

With Love and Justice For All - Ep.101 Transcript
“Barely Awake Education & Other Headlines”

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Speaker 2: Exploring the healing and culture-building practices of Embodied Anti-racism, this is With Love and Justice for All, with Rev Ogun Holder and Rev Kelly Isola.

Ogun: Hello and welcome to episode 101 of With Love and Justice for All, the official podcast of Project Sanctus, where we have conversations around embodied anti-racism, dismantling oppression, fostering liberation, with its special emphasis on the challenges that might arise as spiritual seekers. I am Rev. Ogun Holder sitting here on the land previously occupied by the Piscataway and the Anacostan Indigenous Peoples, now pretty much known as Washington, D.C. and I'm here with my partner in crime, consciousness, and co-creation, Rev. Kelly. How are you today? Kelly, T.G.I.F.!

Kelly: I know, but every day could be like Friday, just depends what you do with your day.

Ogun: You know, as entrepreneurs and self-employed people, it's kind of, no day feels like Friday.

Kelly: Yeah, right. Or you could make any day be Friday.

Ogun: Or you could make any day be Friday, right? It's hard to lose track of things. Yeah, yesterday was like, wait, it's Thursday already?

Kelly: I said yesterday about wait, it's July 20th? Like, I just thought it was still June, you know?

Ogun: Exactly, exactly.

Kelly: I'm doing good. I'm good, yep, getting ready to go, to visit my mother for a few days, help her move into a new place. And it'll be a quick trip, but I am sitting on the Kaskaskia land, which is the home of the Osage and Missouri and Choctaw nations, formally and currently, and now known as Kansas City, Missouri area. So that's where I'm calling from.

Ogun: And we know we've got listeners who are all over the world. We are in about 24 countries we have listeners from, and almost all these states in the U.S. of A, we've got listeners there too. So wherever you are listening from, we thank you, and we welcome you to another episode. As always, you can weigh in on the stuff that we share. You can follow and hit us up on the socials, Facebook and Instagram, or handle is @getourholyon You can call leave a message on our voicemail 413-438-4649. That's 413-GET-HOLY. And those are all the ways you can reach us. I think we got emails too. Yeah, we got ogun and kelly@projectsanctus. And, yeah, so...

Kelly: dot com

Ogun: Exactly. People get that I think. But it's important

Kelly: As opposed to dot org

Ogun: As opposed to that, you are right. You are absolutely right. Today's our news, our headlines episode we're calling barely awake education. But before we jump into it, what are some invitations we have for the folk?

Kelly: Well, as always, our affinity groups we meet twice a month. The first Wednesday of every month is our communal group. So all.. everyone is welcome to come together. White, people of color, BIPOC, Bodies of Culture, there's a lot of different... African-Americans, Black, there's always different synonyms to use. I want to mention as many as possible because I never know how someone would like to be referred. So that's the first Wednesday of every month where we're all, we all come together at 7:30pm Eastern. You can go to the website, projectsanctus.com to register so you can get the Zoom link to join us. And again, everyone is, anyone and everyone is welcome. On the third Wednesday is where we meet separately. So there's, for the folks identify as white bodies and then meeting together in a separate group or those not, don't identify as a white body.

So the first and third Wednesday is 7: 30pm Eastern. We do have things that will be coming up into the fall. It's a summertime and lots of people out and about and around and kind of taking a break from some things in the world. But we're in the background creating some new experiences for people. And finally, if you want to help us keep the train running and support us in those creation processes of new offerings for everyone around embodied anti-racism, you can go to projectsanctus.com and click donate. Ogun and I do this work fully supported by our listeners to the podcast, to those that come to any of our classes or gatherings. So we are supported through donations. And we gladly and lovingly accept them.

Ogun: Awesome. Let us jump into the headlines and it's been, we're going to start saying, talking about education. Education had an interesting week this week. If you've been paying attention, you saw the... once again Florida being Florida. A new curriculum being approved in the Florida schools, which had perhaps one of the most, I don't know what word to use, flabbergastingly curious statements that, again, Florida... to recap Florida has what they call the Individual Freedom Act, which bans workplaces and schools from promoting ideas that can make anyone feel and I quote, "guilt anguish or other psychological distress" related to race, color, national origin or sex because of actions "committed in the past" for example slavery. So now there's a new curriculum that requires teachers to instruct their students around, and again I quote, "How slaves developed skills which in some instances could be applied for their personal benefit." Again, "How slaves developed skills which in some instances could applied for their personal benefit." So things like...

