFO

IN/FERTILITY TRACK

POWER TALKS CHAIR



CHARITY WHITE



KENDALL WARTHER





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MEET THE TRACK CHAIRS

GROWN AND SEXY TRACK



KIM ROBINSON

MEDICAL TRACK



ADIA JAMES

MEN'S TRACK



NEVON WATSON

BREAST HEALTH TRACK



ARNEDRA JORDAN

YOUTH TRACK



LONNELL SCHULER

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TRACK



MERON SHITA

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TRACK



ZOE CUNLIFFE



TIANNA SHAW-
WAKEMAN





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SANCTUARY FOR ABORTIONS

PLANNED PARENTHOOD LOS ANGELES

LOCATION: 1317 N. WILTON PLACE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90029

PHONE: (323) 665-1250

WEBSITE: PLANNEDPARENTHOOD.ORG

FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATES

LOCATION: 1520 S. CENTRAL AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90021

PHONE: (213) 747-1680

WEBSITE: FPAOFCA.ORG

WOMEN'S HEALTH SPECIALISTS

LOCATION: 9900 S. LA CIENEGA BLVD, SUITE 200, LOS ANGELES, CA 90045

PHONE: (310) 649-6244

WEBSITE: WOMENSHEALTHSPECIALISTS.ORG

LA WOMEN'S CLINIC

LOCATION: 1127 WILSHIRE BLVD, LOS ANGELES, CA 90017

PHONE: (213) 380-1466

WEBSITE: LAWOMENSCLINIC.COM

THE LOS ANGELES ABORTION CLINIC

LOCATION: 2615 S. HOOVER ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90007

PHONE: (323) 731-6300

WEBSITE: LOSANGELESABORTIONCLINIC.COM

A CENTER FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

LOCATION: 5460 WHITTIER BLVD, LOS ANGELES, CA 90022

PHONE: (323) 725-0702

WEBSITE: CENTERFORWOMENSHEALTH.ORG

CARLA'S WOMEN'S CLINIC

LOCATION: 111 S. ORANGE GROVE BLVD, SUITE 204, LOS ANGELES, CA 90004

PHONE: (323) 938-7000

WEBSITE: CARLASWOMENSCLINIC.COM





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2024 LEGISLATIVE PACKAGES

ASSEMBLY BILLS

AB 1895 (WEBER) - MATERNITY WARD CLOSURES

CO-SPONSORS: BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS ACTION PROJECT (BWWAP); ACOG; CA NURSE MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION (CNMA); REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM FOR ALL
SEEKS TO ADDRESS AND MITIGATE MATERNITY WARD CLOSURES BY IMPLEMENTING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND MEASURES TO WORK TO BETTER HOLD MEDICAL FACILITIES ACCOUNTABLE AND HALT CLOSURES.

AB 2319 (WILSON, WEBER) - IMPLICIT BIAS IN PERINATAL CARE (DIGNITY IN PREGNANCY & CHILDBIRTH ACT)

CO-SPONSORS: ATTORNEY GENERAL ROB BONTA; BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS ACTION PROJECT (BWWAP); CA BLACK WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE; CA NURSE MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION (CNMA); REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM FOR ALL; WESTERN CENTER ON LAW & POVERTY (WCLP)
AIMS TO REDUCE DISPROPORTIONATE MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY RATE OF BLACK WOMEN AND BIRTHING PEOPLE BY ENSURING SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF SB 464 (MITCHELL), THE CA DIGNITY IN PREGNANCY & CHILDBIRTH ACT - BUILDS IN TANGIBLE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES AND CLARIFIES ENTITIES BOUND BY THE LAW.

AB 2490 (COTTIE PETRIE-NORRIS) - THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM (RHEPP)

CO-SPONSORS: TEACH (TRAINING IN EARLY ABORTION FOR COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE); BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS ACTION PROJECT (BWWAP); REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM FOR ALL
ESTABLISHES THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM (RHEPP) FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPANDING AND IMPROVING ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE, SEXUAL, AND MISCARRIAGE CARE IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS ACROSS CALIFORNIA.

