

Talking Points for white Women to talk about white Supremacy and it's role in the over turn of Roe V Wade in our white communities

From ProgressNow Colorado

While not an exhaustive list, this is a working document with hindsight, foresight, and insight into simple talking points for white women to use with each other and our white communities when discussing the overturn of Roe v. Wade, with the Supreme Court's decision announced on June, 24th, 2022. Please feel free to add/edit this document by requesting access.

Simple Background:

- **Many marginalized communities have never had access to abortion**, and even in states like Colorado - that have protected abortion through legislation - specific communities still can not easily access abortion.
- **Legal abortion is a low expectation** - we need access to abortion throughout pregnancy, for everyone, at any time, no exceptions, and* safe communities to raise our children in. Abortion access is not something that all people have had - pre and post Roe. Due to the Hyde Amendment, how Indian Health Services was established and functions, and the inequities of getting access to an abortion while incarcerated - abortion access, even while legal - has not existed for many communities of color, and low income folks.
- **Beyond Abortion Rights and Access - Reproductive Justice is the goal.** The term was coined in 1994, by Loretta Ross and other Black women that convened at a Public Health Conference, in response to the failure to emphasize and prioritize women's health care in the Clinton Administration. Reproductive Justice has been about universal health care, keeping children and birthing parents alive, decreasing infant and maternal mortality, abortion rights, trans health care, immigrant rights, civil rights and human rights.

- **We have arrived at a moment we were warned about for a long time by Women of Color.** When Native American and Indigenous women faced colonization and assimilation - they warned us about what we came to be known as reproductive injustice. Since the violent genocide of slavery, to modern contemporary police brutality - we have seen and heard Black Women tell us they do not have safe communities to raise their children in. On the U.S./Mexico border, we currently see a continued separation of families - a thread in the fabric of the American society, and a common avenue to genocide. Another pattern of family separation is reflected in pieces of our foster care system - where children of color are disproportionately separated from their biological parents and family members, and often their culture.
- **White supremacy, systemic racism, and the complacency in not addressing intersectional issues over the course of time has brought us to this moment.**

Pivot Points for white people who are resisting to understand that #reproductivejustice is Pro-Black, and Intersectional

- **Redefine the point of Reproductive Justice.** Abortion rights, reproductive justice, and community safety to raise our wanted children is what reproductive justice is. While we have made strides many white women have (admittedly) fallen short of recognizing that fighting for abortion rights is just as important as fighting for ending cash bail, ending police brutality, defunding the police, universal health care, and so much more.
- **It is not divisive to address complex issues with complex solutions.** Because we have lost time in our progressive fight to control our own bodies, and ensure we have safe communities to raise our children - we need to recognize that not addressing other institutions that generate and perpetuate systemic racism and oppression are part of the reason that the Supreme Court amounted to this moment in history.

- **Black Women warned us that this day would come, but their warnings were ignored until white women were impacted .** This moment was partially birthed through white supremacy, systemic racism, and white folks' complacency in strategically dismantling the systems that control our lives, our bodies, and our very social constructs with the white dominant culture.
- **We need to unify now, and that means taking a anti-racist lens to reproductive care.** Doing anti-racism work, and being unapologetically pro-Black is necessary to ensure we don't arrive here again in 50 years. When the most marginalized communities have access to reproductive health care that is equitable - all people will have liberated reproductive care.

Acknowledge the visionary foresight that the foremothers of Reproductive Justice taught us:

- **Black Women, femmes, and gender expansive beings, along with reproductive justice organizations** - which are women of color led, and intersectional - **need to be centered and supported NOW.** [Here is a list of local women of color led repro orgs to support in Colorado.](#)
- **Abortions will soon be illegal in some states & abortion funds will be depleted in the same states that Black women are dying at 4-5 times the rate of white women in child birth.** This means, we will see even more racial disparity as white affluent women will have the means to still get an abortion, while those face higher rates of poverty, or otherwise are marginalized by our health care system - will simply not get abortions at the same rate when they need them, thus, putting them at an even HIGHER risk of dying. [Find abortion funds](#) in states that outlaw abortion, or will have "trigger bans" instituted & [donate here.](#)
- **Abortion access has never been equal.** Affluent white women have had pretty decent access to abortion since it became protected via Roe. V. Wade. But because of the 1977 Hyde

amendment, Medicaid recipients, incarcerated individuals, and or individuals receiving health care from Indian Health Services (Native and Indigenous folks) have not. Even in states like Colorado, where abortion is protected - there is a huge gap in who can access an abortion and how fast (and abortions are timely for multiple reasons). **This means we have to fight for the Hyde amendment to be repealed so that all people can finally have access to abortion.**

- With abortion being outlawed, we are seeing the pregnancy to prison pipeline be expedited. **We need to understand the intersection of the prison industrial complex and abortion access.** 70% of women who are incarcerated are mothers already. The numbers of incarcerated women were 5 times higher in 2020 then they were in 1980.¹ Tribal girls and young women are four times more likely than white women to be incarcerated, and Black women are 3 times more likely to be incarcerated. Because women of color and low income folks will be the most negatively impacted by the fall of Roe V. Wade - we will see these incarceration disparities sky rocket in certain states that outlaw abortion.
- Despite abortion supposedly being available to those who are incarcerated, **adequate access to abortion care is not equal for incarcerated individuals.** A study on abortion care for incarcerated individuals - demonstrates that many correctional staff refuse to facilitate such access.² The study indicated their reasoning could be that they do so because they do not understand their legal obligations or because they intentionally go against those obligations.
- Black children are preyed on by all types of racism - but, most brutally, by police. **In the last 5 years hundreds of children of color have been killed by police and Black children are six times more likely to be fatally shot by police than white**

¹ <https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/incarcerated-women-and-girls/>

² <https://www.gutmacher.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/pubs/psrh/full/4105909.pdf>

children³⁴ The same fight for abortion rights has to include fighting for a safe community to raise our kids and denouncing racist police tactics that use violence in the guise of “protection of threat”.

Messaging to avoid:

- **Handmaid's tale narrative.** Why? Because slavery was the inspiration for the Giliad story that now is referenced as the post-Roe era. Using the handmaid's tale to tell the story of Roe V Wade is ignoring that slavery and people that were enslaved. White people should instead focus on narratives of why controlling people's bodies is so dangerous while centering the Black American experience.
- **Underground Abortion Railroad.** Why? There is no comparison of the original underground railroad (led by Harriet Tubman and many revolutionaries and abolitionists) & losing rights to abortion. While losing rights to our bodies as white women may be shocking, horrifying, an atrocious avenue to severe oppression & devastation - it is not the same as escaping slavery or being enslaved. It is extremely offensive to think otherwise.
- **“Don't be divisive, this is about all women”.** Why? Because there is no unified definition of “woman” without the context of race. We have arrived here by ignoring the oppression done to women of color, especially Black Women. If we achieve racial equity we will all be liberated, and that is why we prioritize the liberation of those most marginalized. Being divisive actually got us here, being anti-racist is the opposite of divisive.
- **“This is about women”.** - Why? This is about trans people and women. Trans men can give birth, non-binary people can give birth, and believing otherwise is erasing the existence of trans

³<https://racism.org/index.php/articles/law-and-justice/criminal-justice-and-racism/226-police-brutality-and-lynchings/children-killed-by-police>

⁴ <https://www.vox.com/22394326/makhia-bryant-adam-toledo-police-killing>

people. We know that 1 in 5 trans people commit suicide, so supporting trans existence is crucial. Not just women have abortions and pregnancy - we need everyone on board with gender equity and support for our LGBTQIA communities. Everyone that has the capacity for pregnancy can have an abortion. We know that marriage rights for the LGBTQIA community will be attacked and other treatments that are considered reproductive care for anyone who has the capacity for pregnancy - like IVF treatments - will be attacked as well. This movement is very founded in collective liberation.