Kelly: Just, well, just when I think people can't sink any lower or debase humanity, or revisionist history any more fucked up, just when I think you can't get any lower, it does.

Ogun: Well, you know, I love what Vice President Kamala Harris said, "They insult us in an attempt to gaslight us, and we will not stand for it." So basically, because the enslaved people were forced to do things like agricultural work, paint and carpentry, tailoring, domestic service, blacksmithing, it helped them out in the long run because, you know, they could use those skills. I don't know for themselves. I don't know when they would do this because they were always working. Oh, perhaps it was after slavery was abolished, and then now they got skills, those enslaved people who were alive when managed to survive and not be killed or lynched or any of the things. Now that slavery was abolished, they had a whole set of skills that they could go out and build that successful American Dream life that we talked about. It's exactly how history happened.

Kelly: Yeah, in my sharecropper environment, I'll use these new skills.

Ogun: It is just an incredible bold-faced, insulting rewriting of history that... words fail me in so many ways. But this is what happens when the whitewashing of history occurs. I think I read somewhere that there's a move in some states to write some legislation or it may not be legislation, but to say to school boards, you have to stop admitting people from the Moms for Liberty movement. Because the moms for liberty movement are the ones that are getting all these very offended white folk on school boards that are pushing for the banning of books that are looking to rewrite history like this. Recently, there was a school system somewhere that wanted to ban Ta-Nehisi Coates "Between The World And Me." They had a meeting about it, and he was there. He didn't speak, but he was there in support of the teacher who was teaching from that book and using that book. So, yeah, it's a mess.

Kelly: I mean, I'm... I don't know if you're sure what to say anymore.

Ogun: Well, what I'll say is this. It's becoming a dangerous mess because if we keep erasing what has happened historically, then we're doing to start repeating these mistakes again. Yeah. And it's not hyperbole to say that. So here's an example of something. The Texas A&M University's president recently resigned because of the pushback that the university got around hiring a black journalist who was supposed to head up their journalism department. So basically, Professor Kathleen McElroy, she was going to head up there and revive their school's journalism department. The school was excited about it. Students were excited about it. They even had an early celebration around this. But then what happened is over time, her contract moves from, we will put you on a tenure track to, we're going to hire you for five years, to we're just going to hire you for one year and we can release you at any time. And she's like, yeah, I'm not signing up for that. And the reason it kept going that route was because of pushback from alumni, from other folks, even folks in, my understanding, the government, because of her past work to improve diversity and inclusion in newsrooms. She was an editor for the New York Times.

Kelly: For 20 years.

Ogun: And she was really pushing diversity and inclusion, not just in the New York Times newsroom, but newsrooms all over the place, right? Because we know that the news is written differently when it is written by different people. Especially people for whom that story is affecting. And Texas is, you know, sister wife to Florida, and they are very clear about, targeting DEI programs and things like that. Yeah, so just amid all of that backlash, all the attention that it's been getting the president, and the president, by the way, is a white woman, she has decided to resign. Because apparently people can't handle in their journalism department, an accomplished and acclaimed Black former New York Times editor, because she's, I guess, quote unquote, too woke for them.

Kelly: Yeah, and yeah, yeah. And it just further damages media, frankly, and further just keeps that gap between, you know, sort of reality and I don't know, conspiracy or that far right, you know, Christian nationalism, you know, I don't even know what to call it anymore, but that far right anti-woke for a better word, you know, when we called our episode today is Oh, God, it's lost my head, you know, "Barely Awake Education" Thank you. And so it's, you know, it, there's all this, you know, we can't have, you know, and you've got to be anti-woke, right? And so this woman who spent 20 years at the New York Times and a longer career just apparently she's too woke, which I don't even think people know what that means anymore.