AB 3161 (BONTA) - PATIENT SAFETY & ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

CO-SPONSORS: BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS ACTION PROJECT (BWWAP); CA PAN ETHNIC HEALTH NETWORK (CPEHN)
WORKS TO ADDRESS AND REMEDY IMPLICIT BIAS AND RACISM IN HOSPITALS AND LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES THROUGH ENHANCED DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AS WELL AS RESPONSIVE PATIENT SAFETY PLANS.

SENATE BILLS

SB 954 (MENJIVAR) - YOUTH & STI PREVENTION

CO-SPONSORS: BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS ACTION PROJECT (BWWAP); ESSENTIAL ACCESS HEALTH (EAH); CA SCHOOL BASED HEALTH ALLIANCE; URGE (UNITED FOR REPRODUCTIVE & GENDER EQUITY)
SEEKS TO ADDRESS STI EPIDEMIC AMONG YOUTH AND ADVANCE EQUITY IN SEXUAL HEALTH OUTCOMES BY EXPANDING TEEN ACCESS TO CONDOMS IN SCHOOLS AND PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON AGE AT RETAILERS WHEN YOUTH PURCHASE CONTRACEPTION.



THANK YOU



ABOUT BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS

Black Women for Wellness (BWW) began in 1994 as a grassroots initiative with six women dedicated to the health and well-being of Black babies. Partnering with the Birthing Project, they launched the Shangazi Program, which paired pregnant women with "sisterfriends" mentors who guided them through pregnancy and the first year of their child's life. This mentorship aimed to provide crucial support systems to combat infant and maternal mortality rates. In 1997, BWW transitioned into a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in California, expanding its focus to address systemic and political policies affecting Black women's health.

By 2017, BWW had become a cornerstone community institution in Los Angeles County, home to over one million Southern Californians, including the largest African American population in the region. BWW also serves Stockton and the San Joaquin Valley in Northern California. The organization addresses significant health disparities, such as obesity and lack of health insurance, particularly in SPA 6, where women of color are disproportionately affected. Through various programs, BWW supports youth, young adults, adults, and seniors, promoting a vision of empowered Black women and girls leading healthy lives and communities. Believing in the strength and wisdom of their community, BWW focuses on harnessing collective power and resources to create meaningful change and improve health outcomes.

ACTION STEPS

Get involved and stay connected!



@BW4WLA

DONATE



GET INVOLVED



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SHARE OUR MISSION





A DEEPLY FELT THANK YOU

The lead conference team would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of our committee chairs for the incredible effort, dedication, and passion you poured into making our conference a resounding success. Your hard work did not go unnoticed, and we are profoundly grateful for your contributions.

We would like to give special recognition and express our sincere appreciation to the Chow team, our talented web designer Kristina Myers, the dynamic social media team of Chelsea Carter and Namaudi Harley, our high school interns Leah Nedavalili and Dhirith Lanker, our board champion Adjoa Jones, and our logistics team leads Ms. Anthnette Drone and Stephanie Haynes.

Regina, Yolonda, Ruth, and Deiontae—thank you for your invaluable contributions. Whether in planning, coordinating, setting up, arriving before us, or ensuring that every detail was perfect, your collective energy and attention to detail made a significant difference. Ashley Yang, your presence, photography, and positive energy throughout the process were truly appreciated.

To our executive director, Janette Robinson Flint, thank you for all of your guidance, expertise, support, and leadership.

To our full BWW staff, we couldn't have managed the logistics and details of this conference without your dedication to this important work—thank you.

