State Perspectives on Reproductive Justice

6th annual conference :: February 26-27, 2016
Norman, Oklahoma
take-root.org

hosted by:
Women’s and Gender Studies Program,
The University of Oklahoma

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Pre-Conference Activist Trainings

8:30 - 9:00 am  Pre-Conference Registration and Check In
9:00 - 3:00 pm  Option 1: Be Present: Leading Collaboratively at the Intersection of Race, Gender, Class & Power
Facilitator: Be Present
Room: A3/5

Option 2: Decolonize the Movement
Facilitator: CoreAlign and Indigenize OU
Room: B1/3

3:00 - 5:00 pm  Conference Registration and Check In
Thurman J White Forum Building Hub

4:00 - 5:15 pm  Breakout Session One Panels

Controlling Discourses & Controlling Bodies: Environmental Justice and RJ
Panelists will discuss the intersections of environmental justice and reproductive justice by deconstructing and analyzing the role the oil and gas industry in Oklahoma plays in maintaining oppressive systems of power and controlling peoples’ bodies. Using examples of historical narratives, contemporary narratives, and media, they will demonstrate the ways in which industry impacts access to choice in red states.
Presenters: Paulette Blanchard, Rebecca Jim, Dakota Raynes, and Bailey Stephenson
Moderator: Julia Ehrhardt
Room: B2/4

A Cultural Crisis: Addressing the Suicide Epidemic Affecting Indian Country
This presentation will offer three perspectives from Native American women with careers that focus on and promote healing in Indian Country. It will discuss the crisis in Indian country as suicide reaches epidemic proportions. Stemming from a breakdown of culture during the boarding school era, ancestral values were lost. Presenters will share the attempts to repair connections by rebuilding family systems through native specific programs.
Presenters: Johnna Hurt, Miki Jackson, and Alecia Onzahwah
Moderator: Penny Pasque
Room: B5
Faith-Based Approaches to Activism
Panelists from SisterReach, Backline, and the Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Choice will discuss the ways they use faith and religion in their activism and organizing for reproductive justice issues.

Presenters: Faye London, Violet Rush, and Cecilia Wessinger
Moderator: Susan Walden
Room: B6

Intimate Partner Violence and RJ
This panel will explore intimate partner violence as a reproductive justice issue. Advocates and survivors from different backgrounds will discuss their experiences with IPV and contribute to a multifaceted dialogue.

Presenters: Lagueria Davis, Valarie Lambert, Kylie Shelley, Angela Startz, & Dawn Stover
Moderator: Roksana Alavi
Room: A6

Red State Resistance to the Punishment of Pregnant Women
Experiencing a pregnancy loss, seeking to terminate a pregnancy, and going to term should not provide the basis for discriminatory laws or policies, arrests, punitive civil child welfare interventions, or forced medical interventions. Red state and national activists will discuss these issues and their resistance to punitive and discriminatory policies that undermine human rights and reproductive justice.

Presenters: Farah Diaz-Tello, Harmony Glenn, Danielle Hurd, and Cherisse Scott
Moderator: Lynn Paltrow
Room: Conference Room B

Red State Rights before the Supreme Court: Stopping Sham Laws that Restrict Abortion
The Supreme Court needs to put an end to sham laws like Texas' HB2. Learn details on this pending Supreme Court case (the first major abortion case since 1992!) including the legal strategies, how red state activists can engage, and tips on talking about TRAP laws and the Supreme Court in your community.

Presenters: Kelly Baden, Karo Chowning, Rachel Jacobson, and Kristine Kippins
Moderator: Kirsten Edwards
Room: A2/4

Breakout Session One Workshops

Storytelling for Reproductive Stigma-Busting: How do we do it--and Why?
Reproductive stigma is a vicious cycle: silence, invisibility, and isolation are both causes and consequences of shaming and prejudice. The cycle can be broken by sharing stories and connecting across reproductive difference. This workshop will discuss thoughtful engagement in storytelling work, practice skills for creating supportive sharing/listening environments, and identify challenges and opportunities for leading story-based change in communities.

Presenters: Madeline Blodgett, Angelique Saavedra, and Karen Thurston
Room: A3/5
**2016 Conference Schedule**

**Friday, February 26, 2016**

### 4:00 - 5:15 pm

**Breakout Session One Workshops Continued**

**Strength in Numbers: Coalition & Movement Building on the Front Lines**

They say many hands make light work, but in many cases, many hands can be too many cooks in the kitchen. In Red State organizing, coalition work is an effective tool for strong movements. In this workshop, panelists will discuss how our reproductive rights and justice coalition came to fruition and the techniques we employ to make it work. Participants will learn practical applications, brainstorm obstacles, collectively develop solutions, and devise next steps for action.

Presenters: Jasmine Burnett, Kellie Copeland, and Jamie Miracle

Room: B1/3

### 5:30 - 6:30 pm

**Poster Session**

- **Hallway A**

### 6:30 - 8:00 pm

**Opening Plenary:**

**Showcase of Collaborative Efforts in the Movement**

This large session gives participants a small preview of some of the many speakers they can see at Take Root 2016.

Presenters: Loretta Ross, Karo Chowning, Diana Rhodes, Willie J Parker, Grace Franklin, and Mwende Katwiwa

Emcee: Shai Fenwick

Room: Forum Room

### 8:00 - 10:00 pm

**Entertainment:** Furlough Sextet and Networking Reception

Please join us for an opportunity to meet, greet, and get to know other activists, academics, and students doing RJ work around the country. Light appetizers will be provided and a cash bar is available.

Room: Conference Room B
# 2016 Conference Schedule

**Saturday, February 27, 2016**  
Thurman J. White Forum Building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 8:30 am</td>
<td>Registration and Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 8:45 am</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 - 9:30 am</td>
<td>Keynote Address: <strong>Miriam Yeung</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 - 9:45 am</td>
<td>Announcements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 - 11:15 am</td>
<td>Breakout Session Two Panels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Breakout Session Two Panels

**Building Youth Power in the Deep South**  
Youth organizers across the Deep South are building power in their schools and communities, advocating on issues that matter the most to them, like reproductive justice. This interactive panel will feature youth activists from the Deep South who will share lessons they learned, challenges they face while organizing in Red States, and why sexuality education justice matters to them!  
**Presenters:** Sophia Kerby, Justin Lofton, Joy Messinger, Foster Noone, and Shante Wolfe Sisson  
**Moderator:** Lindsey Churchill  
**Room:** B6

**Don't Be An Asshat: A Straight Person's Guide to Being an LGBTQ Ally**  
Have you ever felt like a complete asshat when a loved one communicated that they identify as LGBTQ, and you didn't know what to say? Join this conversation with LGBTQ panelists who will share experiences. Ask questions that you've been too embarrassed to ask anywhere else and get frank answers from our panelist so you can be better equipped to support your LGBTQ community.  
**Presenters:** Sarah Adams-Cornell, Christopher Basaldú, Scott Hamilton, Kelley Jones, and Corey Taber  
**Moderator:** Eric Bosse  
**Room:** A2/4

**Racial Justice & RJ**  
This panel will explore racial justice as a reproductive justice issue. Organizers from SisterSong, Reproaction, OKC Artists for Justice, & the University of Oklahoma will discuss efforts to combat racial discrimination and injustice in their communities.  
**Presenters:** Rodney Bates, Reia Chapman, Grace Franklin, and Pamela Merritt  
**Moderator:** Lupe Davidson  
**Room:** B2/4

**Religion, Spirituality, and Reproductive Justice Panel**  
Join panelists from diverse faith backgrounds as we connect our spiritual lives to reproductive justice, abortion rights, LGBTQ justice, & how we bring those views back to our home communities while respecting others' beliefs.  
**Presenters:** Sadiya Abjani, Willie Parker, John Selders, and Charity Woods  
**Moderator:** Jackie Farley  
**Room:** A6
Trans* Health Matters
Members from the Kentucky Health Justice Network will discuss how they used research findings to bring together trans* and gender-nonconforming Kentuckians in communities of learning, health promotion, and mutual support. They will also discuss how we shared findings through media and community meetings to increase awareness of the issue among our core constituency and the broader community.

Presenters: Jerusha Beebe, Giselle Henry, Seun McGilbra, Austin Sims, and Paula Sophia Schonauer
Moderator: Sandie Holguin
Room: B5

Breakout Session Two Workshops

RJ 101
Join Loretta Ross, one of the creators of the term "Reproductive Justice," for a discussion of the RJ framework and all that it encompasses. This session is a must-see for participants new to the Take Root Conference!

Presenters: Loretta Ross
Room: Conference Room B

Collaboration: How Practical Support Took Root in Kentucky
This interactive workshop focuses on the collaborative efforts between a national organization and local activists who have worked together to build an effective support network for abortion access in Kentucky. Activities and discussion focus on barriers to abortion, ways to overcome them, specific outcomes, and possible steps to take toward building a supportive network in other red states.

Presenters: Mariangeles Borghini, Fausta Luchini, Meg Sasse Stern, & Caitlin Willenbrink
Room: A3/5

Making Paid Family Leave a Reality
Practice your activist skills in this workshop where participants will learn how to advocate for paid parental leave policies and tailor their message according to different themes. The workshop will provide a brief history of family medical leave in the U.S and a resource packet for participants. Participants will also have the option to role play conversations with legislators based on the different themes and active state legislation.

Presenters: Ellen Bravo, Karo Chowning, Priya Desai Misty, Foley-McKenna, and Angela Steinle
Room: C2

Writing for a Change
Teaching writing for a combined 40 years, Writing for a Change facilitators are committed to working with social justice advocates who are working on the ground with challenging, intersectional issues. Participants will write and engage in learning activities focused on centering communities.

Presenters: Kami Day and Michele Eodice
Room: B1/3
11:30 - 12:45pm  Breakout Session Three Panels

From the Doorstep to the Statehouse: Engaging Young People in RJ Through Integrated Voter Engagement
This panel is dedicated to breaking down URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity’s bold integrated voter engagement work in Ohio. Learn about the benefits, challenges, and strategies to mobilizing young people through long term voter engagement in red states.