Ogun: No, no, it does, it does, it's a term that again has been co-opted, co-opted and rebranded from its original meaning. The original meaning, just a brief recap, the word was created by the Black community to signal a waking up to all the systemic atrocities in the country. So the idea was, you know, to wake up to the realities of what it means to be Black in this country and how things are simply written into the laws that harm Black folk. And now it's been co-opted. When folks on the right and the far right use woke, what they're basically saying is, we don't want you to have equity. We don't want you to have all the same rights that we have, whether it be along racial lines or along identity lines or sexuality lines, whatever lines, you know, again, we talk a lot about the social location piece. So if you're on the margins, you don't get to have the equity. if you say anything about it, then you are currently too woke now.

Kelly: Well, and to, you know, to be dismantling wokeness with, you know... we have 180 years of public education, and then to try to dismantle, you know... the education system is one of the worst in terms of racial segregation and just sort of educating more and more white folks and how the system works and what's being taught. And so to begin dismantling that and making sure our educational system is really telling the entire story of the United States is... and to try to block that, is a political thing. And so, and it's at the expense of justice, know, it, at the expense of justice for, not just children, but for all because we're raising children that are very ill educate it that are going to be running the country in not too long time.

Ogun: Last week we talked about, I think that was just last week I've lost track of all meaning of time... Our last headline show we talked about the Supreme Court basically undoing affirmative action in terms of college admissions. We also talked about how legacy admissions for predominantly white students still exist in terms of, like, you know, if you come from a very rich family and they make a big donation, you know, you get an easier admission path or if your parents and their parents were alumni, you get an easier path. So in lines of this conversation, education we have to give a shout out to Wesleyan University, a small college in Connecticut, that announced in the wake of that decision, they are going to ditch legacy admissions. Legacy admissions, when you think about it, is really affirmative action for people of privilege. They are leading the way in this, I guess. They are a very small college. It is about 85 grand a year. Don't think they are a public university. Not at 85 grand, although, I mean college costs so much this year.

Ogun: But yeah, so I would like to hope that Ivy League schools will follow this lead and do it before or they're accused of being too woke now because of doing that. But if you're gonna say that the affirmative action... if gonna use that in an aberration of the 14th Amendment and say that it's not equality if you have affirmative action to give minority students a leg up, then you have to say that yes, you have to get rid of legacy admissions because that gave predominantly white students a leg up as well. So if you're gonna go with equality, let's go all the way. Yeah, so good for you, Wesleyan. Go Wesleyan!

Kelly: Yeah, I kind of had thought or hoped that Harvard might, you know, some of the larger ones, larger Ivy League colleges just need to just do it, you know, like just need to step up and do it. Because I don't think it's not gonna come from our political leaders.

Ogun: So... Yeah, it's not. So one of things that we also mentioned before in previous headlines episode, when we talked about, again, Supreme Court and that horrendous ruling, anti-LGBTQ ruling that said that woman who was thinking about creating a website, a wedding website, just thinking about it..

Kelly: I gotta pause for a moment here. So we have the US Supreme Court that I assume, I may not agree with their ideology or pushing their religion into not practicing separation of church and state, but did it not occur to anybody to just simply Google the woman? Because her whole story was fake

Ogun: So, I think by the time it gets to the Supreme Court, they're assuming that all the other courts and lawyers before then did their homework. But clearly that didn't happen.

Kelly: So not the sharpest tools in the shed.

Ogun: You know, here we go. Now, I did hear, I did do a little research on that and apparently it is actually legal to bring cases based on things that may, that have not actually happened yet. I forget there's a term for this, but may bring bearing on future cases. There is a pathway to do it that way. But this was kind off the charts. You'd mentioned that this might be a precursor to undoing same-sex marriage, and sure enough, there was a Texas judge who decided that because of that ruling that some businesses can discriminate against LGBTQ+ people on First Amendment grounds, she is once again arguing for her right to refuse to marry same-gender couples. So shout out to Judge Diane Hensley, the justice of the peace in Waco for clearly not trying to create peace. She has been refusing to sign marriage licenses for same-gender applicants for years. And she unsuccessfully sued this panel of judges that sanctioned her, and she keeps arguing that she should not be compelled to violate her religious beliefs. I think she forgets the word judge in her title means that it is her duty to uphold the law.

Kelly: Yeah, I think she forgets what her job is or who she's working for.