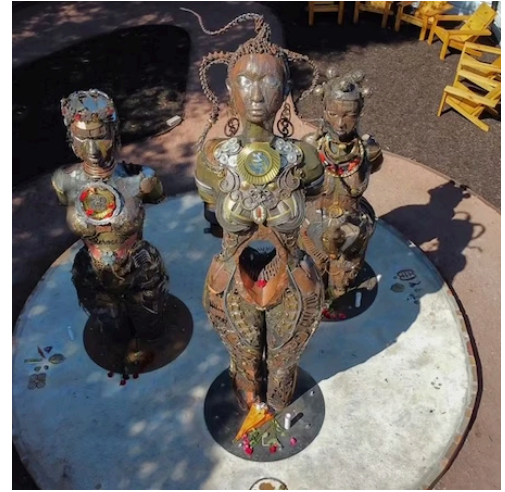
To our high school interns, Leah and Dhirith—your enthusiasm and hard work were inspiring. We couldn't have done this without you. Your futures are bright, and it was an absolute pleasure having you on our team.

Once again, thank you all for your collective efforts in making this conference a success. It was truly a team effort, and we are incredibly proud of what we accomplished together.

**With warm regards,
The Lead Conference Team: Arnedra, Erika, Adia, and Ifeoma**

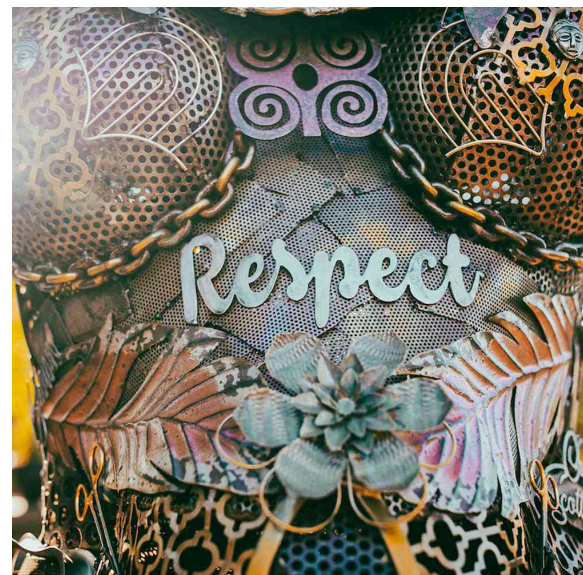


MOTHERS OF GYNECOLOGY EXHIBIT



FOUNDER OF I AM MORE THAN...

MICHELLE, ORIGINALLY FROM DENVER AND LATER MOVED TO RURAL VERBENA, ALABAMA, TRANSFORMED EARLY EXPERIENCES OF RACIAL BULLYING INTO A POWERFUL DRIVE FOR CREATIVITY. AT 13, SHE STARTED A HAND-PAINTED T-SHIRT BUSINESS AND LATER STUDIED GRAPHIC DESIGN IN ATLANTA. FOR NEARLY 35 YEARS, MICHELLE HAS MENTORED MARGINALIZED STUDENTS THROUGH ART AND SPOKEN WORD, CREATING DIVERSION PROGRAMS FOR JUVENILE DETENTION CENTERS AND EXHIBITING HER WORK NATIONALLY. SHE FOUNDED PJR'S FISH AND BBQ RESTAURANT, WHICH EMPLOYED AND EMPOWERED UNDERSERVED INDIVIDUALS. NOW, AS THE FOUNDER OF THE I AM MORE THAN... YOUTH EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE AND MORE THAN TOURS, MICHELLE IS DEDICATED TO EXPOSING UNDERSERVED YOUTH TO OPPORTUNITIES AND INSPIRING THEM TO DEFY STEREOTYPES.



Fierce Aunties

ABOUT THE FIERCE AUNTIES CAMPAIGN

The Fierce Aunties campaign aims to engage and empower Aunties within our community to further the reproductive justice movement.

BWW recognizes the crucial role Aunties play within our communities. Often serving as pillars of strength and wisdom, Aunties have historically been instrumental in nurturing and supporting their families.

However, they have not always been fully included in discussions surrounding reproductive justice. The Fierce Aunties Campaign seeks to change that narrative by inviting Aunties to join the movement to secure safe and equitable sexual health services, abortions and reproductive health care for our loved ones.

BECOME A
FIERCE
AUNTIE

JOIN OUR
MOVEMENT





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Celebrating 25 Years





BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS ANNUAL REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCE

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www.bwwla.com

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