Presenters: Nadia Alzamami, Allie Lahey, and Leslie Potts
Moderator: Eleni Tolma
Room: B6

HIV/AIDS & PrEP
Advocates and practitioners from Oklahoma and beyond will discuss their work in HIV/AIDS prevention in their communities. This presentation will focus on building personal and professional capacity, disseminating resources to communities, and using PrEP as a prevention tool.

Presenters: Ricky Hill, Sabrina Rewald, and Kayla Walker-Heltzel
Moderator: Zoe Sherinian
Room: C2

My Existence Is Political: Reproductive Justice in the Incarceration Capital of the World
Women With A Vision is New Orleans’ only Queer Black woman-led organization. In this panel, they go to the intersection of gender and incarceration to reflect on the centrality of the penal state in producing and enforcing structures of reproductive injustice, as well as on the strategies formerly incarcerated cis and trans* women are using to change policy, demand RJ, and de-carcerate our communities.

Presenters: Raven Frederick, Mwende Katwiwa, Nakita Shavers, and Nia Weeks
Moderator: Allison Fields
Room: A2/4

So You Want To Talk About Abortion: Strategies for Compassionate and Truthful Messaging about Abortion and Reproductive Health Care
This workshop will teach participants messaging strategies to successfully discuss abortion without reinforcing stigma and in a way that centers and affirms people’s reproductive choices. The workshop will discuss strategies for talking to the press, lawmakers, community members, and family and friends about these topics.

Presenters: Julie Burkhart and Katie Knutter
Moderator: John Covaleskie
Room: B5

Teen Pregnancy: Prevention & Teen Empowerment
Local and national advocates will discuss their work in the fields of teenage and unplanned pregnancy prevention. The panelists will also address the need for more services for pregnant and parenting teens.

Presenters: Darius Buggs, Connor Davies, and Kathy Harms
Moderator: Lisa Funnell
Room: A6
Breakout Session Three Workshops

11:30 - 12:45pm

Appropriate Whiteness for Feminist Activists
Participants will learn how to have difficult conversations about white privilege with the people they love. The discussion will include how to be a "credit to your race" in becoming an abolitionist against racism in the reproductive rights movement and how to actively listen and respectfully ask questions of people of color while avoiding denial, racial triggers, and marginalization.
Presenter: Loretta Ross
Room: Forum

Dismantling the Gentrification of Midwifery
This workshop will engage practitioners, advocates, and allies in strategies specific to making midwifery accessible in practice and in use to women of color, particularly Black women. Participants will gain historical knowledge of midwifery and the ways it has been mainstreamed, leaving women of color out of the profession and care of midwifery in the United States.
Presenters: Terri Lee-Johnson and Rev. Faye London
Room: B2/4

Queer Survival at Red State Schools
Led by the OU student activist group, Queer Inclusion on Campus, which facilitated a queer survival workshop at OU in 2015, this workshop will demo the one facilitated last year on campus. With the goal of teaching activists how to host similar events, QuIC will show how to co-create a base of communal knowledge and resources and brainstorm strategies for self-care in hostile environments.
Presenters: Hayley Hinsberger, Sarah Otts, Alex Ruggiers, Darian Storms, and Lena Tenney
Room: B1/3

Radical Collaboration in Red States: Disrupting Business As Usual
Radical collaboration is collaborating with new, unusual, and non-traditional partners to address complex problems. Doing reproductive health, rights, and justice work in red states necessitates putting “business as usual” on the shelf and trying new ways to build collaborative relationships in our communities. We will practice ways to radically collaborate in this interactive workshop and explore how race, power, and privilege interfere with collaboration.
Presenters: Rachel Brooks, Sandra Criswell, and Jennifer Warren
Room: A 3/5

Reproductive Justice Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities
Frank conversations about sexuality, sex education and reproductive health are often limited for persons with developmental disabilities. Yet, they mature through puberty, seek romantic partnerships, enjoy sex, may want to become parents and are also sexually victimized at higher rates than the general population without a disability diagnosis. This workshop provides a general overview of sexuality, sex education and reproductive health issues as it pertains to persons with developmental disabilities and identifies numerous advocacy pathways.
Presenters: Morgan Davis, Erin Taylor, and Nancy Ward
Room: Conference Room B
2016 Conference Schedule
Saturday, February 27, 2016

12:45 - 2:15 pm  Lunch
Lunch will be available in Hallway A, Hallway B, and the Central Hub. All lunch stations will have the same food selection. You are welcome to take your food to unreserved session rooms, the Forum room, or outside.

   Room B1/3 - Birth Workers Caucus Room
   Room A3/5 - Campus Network Meeting Room

2:30 - 3:45 pm  Breakout Session Four Panels

Belonging & Removal: Fostering, Adoption, and Access to Community
This panel will help participants understand principles of adoption justice including connections made between transnational/transracial adoptions, the rights of adoptees and first families, Indigenous communities fighting state removal, and youth in state custody as different facets of an important RJ issue; gain an expanded understanding of the Indian Child Welfare Act and its place as a reproductive justice origin story; and collectively develop ideas for acting in responsible and responsive allyship.

Presenters: Katie McKay-Bryson, Yong Chan Miller, and Coya White Hat-Artichoker
Moderator: Clemencia Rodriguez
Room: B6

Building Our Movement from the Ground Up:
Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice on the Local Level
This panel will explore the power of local-level policy change and the impact cities can have on state and federal policy. Advocates from Texas and North Dakota will talk about specific initiatives they have taken on to build progressive communities, take bold stances on related issues, and change the culture of their red states. Participants will leave with a menu of options advocates can pick from to address local policy in their own community.

Presenters: Ravina Daphtary, Jenny Dodson Mistry, Nan Little Kirkpatrick, and Renne Stromme
Moderator: Karen Antell
Room: B2/4

The Childbearing Cycle: Justice, Inclusions, & Diversity
This panel is comprised of local midwives, doulas, and breastfeeding advocates who recognize that a medical system biased toward power & privilege, results in poor outcomes, unethical barriers to equal care, and violates the right to informed consent. The panel will discuss complex issues of health care disparities and brainstorm how to build more inclusive practices, services, & resources which actively promote reproductive justice through pregnancy, birth & beyond.

Presenters: Michelle (Belle) Gilley, Danielle Lugrand, and Jes La Bleu
Moderator: Megan Sibbett
Room: B5
2016 Conference Schedule
Saturday, February 27, 2016

2:30 - 3:45 pm    Breakout Session Four Panels Continued

Connecting Reproductive Justice and Economic Justice
The current focus on women’s economic agendas presents reproductive justice advocates a key opportunity to position reproductive health care as central to women’s economic security, to develop new partnerships and find new allies in the movement for reproductive justice, and to push forward proactive policies that improve women’s access to reproductive health care.

Presenters: Carol Burnett, Gretchen Borchelt, Kwajelyn Jackson, Corrine Rivera-Fowler, and Tara Sweeney
Moderator: Laurel Smith
Room: A6

For Our Youth by Our Youth: High School Organizing and Activism
Norman high school student will discuss tactics to opening up dialogues between students considering social justice issues and local activism. They will also share their experience organizing a response to Abolish Human Abortion actions at their schools. Panelists are all under the age of 18 and speak from their direct experiences in America’s most volatile space: high school.

Presenters: Isha Balouch, Martha Beliveau, Madison Lovell, Jessica Riley, Lily Thompson, and Maya Ungar
Moderator: Wayne Riggs
Room: A2/4

Immigration Policy, Reproductive Justice, and Individual Identities
Immigration policies and enforcement practices impede individuals’ abilities to access healthcare, with impacts on the health of entire communities. The panel looks at detention centers, abortion care, and impacts of homophobia and racism on immigration policy. Through an intersectional lens, panelists will discuss prejudicial policies toward immigrant women, girls, & LGBTQ members of various communities.

Presenters: Zsea Beaumonis, Nimra Chowdhry, and Madeline Gomez
Moderator: Mirelsie Velazquez
Room: Conference Room B

Breakout Session Four Workshops

Askable Adults
This interactive training teaches trusted adult partners how to respectfully interact with adolescents when talking about sexual health. Participants will learn techniques for answering questions, navigating the tricky topics of sexual health, and tips for engaging homeless and LGBTQ youth.

Presenters: Cameron Collins and Chazten Jenkins
Room: C2

Choice Your Own Adventure: An Interactive Game
This workshop contextualizes abortion funding with RJ activism while emphasizing how a single-issue org cannot work alone. Participants will create a personalized narrative zine illustrating what "choice" can really look like and a toolkit to recreate this activity for your own community.

Presenters: Safiya Bridgewater and Ha Tran
Room: B1/3
2016 Conference Schedule
Saturday, February 27, 2016

2:30 - 3:45 pm   Breakout Session Four Workshops Continued

Monument Quilt: Share Your Story, Stand with Survivors
Written, stitched, and painted onto red fabric, the Monument Quilt works to create and demand space for survivors to heal. Learn how to host a quilt making session in your community, make a square to share your story, and contribute to long-term culture change.
Presenters: Morgan Meneses-Sheets
Room: A3/5

4:00 - 5:15 pm   Breakout Session Five Panels

Drug Policy & Incarceration
This session will discuss the connections between Reproductive Justice and Criminal [In]justice and the many forms of advocacy that can be done to uncouple the two. This panel will look at cases that not only represent a gender-based expansion of the war on drugs, but also provide the legal precedent for punishing all pregnant people whether they seek to terminate a pregnancy, go to term, or experience a pregnancy loss.
Presenters: Gwen Fields, Connie Johnson, Alli Nininger-Finch, Lynn Paltrow, and Deborah Small
Moderator: Ralph Beliveau
Room: Conference Room B

Healthcare, Education, and the University
Members of UCO-Now will discuss their experiences as students who are working to combat a religiously sanctioned healthcare provider. Members of the Medical Students for Choice at the OU College of Medicine will discuss their experiences working to increase the number of new abortion providers in an unaccepting social environment.
Presenters: Heyley Bowman, Bethany Hileman, and Taylor Young
Moderator: Elyssa Faison
Room: A6

No "Kid"ding: Childcare & Student Parents
This panel will address the struggles facing young and student parents, namely access to affordable and accessible childcare. Advocates will discuss their work on behalf of student parents, and student parents will talk about their childcare experiences in the university system.
Presenters: Angela Hornsby, Ebony Pope, Diana Rhodes, and JoAnna Wall
Moderator: Martha Skeeters
Room: B6

Restoring Native Justice in the Reproductive Justice Community
This panel will present different aspects of Absentee Shawnee history, culture, justice, and identity, which will encourage participants to think more broadly and inclusively about RJ. Participants learn the importance of incorporating native justice into RJ frameworks, as well as how to begin that process in other justice settings.
Presenters: Paulette Blanchard, Edwina Butler-Wolfe, Ashley McCray, & Alecia Onzahwah
Moderator: Sherri Irvin
Room: C2
Breakout Session Five Panels Continued

**Yes All Daughters: Sustaining a Grassroots Movement**
Yes All Daughters focuses on sustaining a grassroots movement against sexual violence with a goal to create a culture in which victims' voices are heard and believed. They will also address how to influence & affect measurable change.