Ogun: The law says same gender weddings are legal in the entire nation. You can't discriminate against it anymore. But I think you are right. I think this is going to be the beginning of overturning that so that we get back to quote unquote let the states decide.

Kelly: Well, yeah, because in this case you're talking about in Texas, the court actually agreed to bring.. allow her suit to come back to life. So, I mean, it may be struck down again, but the fact that the court allows it to even come back up for discussion and to even take note of it and have conversation. It's one thing if it's your private business, but she's a government person. As you said, her job is upholding the law. It's the law of the land. Why are we having this conversation? But the fact that her case is being allowed to be revived against the commission is, I think..

Ogun: Well what I want to say is if you can't uphold laws, you need to step down. Just resign. And, you know, be done with it. I feel like you shouldn't be in that position if you can't do that. Anyways, speaking of TGIF, this weekend is a big weekend for the movies. It is the weekend of Barbenheimer. If you have not been keeping up with this, it is so very ridiculous. But also, actually, kind of poignant. Two movies are being released this weekend that could not be more opposite from each other, but because I think in this world on fire, despair, people are just looking for anything that will bring some joy into their lives. These movies have been sort of combined and there are many people doing like a double feature. They've got to go see them both. So the two movies are Barbie. Yes, Barbie, the toy, that Mattel toy that came out however many decades ago. There's a live action movie starring Margot Robbie and I forget the dude's name who's playing Ken. But anyways, that's not the point. Then there's also a movie called Oppenheimer around the scientist behind the creation of the atomic bomb. So we got two very, very disparate. Is it disparate? How do you say that word? Disparate. Different. Two very different movies. But, you know, I've been reading more and more articles of people who are like, you know, it's interesting. They actually kind of tell a similar story in terms of our human evolution because they marking the period...

So we're in this period, it's called the Anthropocene. When you look at different.. you know, we had the Jurassic period and we had all these different periods. And the Anthropocene is this

period that is really, really marked by a shift in human technology and expansion. And people are linking one, the atomic age, right? Because of the bomb and basically how much between the test and not just the dropping of the bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but the amount of nuclear bomb testing that happened afterwards. It's just filling in the air with radiation. That's not going anywhere. And two, when Mattel created the Barbie dolls, it's now we're now going into the era of plastics. And we're in the era where microplastics are just gonna be around forever and they are in everything. When I say they're in everything, I'm not exaggerating. They're finding microplastics in like breast milk now. This is how bad it's getting with microplastics. In everything, right? Like, you can't avoid ingesting microplastics this point in your life

Kelly: Well, I just want to be really clear when we talk about the Anthropocene, it's not actually an official unit of geologic time. However, it's the geologic time we're in, and it's about when, you know, human activity started having this, you know, huge, um, degrading impact on the planet, the climate, its ecosystems, like when it really, you know, destruction really started. Yes. So the Anthropocene is, you know, while we've heard of the Pleiocene and the Mesozoic, know, Mesozoic, the Pleiocene and different geologic time periods, there's always this massive change, you know, and evolution, but this is, so we're in another one now. And it's because, you know, in part, we've created it.

Ogun: So part of why I bring this up is that, you know, we often have this idealized image of, you know, they are building and testing the atomic bomb so they go out into the desert somewhere, right? So they find this big stretch of desert lands and it's uninhabited so they can set off this bomb. And, you know, not do any harm. The part of the story we don't often hear, and I'll be honest with you, I didn't hear till this week, was that that land was not initially uninhabited. It was the home to a lot of homesteading families thanks to the Homestead Act of 1862, where 160 acres was given to US citizens. And they were 36 homesteads in that area that the people were forced out. Six were owned by white families and 30 by Hispanic families. We have the government deciding we want to use this land, so we are going to forcibly remove you. Or, I wouldn't say forcibly, they weren't at gunpoint, but they were ordered to, in some cases, close. Yes, they were forced to move out and like, just leave their entire homes and livelihoods behind so that the government can test this atomic bomb.

