

TOOLKIT

Equal Justice Society Launches Special Juneteenth Zine Confronting the Black Maternal Health Crisis and Demanding Healthcare Harm Repair

For use on and after Friday, June 19, 2026

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The Equal Justice Society (EJS) released a special expanded Juneteenth edition of its monthly Health Equity Newsletter. The edition, *Health Equity: The Origins of Modern Gynecology & the Movement Forward*, turns its full attention to the enduring legacy of reproductive injustice experienced by Black women and families. Through a powerful combination of scholarship, personal storytelling, artistic expression, and expert legal insight, the zine bears witness to historical medical exploitation while critically mapping out modern pathways toward birth equity and systemic repair.

Read and share the zine at <https://equaljusticesociety.org/juneteenth>.

WAYS TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

1. Share our social posts on and after June 19, 2026.
2. Send out an email blast if you have an email list.

If you'd like customized content that you don't see here, contact Keith at kkamisugi@equaljusticesociety.org.

SHARE SOCIAL POSTS

Click on the links and share:

- LinkedIn – https://www.linkedin.com/posts/equal-justice-society_juneteenth-reproductivejustice-healthequity-activity-7473630905060839424-oDvc
- Instagram – <https://www.instagram.com/p/DZWgn5TCS0a/>
- Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/reel/2068259907445250>
- Bluesky – <https://bsky.app/profile/equaljustice.bsky.social/post/3momqupiti22j>

EMAIL BLAST

Subject: Equal Justice Society Launches Special Juneteenth Zine Confronting the Black Maternal Health Crisis and Demanding Healthcare Harm Repair

Dear Friends,

I'm proud to be [on the board/part of the staff/on the advisory board/a supporter] of the Equal Justice Society (EJS) and wanted to share this special Juneteenth announcement.

EJS is proud to present "Health Equity: The Origins of Modern Gynecology and the Movement Forward," a special edition of our Health Equity Newsletter. Read and share the zine at <https://equaljusticesociety.org/juneteenth>.

Through essays, poetry, art, and storytelling, EJS President Lisa Holder, Legal Director Mona Tawatao, Poet-in-Residence Michael Tyler, and guest contributors explore the intersection of Black Women's health equity, historical injustice, and harm repair.

The featured foreword is an essay by Dr. Anastasia Williams, President of the Association of Black Women Physicians, who recounts the stories of Anarcha, Betsey, and Lucy, three of the eleven enslaved Black Women whose bodies were subjected to repeated experimentation and torture by Dr. J. Marion Sims to invent the tools of modern gynecology including the speculum.

While Sims has long been celebrated as the "Father of Gynecology," this issue shifts the narrative to recognize these women as the true Mothers of Gynecology and honor their unacknowledged contributions to modern medicine.

Juneteenth is both a celebration of liberation and a reminder of the harms Black people have endured in America for more than 400 years. Many of those harms continue to shape our institutions today, including our healthcare system. Meaningful reconciliation and healing require harm repair through truth-telling, accountability, and action.

Only by confronting and repairing historic and ongoing injustices can we build the foundation for a truly multiracial and inclusive democracy. Harmful myths rooted in racism, such as the false belief that Black Women experience less pain, have contributed to generations of inequitable treatment and persist in health outcomes today.

By elevating these histories, we seek to advance truth, accountability, and harm repair. We invite you to read and share this special issue with your networks as we work toward a future where Black Women's health, dignity, and humanity are fully recognized, protected, and valued.

This special zine is presented by Eric Gibbs and Sandy Kassis, with support from the California Black Power Network, the Legal Defense Fund (LDF), BLIS Collective, The California Wellness Foundation, and the JANM Democracy Center. The zine was edited by Lisa Holder, designed and produced by Kahtro (Dharni Patel, Ashley Monaé, and Iris Yang), with assistance by Health Equity News coordinator Tyler Kyser, communications support from Change Consulting, and the dedicated work by the entire EJS staff.

The work of harm repair and racial justice requires sustained investment. As support for Black-led organizations declines, your gift helps the Equal Justice Society advance health equity

and build a truly multiracial and inclusive democracy at a critical time. Donate at <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/equal-justice-society/?ref=toolkit-email>.

Thank you for your continued support,

YOURNAME

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