Presenters: Sophia Babb, Danielle Brown, Shelby Condit, Christina Owen, & Stacey Wright
Moderator: David McLeod
Room: B5

Breakout Session Five Workshops

**Embracing Uncertainty & Possibility: Support Across the Pregnancy Spectrum**
Introducing the Backline model of judgment-free support across the full spectrum of experiences with pregnancy, parenting, abortion and adoption. Participants will learn about current practices and how to make a quality referral. They will also explore our values and biases, while sharing tools for supporting people in all their reproductive decisions and experiences.

Presenters: Shelly Dodson and Rachel Ronquillo Gray
Room: B2/4

**How to Talk to Legislators and Other Impossible Tasks**
This workshop will help participants understand the political legislative process and how to effectively communicate with legislators.

Presenters: Tamya Cox and Allison Glass
Room: B1/3

**Queering Reproductive Rights: Abortion and Beyond**
This workshop will examine the importance of RJ as a lens through which and fight for red state queer and trans folks’ reproductive and sexual health. Participants will explore how to queer their reproductive rights, health, and experiences, and will leave with ideas for organizing on queer and trans RJ issues.

Presenters: Sarah Hogg and Jen Myers
Room: A3/5

**Sex Trafficking of Native American Women and Girls- Advocacy & Community Prevention**
This workshop will provide an overview of the statistics and recent research on sex trafficking of Native American women and girls. It will present the facts along with stories from the women. Participants will work on advocacy and community prevention strategies.

Presenters: Charon Asetoyer, Pam Kingfisher, and Maya Torralba
Room: A2/4

Closing: Monica Raye Simpson

Awards: Carol Mason Award
Staying Rooted Award
Spreading Your Roots Award
Room: Forum Room
Exhibit Tables

Conference sponsors and other organizations have exhibit tables in Conference Room A. Make sure to stop by in between sessions and during meals!

Hospitality Room

The Hospitality Room is a quiet place for conference participants to go if they need to take a break from the conference activities. The room will have snacks and art supplies. The Hospitality Room is in Room A1.

Bathrooms & Elevators

We recognize the need for every person to have access to facilities that are safe for personal needs. All of the bathrooms in the Thurman J. White Building are gender neutral, either with or without urinals. Additionally, there are two family restrooms available for any person to use in McCarter Hall. There are also gender neutral restrooms with and without urinals in the CCE Administrative Building. Directions to these restrooms are shown on the last page of your program, and we encourage you to ask one of the volunteers or conference organizers for any help you may need locating them.

There is one elevator on the east side of the Thurman J. White Forum Building near the main entrances and the registration desk. This elevator will take participants to the second floor of the Forum, where the opening plenary, keynote, and closing session will take place. We will maintain clear pathways for those who use wheelchairs and other access devices and, we will have designated accessible seating in conference spaces.

The Take Root Conference is organized by the Take Root Steering Committee.

Dr. Jill Irvine
Dr. Roksana Alavi
Caitlin Campbell
Dr. Lupe Davidson
Susy Jorgenson
Valarie Lambert
Emma Newberry-Davis
Dr. Megan Sibbett
JoAnna Wall
participate in art activism

Take Root 2016 invites all participants to express what Reproductive Justice means to you. Join us as we take part in

Megan Smith’s
Repeal Hyde Art Project

OU student art activists will be on hand to help you decorate one of our paper birds and answer any questions you have about the installation or larger art project.
This installation is located in the center hub by Hallway A (adjacent to registration).

take root safer spaces

What is a safer space? A safer space allows for members of the group to feel comfortable expressing themselves without fear of harassment or ridicule. A safer space is not necessarily a free-for-all. No space can be 100% safe, but we can promote an environment of accommodation, respect, and accountability.

It is important to use language that is respectful and inclusive. Please avoid using racist, sexist, cissexist, homophobic, classist, and ableist ("lame," "crazy," and "ret**ded"), and other offensive language.

Refraining from making assumptions about gender or pronouns is part of creating a safer space. **We invite everyone to list their pronouns on their nametags!**

As advocates for survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence, it is important that we not make jokes that are triggering to survivors. This includes (but is not limited to) rape jokes, using rape as a synonym for something that is not rape (I "raped" that test, that video game "raped" me), and other jokes that make light of the danger that people in IPV situations face ("I ran into a door"). To avoid triggering survivors, we should strive to steer clear of violent rhetoric whenever possible. Preparing people before discussing triggering content is an incredibly helpful way to accommodate survivors.

The conference organizers have taken several steps to ensure the security of everyone attending our conference. There is a chance that a disruptive presence might gather around the conference site. While we respect the need for folks to react to this sort of thing in their own way, we propose a collective front of refusal to engage any protestors of this conference. It can be argued that reserving our energy for the conference so that we may listen, share, and plan attentively is the most strategic plan. Please reach out to a conference organizer if you feel unsafe or want to bring up concerns at any time.

Part of a safer space is recognizing that people can and should be held accountable for their words and actions. Remaining conscious of social location and privilege is vital in spaces where many folks have been excluded or dismissed in conversation about reproductive justice. Often, that means many of us will need to prioritize listening.

Additionally, we encourage participants to welcome those who are new to RJ spaces and are trying to learn. It is important to make room for mistakes and accountability, “calling people in” is a more compassionate way of holding folks accountable. This is first and foremost a learning environment, and we want all of our participants to feel like they can contribute and be a part of that.
Miriam W. Yeung, Executive Director of the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF) guides the country’s only national, multi-issue, progressive organization dedicated to social justice and human rights for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women and girls in the US.

Prior to NAPAWF, Miriam held many positions during her 10-year career at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center (the Center) in New York City, the last of which was Director of Public Policy & Government Relations where she oversaw policy matters on the local, state and federal level and was responsible for raising over $40 million dollars in capital campaign and programming funds over three years. She started her career at the Center as a Youth Worker responsible for empowering young people to fight bullying and create safer schools.

Born in Hong Kong and raised in the projects of Brooklyn, Miriam is a proud, queer, Asian-American, immigrant, woman activist who is committed to social-justice movement building and raising her two young daughters to be fearless. Miriam holds a Master of Public Administration from Baruch College and a bachelor’s from New York University.

Monica Raye Simpson is a native of North Carolina and has organized extensively against human rights violations, reproductive oppression, the prison industrial complex, racism/white supremacy and intolerance, and the systematic physical and emotional violence inflicted upon the minds, bodies and spirits of African Americans with an emphasis on African American women and the African American LBGTQ community.

Monica is a proud graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, one of the country’s historical black universities. Because of her decision to come out as a lesbian while attending undergrad, Monica became deeply involved in LGBTQ organizing on and off campus. Upon graduation, she was hired as the first person of color at the Lesbian & Gay Community Center in Charlotte, NC as the Operations Director.

Through her activism and organizational work, Monica has become a nationally sought-after facilitator, organizer and cultural strategist. She served as a founding board member for Charlotte, NC Black Gay Pride and the African American Giving Circle of Charlotte.

Monica lives by the Paul Robeson’s quote, “If the artist does not create, the world suffers.” She has always used her talents of singing, spoken word and acting in her local community and nationally to address social justice issues. Monica is the founder and artistic director for Artists United for Reproductive Justice and released her first full album, “Revolutionary Love” (c)2015.
The Carol Mason Student Activism Award

Every year we recognize students who contribute to their community, provides leadership, and inspire others through their work in reproductive justice. The Carol Mason Student Activism Award recognizes individuals that lead by example and inspire us with their ingenuity. The Take Root Steering Committee is proud to present the 2016 Carol Mason Student Activism Award to the student organization, UCO-NOW.

UCO-NOW, UCO’s organization for gender equality, worked in the last year to fight for sexual health access on campus. After a forum about women’s issues in January 2015, UCO-NOW provided leadership that helped to remove a health provider from campus that did not support sexual health services. Currently there is a new health provider on campus that offers these services. Also, because of this activism, gender and sexuality issues moved to the forefront of the administration’s agenda. Throughout 2015, UCO-NOW, along with key faculty and staff members, worked to create the Center, which includes the Women’s Research Center and BGLTQ+ Student Center at UCO. It’s official opening will be in fall 2016.

The Spreading Roots Award

When you are an activist working for social, gender, and/or reproductive justice, you may find that some places are more hospitable than others. Many activists leave their home states for other pastures, or for opportunity—there are an endless host of reasons. Nevertheless, the struggle for causes like access to reproductive, social, and gender justice continues no matter where you are. The Spreading Roots Award recognizes a red state activist who, though residing outside of their home state, has remained rooted in the community from which they came through their continued work for social, gender, and reproductive justice. The Take Root Steering Committee is proud to present the 2016 Spreading Roots Award to Coya White Hat-Artichoker.