The other horrible piece of this story is that during a lot of testing in the lab work, we had Hispanic folks. Hispanic is not the word. That description is not... What's the word? Many in the community, many in the Latino community don't like that word anymore. So we're always changing. So some folks, some Latino folks who were part of the lab crew who were not given protective gear to wear while their white counterparts and white lab directors were and a lot of them were exposed to lethal radiation and died and all sorts of things. So there's this... There's this like dark, like racist, you know, undercurrent to what was seen as the project that ended the war and therefore a good thing. But we don't hear about this a lot. And we thought it was important to like highlight it especially on this weekend when everybody's, you know, kind of revisiting the whole Manhattan Project and Los Alamos and, you know, this, this German scientist, that basically defected and, you know, we created the bomb and the bomb saved the world and the whole thing. But at what cost? And so I would argue that, you know, the cost would have been much greater if, you know, the World War II was allowed to continue. And I don't know.

Kelly: Well, so here's the thing. It's, it's, it's the perpetuation of the settler consciousness, you know. Just to meet the needs of the project, which was to build the atomic bomb. So I don't... you know, they took the boy's school in Los Alamos County, you know, and they did offer to purchase, you know, some of these, some of the land from those that were on it. And of course, you know, you'll probably be shocked to hear that the white families. And were offered much more money than Latin families. So the homesteaders that were Hispanic or Latin, Latino or Latina, received between \$7 and \$23 an acre, which was a huge, huge contrast from what the government paid for the school and the ranch, which was, they paid \$225 an acre for the school. And then \$43 an acre for the land. So, yeah, a little bit different.

Ogun: So, again, you know, to kind of circle back where we started around education, this is why it's important and matters what's taught in schools because we kind of need to have the full story and to know that history is complicated and that there's no good or bad story that exists in isolation. I have not seen the movie Oppenheimer, but from what I've read in the reviews, this part of the story was not really included. That could be wrong, know, already some not in the reviews of the movie. No one's written about that. So, unless people keep talking about it, unless it's included in and taught in schools, it's a piece of history and that's going to fade away.

And the people and families who were directly affected by it, whose descendants are still alive, also will be forgotten about the atrocities the government did to them. So, yeah, we've got to keep teaching these things. And one of the ways we can teach history is on the flip side of this is through Barbie. Yay, Barbie. So, when we think, when we mention Barbie, the image that comes to mind is, you know, the, the skinny, hourglass, white, blonde, doll.

Kelly: Right? Who has, who has measurements that are just stupidly not even human.

Ogun: Well, I don't know, Margot Robie might be pulling them off. But one of the things that Barbie has actually done a commendable job of doing over the years, is creating dolls based on very, I would say, prolific and important black women in history. So you can find Barbie dolls that are created after both historical and contemporary figures. So historical figures like Madam C.J. Walker and Bessie Coleman and Ida B. Wells and some contemporary folks that you might know, like the tennis player Naomi Osaka and Tina Turner. Actresses, actors Issa Rae and Zendaya have Barbie dolls. Laverne Cox, who is an amazingly talented gorgeous trans actor. And these are, in case I think I mentioned, these are all black women. She has a Barbie doll as well, Rosa Parks. Gabby Douglas, Diana Ross the singer has got a Barbie doll as well. So through these dolls, we are educating children.

Kelly: And some of them also are not... actually, I don't think there's some of them that I'm going to guess people have never heard of. Like, I'll probably butcher her name, but Iptihaj Muhammad, she was the first Muslim American to wear at the job in the Olympics in 2016. There's a... she did fencing. And so the doll is in the fencing outfit. I'm sure that lots of people don't, you know, little girls and grown adults, you know, not heard of her. Did you mention Maya Angela?

Ogun: I don't remember all the names that I said.

Kelly: Well, and Katherine Johnson, who was in that movie, Hidden Figures, she was the NASA mathematician and physicist that she played a very crucial role in bringing Apollo 11 home, the trajectory of that manned spaceship... she was pretty much a genius.

Ogun: And many of us never heard her story till the movie came out, because we both whitewash and over-masculinize... we write a sanitized and sexist history. Let's put it that way. So all of those folks who were helping, black women, especially who were helping in NASA, we didn't hear a lot about them as well. So shout out to... and never thought I'd say this shout out to Barbie!

Kelly: Mattel.

Ogun: Mattel, shout out to Mattel and Barbie. And my understanding is, again, coming full circle, we already have conservatives complaining about the Barbie movie being too woke. Because the Barbie movie reflects the diversity in their cast and their storylines. And apparently it's too woke now. So, yeah.

Kelly: Yeah, because they're going to feel... all these little white girls are going to feel badly about themselves by seeing all these black Barbies. I'm like, oh my God...

Ogun: Listen...until that news story came out about conservatives complaining about being woke. I kind of didn't have an interest in seeing Barbie, a minimal interest. And now I'm like, okay, actually want to go see it. So, I might do... I might do Barbenheimer next weekend. Not this weekend. I got plans already this weekend but maybe next weekend.

Kelly: And in case anybody didn't catch that Barbenheimer at the start of this... It's the putting together Barbie and Oppenheimer.

Ogun: Listen, there are memes, there are t-shirts, this became a whole thing. I was like, who would have even thought to go like, oh, two things happening on the same weekend is a thing? Because I mean, how many movies get released at the same time on a given weekend? But I think because of the paradox of, again, too horribly, not horribly, to really vastly different themes, right? So we got atomic bomb and death and destruction, and we got like candy, bubble, gumish, Barbie, right? The two things could be more opposite.

Kelly: And Ken. Don't forget Ken.

Ogun: Don't forget Ken... I'm trying to decenter the men in the whole storyline. By the way, shout out to Barbie for decentering in the men in the whole storyline.

Kelly: Yes.

Ogun : Right. But yeah, so different, but then there's a piece of... there's almost like a piece of just like disassociation from our humanity that both elements... and shout out to whoever really threaded that together.

Kelly: Well, and who would have thought that one day, Barbie would be helping to dismantle patriarchy?

Ogun: Oh, yeah. I don't know if I'm ready to go that far, but sure. Yes, I agree. Yes, I think that is true.

Kelly: Or planting a seed, perhaps.

Ogun: Yeah. think Barbie did come full circle from upholding, you know, a lot of sexist, patriarchal tropes to dismantling, yes you're right.

Kelly: Well, yes, she was, she, there was no such thing as fat justice in Barbie's world. It certainly was class, you know, classism, you had to have that Barbie mansion and if you don't like pink you're out of luck. And I never liked pink.

Ogun: Barbie woke up. Barbie woke up Barbie Woke and started getting some jobs, some some more menial paying jobs and then all of a sudden yeah... Barbie had a journey. Maybe that's what we should call the episode: Barbie Had a Journey.

Kelly: We can still change it.

Ogun: I think we're good. In Some other good news. Two things. Well, we got three more things real quick. Apparently, short naps can reduce your risk of dementia. It says apparently regular short snoozes keep our brains young by preserving volume, which is linked with healthy cognitive functions and a lower risk of dementia and other diseases. Yeah, I did a little of that right before we came on here.

Kelly: Well, and not just reduced the risk of dementia, but regular short snoozes apparently keep our brains young and noticing that people that nap have larger brains. Which I thought was like, wow, you know, and not just, yeah, that if you nap you have a larger brain. My head's pretty big. I don't mean like ego, I mean physically. I come from a big head family.

Ogun: Well, to tie this back to the story around the atom bomb, famed scientists of the time Albert Einstein was a regular napper. So I'd like to say naps are a spiritual practice. Naps not only just a spiritual practice, but physical mental healing as well.

Kelly: Well, we've talked about the Nap Ministry many times.

Ogun: Yes, naps as a form of resistance. Not just taking a nap, but resting and unplugging from the grind of capitalism. So rest more specifically, and during your rest, you could nap or you could do some other things that aren't connected to the grind of capitalism. And also, as we decenter maleness, what's happening right now in the sports world, the women's World Cup, soccer World Cup, football World Cup is happening right now in Australia and New Zealand. And for the first time ever indigenous flags of the Maori, the Aboriginal and the Torres Strait Islanders. Yes, are being flown alongside the Australian flag. It's a little bit of a nice defiant act because of FIFA, international soccer governor, governing body, which is rife with corruption, they have very strict rules, and male-dominated, of course, very strict rules about what kind of symbols can be displayed at games and on players' uniforms. They allow the flags from the participating countries and national flags...

Kelly: Not from countries, but from the indigenous...

Ogun: No I'm saying FIFA allows the flags of countries. They generally don't allow these other flags. So this is in its way, little bit of an act of defiance and resistance.