Coya was born and raised on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota; she is a proud enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. She is a founding member of the First Nations Two Spirit Collective; they are a Collective working to building a stronger political presence for Two Spirit people within the national dialogue of queer rights. The First Nations Two Spirit Collective is also a member of the ROOTS Coalition, a coalition of 14 queer, people of color, lead organizations throughout the country. She currently resides in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

The Staying Rooted Award

For activists working in red states, the battles can be fierce, the attacks on individual rights are constant, and at times our victories are few and far between. Yet, we push on because we love the people and we believe that our activism makes a difference. The Staying Rooted Award recognizes a red state activist who has remained in their community and continues to fight for social, gender, and reproductive justice. The Take Root Steering Committee has chosen two winners this year. We proudly present:

Sandy Ingraham has been working for reproductive justice for almost half a century. In the 1970s, as a cub social worker, she ran the Oklahoma Health Department’s teen pregnancy project, to help teenagers access contraception. In the 1990s, before law school, she outsmarted the most experienced Oklahoma lawmakers as she monitored abortion legislation for Planned Parenthood and the Campaign for Choice. As a lawyer, she is now on the cutting edge of same-sex adoptions.

OKC Artists for Justice was founded by local poets Grace Franklin and Candace Liger, along with a group of dedicated members, to work to address injustices committed against women of color through advocacy and support in the state of Oklahoma. They are known for their work organizing rallies to support the victims in the Daniel Hotlzclaw case.

meet our award winners
meet our presenters

Sadiya Abjani is the Programming Chair for the LGBTQ Muslim Retreat, a program of the Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity (MASGD). The Retreat creates safe spaces for LGBTQ+ Muslims to connect with their faith and sexuality. Sadiya holds two Bachelor’s degrees from the University of Texas—Austin, one in English and one in Islamic Studies.

Sarah Adams-Cornell is an advocate for Native American culture, education and rights. She is a member of the Choctaw Nation, was the fall Activist in Residence at OU, serves on the Board for the OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, is a core member of Idle No More Central Oklahoma, serves as Vice Chairman on the OKCPS Native American Student Services Parent Committee and co-hosts a radio program, “Womyn Warrior Talk,” which addresses topics concerning Indian Country and current news. Sarah attended Cotsey College and the University of Oklahoma. She is married and has two daughters.

Nadia Alzamami is a senior at Bowling Green State University, hoping to one day receive a law degree. Nadia identifies as a demigirl and as an Arab-American person of color. Nadia is extremely passionate about intersectionality and believes it is only through an intersectional approach that social justice and change can be truly achieved. In 2014, Nadia was the first ever Voter Engagement Intern at URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity, and believes that the internship allowed Nadia to bring “all of myself and my passions to the job.”

Charon Asetoyer is a member of the Comanche Nation and a lifelong Native American women's health advocate and activist. She is currently the Executive Director and Founder of the Native American Community Board (1985) and the Native American Women's Health Education Resource Center on the Yankton Sioux Reservation. Ms. Asetoyer was instrumental in protecting Native American women in the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010, which included specific provisions that requires the Indian Health Service to train personnel in how to respond to rape, and returning limited authority to tribal governments to prosecute crimes committed by non-Indians on reservations.

Sophia Babb is a student organizer for Yes All Daughters and is in her last year of high school while taking concurrent classes at Oklahoma City Community College for a degree in Broadcast and Journalism. She is a singer-songwriter in the band Annie Oakley with her identical twin sister. Their goal is to serve as an example for girls who want to create art and music. She is passionate about social justice issues, especially women's rights, and has served as voice for a young women in our movement.

Kelly Baden is the Director of State Advocacy for the Center for Reproductive Rights, where she oversees the Center’s state and local advocacy within the United States, which includes developing, implementing, and managing the Center’s multi-faceted reproductive rights policy initiatives and strategies aimed at moving proactive policy strategies forward and fighting against abortion restrictions in the states. Kelly serves on the board of URGE, Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity, formerly Choice USA. You can follow Kelly on Twitter @KellyBaden.

Isha Balouch is a freshman at Norman North High School in Norman, Oklahoma. She plays piano and violin in the Philharmonic Orchestra. Isha comes from an immigrant family from Pakistan and is the first to be born and raised in the United States. She loves to read and understand what is going on in the world.

Zsea Beaumonis is the LSRJ Federal Policy Fellow at National LGBTQ Task Force. He holds a law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law. Zsea has done interdisciplinary legal and advocacy work both domestically and internationally in the areas of race and ethnicity, sexuality, human rights, animal rights, and environmental justice, including most recently working at UNESCO in Cambodia where he helped prepare applications to preserve the country’s cultural heritage in the event of armed conflict. He is originally from Los Angeles and earned his B.A. in History with an emphasis on race, ethnicity, and gender from Stanford University.

Martha Beliveau currently attends Norman North High School as a junior. One of the founders of Norman North Feminism Club, she is interested in pursuing a degree in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She tries to bring an intersectional and inclusive perspective to Norman North Feminism Club. She is keen to engage with fellow high school students who don’t have an outlet to vent, learn, or build allyships having to do with social justice issues.
Paulette Blanchard is an Absentee Shawnee tribal member and Ph.D. student at Kansas University, where she is working to expand her project about indigenous perspectives on the environment and geography. Paulette has spoken at many conferences and public settings regarding climate change, indigenous perspectives on the environment, and geography. She received her M.A. in Geography and Sustainability from the University of Oklahoma in 2015.

Madeline Blodgett, MPH, is the Capacity Building Program Director at Sea Change. Madeline has researched reproductive stigma and designed cultural change interventions in domestic and international contexts. Madeline holds a Master’s of Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley, where she studied health and stigma. Madeline grew up near the Idaho-Washington border and lived in North Carolina before recently returning to the Bay Area.

Gretchen Borchelt is Vice President for Health and Reproductive Rights at the National Women's Law Center. She oversees the Center’s advocacy, policy, and education strategies to promote quality and availability of health care, including reproductive health care. Gretchen joined the Center in 2005. Prior to becoming VP, Gretchen was Senior Counsel and Director of State Reproductive Health Policy. In that role, she led state-based legal and policy efforts to protect and expand access to reproductive health care, and connected it to advancing women's economic security more broadly. Gretchen is a graduate of Columbia Law School and University of Virginia.

Mariángelés Borghini is from Argentina. She is a social worker, a full spectrum doula, theater of the oppressed facilitator, community organizer and human rights activist. As Provide’s Spanish Training Coordinator she offers the Referrals Training in 7 states, empowering and educating health and social service providers to be able to give the care and support women facing unintended pregnancy need. She has worked with immigrant women for over a decade and is part of different advocacy and education initiatives related to reproductive rights and justice. She organized and led the “Take the Flag Down SC” - an advocacy movement in South Carolina.

Heyley Bowman is a Sophomore at the University of Central Oklahoma. She is majoring in Museum Studies as well as minoring in the newly founded Gender and Sexuality Studies program. Heyley is the Secretary for UCO's National Organization for Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies minor representative, and she is also a fundraising coordinator for UCO's Women and BGLTQ+ Centers.

Ellen Bravo, a long-time economic justice leader, recently published her first novel, Again and Again. She has worked on women's economic justice issues and reproductive rights her whole life and is one of the best and loudest advocates for building power from the states up through organizing. She is one of the founders and the longtime director of 9to5 and is currently the Executive Director of Family Values @ Work, which works on economic justice issues like paid sick days, family leave, and raising wages.

Safiya Bridgewater is an americanized Caribbean Goddess. She quit grad school and her boring office day job to stay forever poor by playing with babies and kids for a living. A sort of orphan herself, she spends much of her time dreaming up ways an oppressive, individualistic, capitalist society can be nurturing for children and non-traditional family structures. The rest of her energies are divided between the following aesthetics: decadence, real talk, science, the ocean, the moon, anti-racism, art, sex, coconut oil, personal space, internet space, poetry, plants, cuteness. She has been organizing with Richmond Reproductive Freedom Project for 5 year.

Rachel Brooks (she, her, hers) was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee but has never been to Graceland. Rachel is a Regional Field Organizer for CoreAlign, where she works to ensure a future where all people have the resources, rights, and respect to make decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health. In addition to fighting for reproductive freedom, Rachel is also passionate about supporting campaigns for economic justice, democratic rights and HIV criminalization laws in the Southern United States. In her spare time she enjoys reading, traveling (particularly to where there are mountains), netflix-ing, and searching for the best burgers around.
Danielle Brown is the original student organizer for the Yes All Daughters protest and an artist currently in her junior year at Norman High School. Her compassion and willingness to be a voice for her peers is what began our movement. She has participated in a post-secondary level study on issues of sex education that is implemented in Oklahoma, and she has repeatedly challenged the victim blaming that is inherent in gender biased school dress codes.

Darius Buggs is a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Specialist for the Oklahoma City County Health Department. Darius has spent the last 20 years working with youth and adults providing teambuilding, leadership and experiential learning. Darius enjoys being the “sex talk” guy that comes into the classroom, knowing he has a big responsibility to communicate effectively with impressionable youth who may or may not have access to trusted adults. He is passionate about inspiring young people while providing a fun engaging environment to learn new techniques to reduce the risks of unintended pregnancy and STI's/HIV.

Julie Burkhart is Founder and CEO of Trust Women. She has over 20 years of experience in reproductive justice: direct services, advocacy, lobbying and managing progressive political campaigns. From 2002 to 2009, she ran ProKanDo and was spokesperson for the late Dr. George Tiller’s clinic. In 2013, she opened Wichita’s only abortion providing facility and the only facility for a 200 mile radius. A second Oklahoma clinic is slated to open in 2016. She has a degree in Political Science from Seattle Pacific University and a Masters from Wichita State University in Political Science with an emphasis on African Studies.

Jasmine Burnett is a national organizer, writer and strategist in the Reproductive Justice movement. She serves as the Field Director with New Voices for Reproductive Justice. She leads and expands their work in the "Rustbelt Region," home to the most politically volatile and racially conservative Northern states in the U.S.

Carol Burnett is founder and Executive Director of the Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative, working to strengthen Mississippi’s child care subsidy program serving low-income working families. Carol is also Executive Director of Moore Community House, a United Methodist Women-owned community center, providing affordable child care and nontraditional job training for women in the diverse, low-income east Biloxi community. Carol is United Methodist clergy, one of the first women to become ordained in the Mississippi Conference, and the first to serve in a cross-racial pastoral appointment. Carol holds a BA from USM, and M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary.