Kelly: For those that don't know, Torres Strait Island is actually part of the Australia. So they don't have a flag. But they are certainly acknowledged and recognized in this. So the other flags are Aboriginal, which are Indigenous people of Australia. And then the Mayari flag, who are Indigenous people of New Zealand. Yes. So, just a little geography for people.

Ogun: Yes. Thank you. So good for them. Good for them in doing that. And please go watch some women's soccer. And also, for the first time ever, the most amount of queer players are showing up at the women's World Cup. I remember that from something I read earlier this week, so I don't have the exact percentage or numbers, but it's the largest amount ever. So queer representation, indigenous representation, women representation...

Kelly: Yes at the women's cup.

Ogun: Yeah. Let's wrap up with this story around, you know, Roe v Wade was overturned, that's a hot mess. However, abortion rights have still been protected in a lot of places, and we do actually have some state attorney generals to thank for that. So here are some of the ways that rights have been protected. Many state attorney generals have established reproductive rights task force to coordinate statewide protections. They publish Know Your Rights Guide on abortion access in the states, and some states have established a legal hotline or legal services websites for abortion providers. They've highlighted the dangers of Crisis Pregnancy Centers. So a little note on Crisis Pregnancy Centers: they kind of have this veneer of an abortion clinic, but a lot of times they end up being like these places that are funded by a lot of Christian organizations, that then guilt pregnant folk who come in for more information about abortions, guilt them, and make them change their minds about having the abortions, and scare them into not having abortions as well. And they're absolutely horrible. So yeah.

Kelly: Yep. So putting the word out about these crisis pregnancy centers. You know, there's this, this, just in case people aren't aware, there is this wholly inaccurate assumption that women use abortion as a means of birth control. And that's such a small small percentage. And there's this

belief that, you know, Roe v. Wade didn't allow abortions for all 40 weeks, did not allow abortions in the third trimester. But people seem to, you know, the far right conservatives and these people that say they're right to life, but let's kill the mother.

Ogun: Well they're right to birth. They're not pro, they're not pro life. They're pro birth. Don't care what happens after the baby's born.

Kelly: Or even before, if a mother's forced to carry, a non-viable fetus. But also that there's still, never were a huge number of third trimester abortions. It's just not a thing. I mean, it's a thing, it's not the main... that's never been the focus for women seeking abortion. That's been very, very few cases.

Ogun: Yeah, and those cases were predominantly health-of-them-mother related, not like, you know, we're like, you know, six, seven months pregnant and decided we don't want to have the baby anymore for birth control reasons. So, so yeah, so shout out to the attorney generals who are doing this, shout out to the federal judges who are also shutting down these ridiculous trans and, you know, anti-trans legislations that are making their way through Republican led state houses because they really kind of have no legal ground in the first place. So, so it seems like the very strained guardrails of the justice system are holding up where we can find them. But I... There's a piece of me. I mean, it is kind of side-eyeing congress when there was a democratically controlled congress that they did not, after Roe v. Wade was banned, that they did not codify this into law. Because I think it was still a democratically controlled house, yeah, it was when Roe v. Wade was overturned. So, yeah, they should have pushed to codify into law, they did not. And I got some thoughts about that. But, we're not going that road, we're ending on good news. Good news, yeah, shout out to the Attorney Generals. It turned so quickly.

Kelly: Well, there's just so much crap going on. You know, it's important to find good news, because it is there, and it's important to celebrate, you know. So, even if it seems small, you know, we're going to have an episode coming up about voting and voting rights. And, um, And there are some cases making their way through the courts that are actually really positive in terms of voting rights act.

Ogun: So, if you happen to be some of the people who are getting your Barbenheimer on this weekend, we would love to hear your thoughts about the movies. Please reach out to us on social media or call us again for a 413-GET-HOLY let us know what you thought about the movies. Share this podcast with your friends and family members. And again, if you have that one person who doesn't know what a podcast is, we are on the old school interwebs at withloveandjusticeforall.podbean.com Please come join us for our affinity groups and our discussions. And thank you for your generous donations at projectsanctus.com to help keep this train on the tracks. And until we meet again...

Kelly: Let's get our holy on.