Edwina Butler-Wolfe is the Governor of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. She is currently serving her second term in this capacity and is the first woman in our tribe's history to do so. Edwina previously worked as an educator and in the Indian Education program, where she served as a mentor to native students in grades K-12.

Reia Chapman, Southern Organizer for SisterSong-The National Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, is a professional social worker, activist, organizer, trainer and consultant. She holds a BS degree in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a Master of Social Work degree from Savannah State University, a historical Black university. Reia is licensed to practice Clinical Social Work in both NC and SC and believes “social work is social justice work.” Based in Charlotte, NC, Reia works within and across movements to build southern synergy and increase collective awareness about Reproductive Justice to address intersectional oppression.

Nimra Chowdhry is the Reproductive Justice Fellow at the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF), through the Law Students for Reproductive Justice Fellowship Program. She holds a law degree and a graduate certificate in Women's Gender and Sexuality studies from the University of Houston. Before law school she worked at Whole Woman’s Health, a reproductive health clinic in Texas, where she provided direct services to socioeconomically disadvantaged patients. Nimra earned her Bachelor’s degrees in Government and Women and Gender Studies from the University of Texas at Austin.

Karo Chowning lives and works in south OKC. She volunteers as the incoming board president of the Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice, works as one of two Oklahoma State Coordinators providing training and technical assistance on Provide's Referrals for Unintended Pregnancy project, and supports pregnant people during labor as part of Birth Matters. Karo grew up in Dayton, Ohio, holds a M.S. in experimental social psychology from the University of Oklahoma, and served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 2001-2010.
**Cameron Collins** has been a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Facilitator for Variety Care for nearly two years. Having co-created the Askable Adults of Oklahoma training, Cameron has been able to present sexual education and advocate for reproductive justice on the state and national level. He currently is working on his Masters in Health & Human Services from the University of Oklahoma. As an undergraduate, Cameron presented multiple research projects on community health and HIV prevention at the annual Oklahoma Research Day.

**Shelby Condit** is a co-organizer with Yes All Daughters and assists with driving its social media presence, organizing events, and ensuring that its efforts are proactively intersectional. She spent two years as an emergency call-taker at the Norman Police Department, and has seen first hand the re-victimization sexual assault survivors face when they choose to come forward. She enjoys traveling, creating, and using her skills to further various social justice causes.

**Kellie Copeland** has served as the Executive Director of NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio for 13 years. In her fight to protect abortion access in Ohio, she has been quoted in every major Ohio media outlet and has testified at over 40 anti-abortion hearings. With a degree from the University of Akron, her career includes working for the American Heart Association, AFL-CIO, Clinton/Gore ’96 and the Michigan Democratic Party. She has held appointments at the U.S. Department of Education, Summit County Board of Elections, and the City of Tallmadge. Kellie serves as treasurer for First Grace United Church of Christ in Akron.

**Tamya Cox** graduated from Oklahoma State University with a B.A. in journalism and minor in French. In 2006, Cox graduated from Oklahoma City University School of Law. After being admitted to the bar, Cox worked for the American Civil Liberties Union of Oklahoma as the first legislative counsel. Cox is currently the staff attorney and lobbyist for Planned Parenthood of the Heartland. Committed to civil rights and civil liberties, Cox has traveled across the state speaking to communities regarding issues that directly impact their lives. She has served on numerous panels and presented on a variety of topics.

**Sandra Criswell** is high holy femme and mixed race Pinay based out of Oklahoma City. She is a Regional Organizer with CoreAlign, where she also is a Generative Fellow and Speaking Race to Power alum. Her work focused on movement-building and grassroots organizing in red states and how regional bias affects national strategy and resource allocation, as well as the interplay between race, culture, food, and healing. Sandra also serves on the board of directors for Backline. In the past, she has worked with Take Root: Red State Perspectives on Reproductive Justice, Oklahomans for Reproductive Justice, Provide, and Trust Women.

**Ravina Daphtary** is the Senior State Strategies Manager at All* Above All, a campaign that aims to lift bans on abortion coverage including the Hyde Amendment. She oversees the campaign’s State and Local Labs, working with advocates to advance innovative proactive strategies. Prior to All* Above All, Ravina advocated against threats to reproductive autonomy in Arkansas and Mississippi, organizing youth in both states. She holds a B.S. in Economics from New York University and an M.A. in Communication from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She makes her own beer and her own cheese, and yes you can come over.

**Connor Davies** attended the University of Maryland and graduated with a B.S. in Public and Community Health. She has been involved with The National Campaign and Bedsider for the past 5 years, 3 as a Bedsider U Rep, 1 as an intern, and 1 as the Coordinator for the Bedsider U college program. Her hobbies include sexually themed cross stitch, and encouraging college students to raise awareness of the contraceptive choices available to them.

**Lagueria Davis** graduated from the University of Oklahoma in December 2007 with a BFA in Media Art. Since graduating, Davis has established herself as an award winning filmmaker. Her first feature film, 1 in 3, is about domestic violence and was a 2013 Telly Bronze winner. Currently, Davis resides in LA where she's a writer, director, and producer in the entertainment industry.

**Farah Diaz-Tello**, JD, is a Senior Staff Attorney at National Advocates for Pregnant Women, where her work has focused on the rights to medical decision-making and birthing with dignity, and on using the human rights framework to protect the humanity of everyone who is pregnant or giving birth. She is a graduate of the City University of New York School of Law, where she was a Haywood Burns Fellow in Civil and Human Rights. A proud Texan, she is an alumna of the University of Texas at Austin.
Shelly Dodson is Backline’s Program Director, managing the first ever All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center in Bloomington, IN and overseeing Talkline operations and Advocate cohorts in Oregon and Indiana. Her love affair with Backline started in 2007 when she began volunteering on the Talkline, and worked as the Portland-based Program Manager from 2010-2012. She received her B.S. in Community Health Education from Portland State University and her past work includes experience as an anti-violence advocate, doula, midwife, and support to folks with disabilities. A native of Southern Indiana, Shelly is also heads up outreach and training in the Midwest.

Michele Eodice & Kami Day have been teaching and writing (and living) together for over 20 years. They are both committed to working on social justice issues with the young people they know from campus and community.

Gwendolyn Fields was Activist-in-Residence at the OU Center for Social Justice in 2013 and has been the Executive Director of The Advocacy Council since 2010. Passionate about exacting racial justice through federal intervention as a means of decarceration. Areas of interest: Ending state contracts with for-profit prison corporations; drug policy reform; and sentencing parity through regulating and limiting scope of prosecutorial discretion. Ms. Fields has been an activist in Oklahoma for over 10 years. Her knowledge of and passion for ending mass incarceration stems from her own experience with wrongful incarceration, imprisonment and subsequent marginalization.

Misty Foley-McKenna is a direct practice MSW student at The University of Oklahoma. After graduation in May 2016, she hopes to work with Indigenous and/or veteran womyn. Misty is an LGBTQ Ally for her university and is active in social justice circles. She holds bachelors degrees in Womyn’s and Gender Studies and Native American Studies. Misty is a member of the American Indian Honor Society, Phi Alpha Honor Society, and the Graduate Social Work Association. Misty is a citizen of the Lower Brule Sioux tribe of South Dakota and she served in the United States Air Force from 1994-2000.

Elizabeth Gedmark is the Director of the Southern Office/Staff Attorney at A Better Balance: The Work and Family Legal Center. ABB is a national non-profit legal organization advocating for working families. At ABB she has worked on various campaigns to empower working families, such as the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. Elizabeth also assists low-income workers through ABB’s legal hotline. The recently launched ABB Southern Office focuses on work/family policy and legal issues that are concentrated in the Southeast US. Elizabeth is a co-author of: Babygate: How to Survive Pregnancy and Parenting in the Workplace.

Michelle(Belle) Gilley (ASM, CPM) is a Certified Professional Midwife who has been working in Oklahoma for the last 3 years following an international focus on maternal & infant healthcare. Belle is dedicated to addressing discrimination and barriers to healthcare for marginalized populations. Belle believes reduction of health inequities requires evolving awareness & intentionality in every branch of the health care system. Belle is currently in the process of co-launching a midwifery practice in the greater OKC area. We are working towards a practice environment which is evidence based, client focused, collaborative, inclusive, and embracing of cultural humility.

Allison Glass first got connected to the work of reproductive freedom after the (home) birth of her son as a young, single woman 12 years ago. Allison is now the State Director of Healthy and Free Tennessee where she leads the statewide coalition in shaping policy and fighting for all people’s reproductive freedom and sexual health. She also has the honor and challenge of working with, educating and mobilizing opposition, and sometimes even support, for Tennessee’s (very, very red) legislators who far too often work against the interests and wishes of their constituents.

Harmony Glenn is a reproductive justice activist from Indiana. Most of her free time is devoted to moving the state of Indiana forward. Harmony is a member of the Board of Advisors for Indy Feminists, a group directly taking on Indiana’s backward policies and organizing Hoosiers so their voices are heard in the statehouse. She’s organized events surrounding reproductive justice, racial and social equality, and protecting Indiana’s vulnerable populations as part of Indy Feminists, but also with Planned Parenthood Young Leaders, and Indiana’s Moral Mondays chapter. During the day, she takes phone calls for a reproductive health care organization.

Madeline Gomez is the Reproductive Justice Fellow at the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health through the LSRJ Federal Policy Fellowship Program. She received her J.D. from Columbia Law School where she was awarded the Pauline Berman Heller Prize for academic achievement in the service of gender equality in law and the Mayra Bradwell Award for her student Note "Intersections at the Border." Madeline has worked with various organizations and advocates on issues related to gender, sexuality, and racial justice, reproductive freedom, and criminal law. She is originally from Texas and holds a B.A. in Sociology from New York University.
**Kathy Harms** gave birth when she was 16. As she grew older, she wondered why she was never told about sexuality before she became pregnant. She discovered that, many years later, young people were still not receiving adequate or often accurate information. She founded the Oklahoma-based Teen emPower! Inc. in 2004 and has worked to change the landscape for young people since. Each year, TEI teaches more than 800 middle school students without shame or guilt. Harms works diligently to erase the stigma associated with STIs, using correct terminology for male and female reproductive anatomy and simply ‘getting the conversation started’.

**Giselle Henry** studied Geography with an emphasis on environmental analysis at the University of Louisville. She was introduced to abortion funds and southern social justice organizations through clinic escorting in Louisville, Ky. As of April 2016, Giselle has been working as the community organizer and executive director for Kentucky Health Justice Network. During her time with KHJN, the organization has expanded its partnership with social justice organizations while simultaneously increasing their programs to encompass more of the LGBTQA community.

**Bethany Hileman** is a second year medical student at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine where she is pursuing a Masters in Public Health. In the future, she hopes to work in women’s health, both in patient care and in policy or health promotion. She is co-president of a student organization, Medical Students for Choice, a group of students who are interested in promoting education and training regarding women’s reproductive rights. She collaborated with the other members of this group to create this presentation.

**Ricky Hill** is a transmasculine, genderqueer person originally hailing from Norman, OK. They are finishing their PhD in Health Communication at the University of New Mexico, working with transgender and gender non-conforming persons on a project that deals with individual and community conceptions of wellness. They currently live and work out of Chicago, and are the Team Lead of Community Partnerships and Engagement at The Village, an LGBTQ resource center on Chicago's South Side.

**Sarah Hogg** is a queer feminist activist with a penchant for reproductive justice, healthy sexuality, and sex education. She is a 2015 graduate of James Madison University and is the Advocacy & Organizing Manager for NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina. Sarah is deeply passionate about the intersectionality of reproductive justice and queer activism and focuses her work in this movement on creating intentional, thoughtful spaces and dialogues to explore those intersections.

**Angela Hornsby** is a Parent Professional, originally from Los Angeles California, who has been living in Oklahoma City Metro for the past 13 years. A single mother to 3 children ages 24, 16 and 4, Angela is dedicated to being an advocate and mentor to families. Executive Director of Ujima Services, Angela is also the Family Advocacy Coordinator at the Oklahoma Infant Transition Program. She is also an active Board member of the Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma. Angela is also a member of the Families, Allies and Resources Task Forces and The Parent Advocacy Corp.

**Danielle Hurd** is a southern, queer Womanist and the Alabama State Organizer for URGE: Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity. Born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, Danielle attended the University of Alabama, where they participated in a number of progressive college groups, including acting as the Vice-President of the Alabama Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Justice and co-founding UA’s first group for Queer and/or Trans People of Color. They also believe that y’all is the best word in the English language. Her pronouns are she/her/hers and they/them/theirs.

**Johnna Payne Hurt** is a member of the Chickasaw Nation. She is the director of Standing Our Ground for Children, a movement she co-founded in July 2013 to advocate for the rights of native children. Johnna has participated in multiple educational panels and delivered presentations on the importance of culture and family. After losing a family member to suicide in 2013, Johnna became an advocate for suicide prevention and works to bring awareness to the current epidemic. Johnna is currently pursuing her Masters in Native American Leadership from Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

**Miki Jackson**, Suicide has affected her family many times. Native Americans are at a higher risk substance abuse, physical abuse, abandonment, and suicide. Finding the root cause and treating the history of abuse, hopelessness, and hardships is imperative.
Kwajelyn Jackson serves as Community Education & Advocacy Manager at Feminist Women’s Health Center (FWHC) in Atlanta, GA, and manages volunteer engagement, community outreach, internships, and advocacy to improve reproductive health, rights and justice in Georgia. She began with FWHC in 2013, and is committed to expanding FWHC’s statewide impact and deepening community partnerships. Prior to joining FWHC, she spent three years as Program Manager for WonderRoot Community Arts Center and eight years with Wachovia Bank’s Community Development Finance Group. She has a BA in economics from Spelman College and an MS in urban policy studies from Georgia State University.

Chazten Jenkins is a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Facilitator from Variety Care. She graduated from Oklahoma City Community College in 2012. She has been in the teen pregnancy prevention field for a little over three years and works primarily with at-risk youth ages 13-19 in both school and clinical settings. Chazten co-created the Askable Adults of Oklahoma training and has presented Askable Adults to local members of the community as well as presenting at national conferences.

Rebecca Jim is executive director for LEAD Agency, an environmental justice organization in Northeast Oklahoma. She has collaborated with Harvard School of Public Health on health impacts from mining on women and their children and mercury in Grand Lake Watershed fish. She hold a BA in Behavioral Sciences from Southern Colorado State College and a MA in Education from Northeastern State University. She retired after twenty-five years as Indian Counselor. She is a master trainer for Say It Straight. She spent 2 years on the Southern Ute Reservation in Teacher Corps. Rebecca is a member of the Cherokee Nation.

Sen. Connie Johnson retired after 33-years in the State Senate, representing Oklahoma City’s predominantly African American “Eastside,” where her focus on health/mental health/human services issues that disproportionately affect the economic and social well-being of the poor, minorities, women, children, and people with disabilities was game changing. Johnson’s women’s reproductive health rights advocacy efforts were featured on Jon Stuart’s Daily Show’s “Bro. Choice,” and helped lead to the defeat of Oklahoma’s “Personhood” Bill in 2012. Senator Johnson proposed game changing legislation for criminal justice reform, including her singular call for legalization of medical marijuana and decriminalization of marijuana.

Mwende "FreeQuency" Katwiwa is a 24 year old Black, Immigrant from Kenya, Queer, Womyn poet based in New Orleans, LA where she is the 2015 Grand Slam Champion. An award winning spoken word and slam poet, FreeQuency is also an Anti-Racist and Reproductive Justice organizer who has spent most of her life living and writing at the intersection of arts, service, education and activism. She released her first collection of poetry entitled "Becoming//Black", an exploration of Black identity from an immigrant lens in Feb. 2015. For more information visit www.FreeQuencySpeaks.com

Pam Kingfisher is a Cherokee woman born to the bird clan, who lives and works on her grandmother’s allotment land in N.E. Oklahoma, growing organic food and medicinal plants. Born and raised in the shadow and secrecy of nuclear bomb building, her anti-nuclear community organizing activities assisted in stopping 23% of the world’s uranium supply at the notoriously contaminated Kerr-McGee “Sequoyah Fuels” plant in Gore, Oklahoma. Pamela worked for the Indian Health Service for 14 years, and has been a consultant to the nonprofit field for the past 16 years, providing services in organizational capacity and program management.

Kristine Kippins is responsible for developing and implementing strategies to ensure protection for reproductive rights in the U.S. by conducting legal and policy analyses and by working with coalition partners, Congress, and the White House. Before joining the Center, Kristine was the Director of External Affairs at the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy. Prior to that, Kristine worked for Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A., the Florida Democratic Party, and a series of political candidates. Kristine graduated from the William and Mary School of Law and earned her B.S. in economics at the Wharton School of Business.

Nan Little Kirkpatrick is the executive director of Texas Equal Access Fund, the abortion fund serving North Texas. Nan was born and raised in Dallas, Texas, and she is dedicated to doing work around reproductive rights and justice in her home state. Prior to joining the TEA Fund, Nan spent many years volunteering with Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas, and she’s also organized with groups dedicated to economic and racial justice.
Katie Knutter is the Director of Grants and Communications at Trust Women. She has worked on campus and community organizing in Oklahoma. She is a founding member of Oklahomans for Reproductive Justice. She has worked both on policy and communications related to reproductive justice issues and in direct service provision as a patient advocate and counselor. She identifies as a chronically ill fem-identified queer person. She is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Women’s and Gender Studies with honors.

Jes La Bleu (BA.ed, ASM, CPM) is a Certified Professional Midwife focused on increasing access to quality care & facilitating informed choice. With a distinct value for training midwives of excellence, Jes teaches for Midwives College of Utah (MCU) and serves on MCU’s Diversity Committee. Originally from Utah, Jes has lived and worked in Indonesia, the Philippines, & most recently India, investing in grassroots maternal & infant healthcare and education. Working as a midwife in the OKC area since 2013, Jes is thrilled to be co-launching a home birth practice this year — dedicated to intentional, inclusive, client-focused, midwifery care.

Allie Lahey is an unapologetic queer, fat, feminist activist and Ohio State Organizer with URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity, where she does civic engagement, training and mobilizing young Ohioans for reproductive justice. A 2014 Bowling Green State University graduate, she organized around accessible menstrual products and sexual assault as an undergraduate. She was a 2013 fellow for Young People For in 2013, now an active alumni dedicated to training the next generation of progressive activists. She also worked previously as an advocate at a domestic violence shelter, and with the AAUW’s Tech Trek, a STEM camp for girls.

Valarie Lambert is currently working on her Master's in Human Relations at the University of Oklahoma. She's an advocate in the field of violence against women, as well as a survivor. While a student of gendered violence, and activist in the field, Lambert ended up in a domestic violent relationship herself. After escaping with her daughter, her activism, passion, and determination to understand what had happened to her, and so many others, and to help other women grew. Silence breeds violence. Lambert found the best way to help others is to use the voice that her abuser tried to silence.

Terri N. Lee-Johnson is the Sexual and Maternal Health Educator at SisterReach. Terri is a homeschool mom, wife, student midwife, and doula. She holds a BA in Sociology and is a scholarship recipient of Mercy In Action’s midwifery academic program. Terri plans to become a Certified Professional Midwife and continue serving women and babies of color in the Memphis community.

Faye London is the Inter-Faith Outreach Coordinator for SisterReach. Rev. London acknowledged a call to ministry with women in the early 2000’s to dismantle silence, shame and stigma around speaking out about sexual abuse. She enrolled in Vanderbilt Divinity School where she earned her Master of Divinity degree in 2011. Her work at SisterReach seeks to broaden the conversation around women’s bodily autonomy as participating fully in the Image of God.

Madison Lovell, As a young Kiowa youth who has discovered many disadvantages, my involvement with high school activism has been deeply rooted in starting changes early. I have encountered many peers who believe they have no voice in our system. By enriching knowledge early on, there is an opportunity for change. This knowledge is power, which is why I’ve started programs such as Young Socialists, Student-Teacher Association, and Student Mental Health Alliance. These opportunities seek to create a voice for younger people whenever they feel as though they have none.

Fausta Luchini is a licensed Psychological Practitioner, with over 15 years of experience as a therapist, mostly in community mental health. Fausta is the Training Coordinator for Provide, offering technical assistance and support to the team of trainers who teach health care providers to give accurate, caring abortion referrals. As a community volunteer, Fausta has focused on issues of poverty, racism, and social justice, especially women’s reproductive health. She has been an escort at Louisville's abortion clinic for about six years and is a frequent contributor to the escort blog www.everysaturdaymorning.net

Danielle Lugrand is the director of the Coalition of Oklahoma Breastfeeding Advocates Baby Cafés. Serving Oklahoma families since 2000, Danielle is a DONA Certified Birth Doula. In 2007, she became the first DONA Certified Postpartum Doula in the state. She became a trained breastfeeding educator through the OK State WIC Program in 2001; a Certified Breastfeeding Educator in 2014; and a Certified Lactation Counselor through the Healthy Children’s Project in 2015. Through the DACO Inc, Danielle gained experience serving the public and peer professionals as Public Relations Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, and President.
Jen Myers is a queer, genderqueer Women’s & Gender Studies major, Anthropology minor and an organizer with Students United for Reproductive Justice at UNC-CH. They work to center the experiences of queer/trans people in RJ and understand queerness as a medium for creating communities that prioritize emotionality and fluidity. They work with Girls Rock NC, Benevolence Farm, and the Orange County Rape Crisis Center, all of which value self-determination in the face of structures that limit autonomy. Jen looks forward to graduating in May, and is excited to have more down time to write, deepen relationships, and further avoid email.
Ali Nininger-Finch is a proud North Carolinian studying law in New York and counting the days until she can return to NC to fix her home state. Prior to her Yankee detour, Ali worked at Ipas, an international reproductive rights and health organization, and helped found the Carolina Abortion Fund.

Alecia Onziahwah is co-founder of Indigenize, Inc. and co-facilitator of Fatherhood is Sacred/Motherhood is Sacred. Alecia was also a founding member of the IdleNoMore Central OK branch. Indigenize, Inc. is a non-profit organization serving the central Oklahoma area that has made it their mission to work as leaders in services and solutions that inspire healing, courage, loyalty, cooperation, generosity, gratitude, restoration and reciprocity in Native families and Native communities. Initiatives include "I am a Kind Man," a program to help men stop domestic violence in native communities. Others include "Strong Heart Woman," and activism around Grandparents as Caretakers.

Sarah Otts is a queer undergraduate student at the University of Oklahoma, where she majors in Computer Science and minors in Women’s and Gender Studies. She is a founding member of Queer Inclusion on Campus, an alliance of queer OU student activists that advocates for the inclusion of LGBTQ+ students in the university’s culture and policy. She is currently the group’s social media coordinator.

Christina Owen is a co-founder of Yes All Daughters, leads fundraising, and assists with all aspects of branding, communications and event coordination. Her experience has been invaluable to Yes All Daughters, as she has been a board member of Crossroads Youth and Family and has volunteered with many non-profits in the Norman and OKC metro. She is a local businesswoman who regularly supplies donations to the community, including Planned Parenthood. In her free time she enjoys judging high school speech and debate tournaments and promoting local artists and businesses through social media marketing.

Lynn M. Paltrow, J.D., is the Founder and Executive Director of National Advocates for Pregnant Women ("NAPW") a non-profit organizations working to ensure that upon becoming pregnant, people do not lose their civil and human rights. NAPW combines legal advocacy with organizing and policy work focusing particularly on pregnant and parenting women, and those who are most vulnerable to state control and punishment - low income women, women of color, and drug-using women. She is a Gemini and mother of twins.

Willie J. Parker is a reproductive justice advocate. Having served as the Medical Director of Family Planning of Metropolitan Washington DC, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii, he now serves as Associate Medical Director of Family Planning Associates and is opening a clinic in Alabama. His more recent work has focused on violence against women, sexual assault, and women’s reproductive health rights through advocacy, provision of contraceptive and abortion services, and men’s reproductive health. He is the only provider in Mississippi.

Leslie Potts is a senior at Bowling Green State University studying Political Science and Ethnic Studies. Her passion for prioritizing the needs of marginalized people was first sparked in high school, while volunteering as a camp counselor for women and children in Detroit, MI, who recently fled situations of intimate partner violence. Previously, Leslie served as the President of her campus's National Council of Negro Women. Currently, she is the Voter Engagement Intern for URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity. She is working to promote the Sisterhood Series, a program designed to unify women’s issues based organizations.

Dakota Raynes is currently a third year Ph.D. student with a long history of activist-scholarly work. Their dissertation project is rooted in examinations of environmental inequality from an environmental justice perspective. The central focus concerns the environmental and social impacts of fracking in Oklahoma. They are particularly interested in grievance construction and mobilization processes utilized by local, grassroots anti-fracking social movements and the challenges associated with attempting to organize around "contentious" issues in hostile environments.

Sabrina Rewald is the Law Students for Reproductive Justice HIV-Law and Policy fellow at SisterLove, Inc., an organization in Atlanta that provides HIV testing and advocacy for women, predominantly of color, with or at risk for HIV/AIDS. Sabrina recently graduated from a dual Canadian - U.S. degree law program between University of Windsor and the University of Detroit Mercy. Sabrina developed her passion for reproductive rights by performing in the Vagina Monologues, co-founding a cross-border chapter of LSRJ, taking part in a research on the criminalization of sexuality with Amnesty International, and conducting research on access to abortion in Europe.
Diana Thu-Thao Rhodes is the Director of Public Policy at Advocates for Youth where she oversees international, federal and state policy strategy and advocacy efforts on a wide range of reproductive and sexual health/rights/justice issues that affect young people. Her expertise and work at Advocates is working with coalitions, advocates and youth activists on policy analysis, advocacy strategy, grassroots campaigns, and youth/adult partnerships - especially in challenging political climates. Diana has been working in social justice movements for over a decade - primarily around issues that affect women, young people, communities of color, and the LGBTQ community.

Jessica Riley is a 16 year old attempting to make a difference in a world where oppression and the denial of basic human rights is exercised on a daily basis. Growing up in a privileged but aware household she is now able to recognize and be an ally against all forms of oppression. Her desire for physical participation in creating change and awareness has allowed her to be a part of many campaigns including her involvement in the recent "Yes All Daughters" walk out of last year and the counter protest against “AHA."

Corrine Rivera-Fowler is the Deputy Director of COLOR, an organization working at the intersections of social issues to achieve reproductive justice. Corrine holds a BA in History/Public Administration and is a Master's Political Science candidate, with an emphasis on public policy priorities for the 21st century. She is a Bighorn Healthcare Policy Leadership Fellow and the Board Treasure for Colorado Jobs with Justice. Corrine is wholly committed to working within communities and alongside policy makers toward a better Colorado. Her greatest passion is organizing and advocacy, working with community members actively engaging them as change agents.

Rachel Ronquillo Gray is the Indiana Program Manager of Backline. Rachel first joined Backline in April 2014 as a volunteer Talkline Advocate. Born and raised in rural Nevada, she earned her MFA at Indiana University and strives to bring activism and art together through her work at Backline and in her own writing. She has been a teen peer sex educator, a campus activist in college, a writing instructor at IU, and a literacy program leader for girls. Rachel has a deep love for reproductive justice and building places of support for people in all of their unique and complex experiences.

Alex Ruggiers is a queer activist and student from Norman, Oklahoma. He is a founding member of the student activist collective Queer Inclusion on Campus (QuIC), is president of the student organization Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Friends (GLBTF) and served for two years as a member of the LGBTQ Program Advisory Board at the University of Oklahoma. He graduated in December with degrees in Women's and Gender Studies and Language Arts Education and is passionate about campus justice for LGBTQ+ students of all ages, especially in red states.

Violet Rush is an abortion rights activist and an abortion rights historian living in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Rush serves as the President of the Oklahoma Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and as the Strategic Planning Chairperson of the Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice. Previously, she was the singer/songwriter/bassist for Tulsa's now dissolved feminist punk band, BITCHCRAFT. In her spare time she creates zines and independently published comics and annually updates her work "How To Get An Abortion In Oklahoma" which is distributed, free of charge, by the Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice.

Meg Sasse Stern stepped into abortion access work in Louisville KY as a teenager in 1999. She has stayed engaged in activism and organizing ever since. Meg was quick to take a leadership role with Louisville Clinic Escorts, and has led outreach and training efforts, funding campaigns, and written for the LCE blog, everySaturdayMorning.net. Meg co-created KY’s practical support program, KSN, and is a case manager and intake coordinator for the fund. Driven by her own perspective on the intersections of reproductive rights/health, racial justice, and LGBTQ equality, she works hard to bring this justice framework to everything she does.

Paula Sophia Schonauer was the first openly transgender police officer with the Oklahoma City Police Department where she worked for 22 years. She retired in 2014 to run for an open seat in the Oklahoma State House of Representatives, House District 88. She came just 22 votes shy of becoming the first openly transgender person to win a seat in a state legislature. Paula is a board member with Freedom Oklahoma, a statewide LGBTQ advocacy organization, a parent of two children, and a student currently enrolled at the University of Oklahoma School of Social Work in the MSW program.
Cherisse Scott has been working in the Reproductive Justice movement for 10 years. Ms. Scott came to know the Reproductive Justice framework as a woman in need of a safe abortion. After being misguided by a crisis pregnancy center and then supported by a Reproductive Justice advocate set in motion the work she would commit to and women she would fight for. In 2011, Scott founded SisterReach, currently the only Reproductive Justice organization in Tennessee focused on empowering women and girls of color, poor women, rural women and their families through comprehensive reproductive and sexual health education, advocacy and policy.

John L. Selders, Jr is an ordained minister serving in the United Church of Christ, the Organizing Pastor of Amistad United Church of Christ, Hartford, CT, and Executive Director of Zezzo House (an 18 unit housing project). Bishop Selders has exhibited extraordinary dedication to traveling across the country speaking, lecturing and conducting workshops in the areas of race, anti-racism and internalized oppression. He is a teacher, lecturer, workshop leader, an HIV/AIDS educator and activist. He has also returned to his native Missouri recently to lend his support to the community and Black Lives Matter.

Austin Sims is the Youth Program Coordinator for youth services at Be The Change, founded and facilitated a peer support group for trans* identified youth and young adults, and is an active advocate for transgender rights in OK.

Angela Startz is an actor, production coordinator, communication professional, and, most importantly, a domestic abuse survivor. When asked to join Lagueria Davis in filming the feature "1 in 3" as an actor and wardrobe coordinator, she didn't realize how much it would change her life. It gave her a place to share her story and journey from victim to survivor. Since participating in "1 in 3," Angela has gone on to work in several national commercials and feature films. Her first love is "1 in 3" and the message it brings. It's closer than you think.

Angela Steinle is a graduate student studying Administration & Community Practice at the University of Oklahoma's School of Social Work. Angela grew up in Phoenix, Arizona where she received her B.A. in Political Science. Hoping to pursue a career as an international human rights advocate after graduating, Angela has assisted with research concerning freedom of the press violations in the Philippines as well as economic opportunity development for Burmese refugee women in Dallas.

Moriah Bailey Stephenson is an activist and organizer with Great Plains Tar Sands Resistance. Additionally, she is a graduate student in Sociocultural Anthropology. Her research focuses on environmental justice, reproductive justice, and repression.

Darian Storms is a full time queer, non-binary, polyamorous, mentally ill women's and gender studies student and activist. She is an executive member of QuIC and Vice President of GLBTF at OU. She is also one of two founding presidents of OU’s chapter of the women's and gender studies honor society, Iota Iota Iota. She has been featured in author/activist Arin Andrew’s novel, "Some Assembly Required," and she plans on attending law school after attaining her undergraduate degree in May of 2017.

Dawn Stover is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and serves as Executive Director of the Native Alliance Against Violence, a Tribal Domestic and Sexual Violence Coalition headquartered in Norman, OK. Dawn has worked towards ending violence against women professionally through her work at the NAAV and previously as Director of the Oklahoma Regional Community Policing Institute. Dawn is a 2013 graduate of the Advocacy Learning Center and a 2014 recipient of the Bonnie HeavyRunner Victim Advocacy Award. Dawn is an advocate for social change and justice, and is passionate about the work to end violence against women.

Renee Stromme is the Executive Director of North Dakota Women's Network (NDWN). Prior to founding NDWN, Renee worked in a range of settings to combat domestic violence. While doing this work, she recognized a large gap in North Dakota; no advocacy organization was addressing women’s equality in a larger context. Renee worked with other leaders in the state to form NDWN in 2006, and since then she has advanced the status of women and girls in North Dakota through communication, legislation and increased public activism, with a policy focus on education, women's economic security, reproductive health and freedom from violence.
Tara Sweeney is the Communications Director at the National Institute for Reproductive Health, where she leads the organization’s public opinion research, develops messaging tools, and implements strategies for electoral, public awareness, and advocacy campaigns. Tara also leads the organization’s capacity building efforts to develop proactive communications strategies with partner organizations in cities and states across the country. Tara has prior experience in the fields of civil liberties and early education. Tara has a BA from Colby College and a Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree from Harvard Divinity School.

Erin Taylor, PhD, is the Adult Advocacy & Training Coordinator at the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council where she oversees the disability advocacy academy, Partners in Policymaking. She facilitates the statewide Family Allies and Resources (FAR) group supporting Oklahomans with disabilities who are parents or wish to become parents. Raised in Costa Rica, Erin is the mother of five adolescents with her youngest having a life-limiting medical diagnosis and an intellectual disability. She is a Partners in Policymaking graduate as well as a Leadership in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Education (LEND) Fellow.

Lily Thompson is an active member of the Norman North Feminism Club and Young Democrats. She also volunteers at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History, where she hopes to achieve a career in museum education. Her main passion lies in social justice, and is an advocate for the spread of intersectional feminism.

Rebecca Tong has experience working for progressive causes in Chicago, California, Colorado, Wisconsin, and Boston; on issues of voter access, human rights, reproductive rights, civil liberties, environmental protections and labor unions. Her work has ranged from small-dollar individual donor fundraising all the way up to major donor fundraising. She has been working for Trust Women for almost 3 years. She has a degree in Political Science and International Studies from Illinois Wesleyan University.

Maya Torralba is a Kiowa tribal member and resident of Anadarko, Torralba, who founded and secured grant funding for the Anadarko Community Esteem Project to empower teenage girls and increase youth involvement with both Native culture and community awareness. She is a member of the Protecting Native Youth Coalition for all youth in the Caddo County area and the Native Youth Leadership Alliance, a national program that provides support to tribal college students. Maya is also a member of the Caddo County Suicide Prevention Task force.

Ha Tran dreams, lives and works in Richmond, VA with the hope of a future where all families are safe. Currently, Ha channels feelings and energy as a collective member of the Richmond Reproductive Freedom Project, budding community organizer, enthusiastically amateur dancer, and instigator of artful experiences. Virginian-born by way of Vietnam, Ha is grounded and growing in love with an artistic and politically-minded QPOC southern community, looking forward heart first!

Maya Ungar is a senior at Fayetteville High School in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Maya is chair of the communications committee in the second Girls Up established in Arkansas, and Maya has a distinct interest in women’s rights. Education in particular has always held importance to Maya, especially diversity education. Maya's interests have influenced me founding a diversity club to help fight ignorance in Maya's community, among other things. Maya hopes to get a degree in international studies and plan to pursue international human rights law. One day, Maya will hopefully defend the rights to education for women all over the world.

Kayla Walker-Heltzel is the Founder and Executive Director of MAMAKnows, Inc., a nonprofit organization located in the heart of rural southern Oklahoma. The need to establish an organization that promotes and focuses on health, wellness, and disease prevention for women and girls in her community is the driving force behind her ambitious and entrepreneurial spirit. Utilizing the teachings and traditions of her great grandmother, a Native American woman from the hills of Mississippi, Kayla has travelled teaching and educating women and children the necessity of HIV/AIDS, STI, and pregnancy prevention and awareness.
Jennifer Warren has over 20 years of experience working with adolescents, and more than 15 years of experience working in the field of HIV/AIDS, STI and pregnancy prevention. She has a passion for reproductive justice and for providing correct information to young people about reproductive health. Jennifer is a board member for the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, an elected member of the Tennessee Community Planning Group, a member of the Ryan White Planning Council, and Freedom’s Chapel Christian Church. Currently living in Bartlett, TN, she is from Fulton, Mississippi and a proud graduate of the Mississippi University for Women.

Cecilia Wessinger was born in Japan, her family is Taiwanese, and she grew up in New York City. She moved to Tulsa almost 20 years ago after traveling and living in Southeast Asia as well as Dallas. Growing up in NYC and Asia, she was not religious and rarely attended church. Soon after moving to Broken Arrow, OK, Cecilia was proselytized on her driveway and decided she needed to find a religious community that aligned with her values. She joined All Souls Unitarian Church and started volunteering with OKRCRC. For many years she helped organize Peaceful Presence and became a board member 2 years ago.

Coya White Hat-Artichoker was raised on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, a proud enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, and has been doing activist work since the age of 15. She serves on the boards of SisterSong, and PFund Foundation, the only midwest LGBTQ community foundation. She does public speaking & presentations regarding Two Spirit identity & native issues. She or her writing has appeared in: After Stonewall (film); The Advocate, “40 under 40” LGBT Leaders in the United States for 2010; “Sharing Our Stories of Survival” (2007), the blogs the Bilerico Project & The Huffington Post. She tweets @coyahope

Caitlin Willenbrink is a proud native of Louisville, Kentucky. Outside of her work in intimate partner violence prevention, she serves on the board of the Kentucky Health Justice Network and volunteers as a hotline advocate on KHJN’s practical support abortion fund program.

Charity Woods is the Southern Organizing Manager for the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. She is a native of Georgia and South Carolina and has extensive experience organizing around social justice issues as well as political campaign management in the south. Charity has worked across movements around reproductive justice, economic justice, health care reform and other issues.

Stacey Wright, Lead Organizer for Yes All Daughters and a survivor of sexual assault, has been the face of our movement. Her public speaking abilities have been vital in driving our movement to success and fundamental in our efforts to be a voice for victims/survivors of rape. In March 2015, she was selected as a UNA Delegate to the United Nations 59th Commission on the Status of Women. She is a writer and enjoys long walks in the Alaskan wilderness.

Taylor Young is a senior studying history at the University of Central Oklahoma. She has used her time in college to pursue reproductive justice issues, particularly through the feminist organization on her campus, for which she serves as Vice President.
The Women’s and Gender Studies Program at OU is an interdisciplinary program that seeks to enhance students’ knowledge of gender roles and gender relations across cultures and history. Women’s and Genders Studies courses investigate the intersection of gender and such diverse phenomena as politics, religion, society, economics, war, communication, music, art, family life, and popular culture. Our 68 faculty members come from numerous departments across the university.

Women’s and Gender Studies students learn a variety of marketable skills including critical thinking, writing, public speaking, organization, conflict resolution, diversity training and project design. The interdisciplinary and global perspective students gain in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program will enable them to achieve their highest potential in their chosen field of study and as a citizens of the global community. Women’s and Gender studies majors will be well-prepared and sought after for work in for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, social help agencies, human rights advocacy, victim’s advocacy as well as graduate study in law, medicine, human relations, education, business, information science, communication, fine arts, public health or academic research.

The Center for Social Justice is an initiative of the Women’s Studies Program to promote gender justice, equality, tolerance, and human rights through local and global engagement. As a discipline, Women and Gender Studies critically examines how institutions and social organizations seem natural are often structured to hide and perpetuate gender, class, and racial inequality. The Center adopts a feminist perspective, recognizing that while questions of social justice concern all human beings, women and children are harmed disproportionately when it comes to the allocation of political power and economic resources.

Our programs include the Social Justice Minor, Activist-in-Residence Program, Engaged Research, Internships, Service Learning, Social Justice Awards, Social Justice Events, and Activism.
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