THERE IS AN END GAME….NOT WITHOUT BLACK WOMEN

CCF CONFERENCE 2018
MARSHA JONES
WWW.THEAFIYACENTER.ORG
BLACK WOMEN’S REPRODUCTIVE EXPERIENCES CAN’T BE ORGANIZED OR FOUGHT FOR AROUND AN ISSUE!

“There is no thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.”
— Audre Lorde
OURSTORY

The Afiya Center is women centered organization and our mission is to serve marginalized black women and girls transforming their relationship with their sexual and reproductive health by addressing the consequences of reproductive oppression. Our work is accomplished by developing programs to educate, bring awareness to and advocating for economic growth, reproductive rights, health disparities that include HIV for black and all marginalized women. We envision a world where ALL Women will have the achievement of their full social justice and human rights ending reproductive oppression.
The fight for Reproductive Freedoms in Texas is a vicious war being fought that have seen some battles won...but they are few and in between. Black women are often the targeted conversation piece but seldom the conversation leader. This is not acceptable you can’t expect to win a war waged on a people in their communities by people outside of their communities...the result will be some small battles won...few and in between.
To be a Black woman in Texas you are at the highest risk of:

• Working and living in poverty with some higher education

• Inquiring an HIV diagnosis and dying from that diagnosis than your other counterparts in the state

• Experiencing an unintended pregnancy with lesser access to resources to seek timely reproductive healthcare and make an informed non coerced choice that is inclusive of an abortion

• Being at risk of dying within the first year of giving birth than your counterparts

• Working for a Reproductive Rights, health, or Justice organization for women who do not look like and will experience some form of micro-aggression daily…
As of 2013, black women earned just 64 cents to the white man’s dollar, while white women earned 78 cents, black men 75 cents, Hispanic men 67 cents and Hispanic women 54 cents.

Black Women are also more likely than any other group to be Head of Household. Coupled with a lack of access to generational wealth, this is why pay equity is doubly important for Black Women.

CAN WE TALK...NO FOR REAL!

- THE EVERYDAY LIVED EXPERIENCE OF BLACK WOMEN BRING AN ELEMENT OF EXPERTISE THAT CAN CHANGE SET THE WORLD ON IT AXLE...WHEN YOU COMBINE THAT WITH OUR EARNED EDUCATION... THIS ALL OF THIS IS OUR STORY!

Tapping into a legacy of self-agency and persistence in the struggle for access to quality education in the face of equally persistent and constantly changing barriers erected by racism is the clear and consistent thread runs through it all.

Grandmothers saving their whole lives to help their daughters daughter break the chains of poverty?

That’s Reproductive Justice.

From the days of slavery, though decades of de jure and de facto (legal...
WE WORK WITH TRADITIONAL NEWLY ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS IN CREATING SAFER SPACES FOR BLACK WOMEN INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY?

Work to locate and overcome internalized biases that might be leading us to make certain judgments on people’s reproductive decisions.

Take part in work that moves beyond a rights framework and takes on dismantling systemic economic, racial, and gender oppression. For instance, working to remove the Hyde Amendment from the budget so that people can have better access to abortion, or pushing for a livable wage for all people.

Learning how to provide culturally competent care. Many people of color have negative experiences when trying to access healthcare – language barriers, lack of cultural understanding, judgement and stigma – which then makes it harder for them to access healthcare in the future.
My advocacy mentor spoke the most prolific words to me ever spoken to me…I had become very frustrated when during a period shortly before the election of then Senator Barack Obama. I was frustrated…it seemed that there was an expectation placed upon oppressed people to end oppression…I wanted to see this played out differently but didn’t see it in my say…”He said when you don’t see what you want create it”
WHY REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

- Choice doesn’t adequately deal with the complexities of the lives of black women and other women of color.
CHANGE THE NARRATIVE IN TEXAS!

Be the change you wish to see in the world.
it's time to change the narrative
REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE IS THE COMPLETE PHYSICAL, MENTAL, SPIRITUAL, POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS, BASED ON THE FULL ACHIEVEMENT AND PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS HUMAN RIGHTS. **Reproductive Justice** as the human right to have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and healthy environments. Over the years, we have expanded RJ to include **the human right to bodily autonomy from any form of reproductive oppression.**
WHAT DOES CHANGING THE NARRATIVE LOOK LIKE IN REAL TIME?

THE AFIYA CENTER PRESENTS 2ND ANNUAL END WITH RED FUNDRAISING EVENT

GUEST SPEAKER
MS. BYLLYE AVERY

“A TIME FOR SOLIDARITY”
UNITY • ACTION • JUSTICE
FRIDAY MARCH 13, 2015 @ 6PM
THE BLACK ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS
1309 CANTON STREET DALLAS, TX 75201

Benjamin’s Bounce

ADMISSION $100 FOR TICKETS CALL TBAAL BOX OFFICE 214-743-2400
TICKETMASTER 800-745-3000
JOIN THE AFIYA CENTER AS WE SEEK TO UNITE WOMEN, BLACK WOMEN, ALL MARGINALIZED WOMEN STANDING TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY AND DEMANDING JUSTICE

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THE AFIYA CENTER

“A TIME FOR SOLIDARITY”
UNITY • ACTION • JUSTICE

PART 1: REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE BUILDING THE MOVEMENT IN TEXAS
PART 2: FAITH BASE ROUND TABLE: FAITH: WHERE IS YOUR WORK?
PART 3: WOMEN’S HOLISTIC HEALTH: MIND, BODY & SOUL
THE BLACK ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS
1309 CANTON STREET DALLAS, TX 75201

Reproductive Justice Symposium
This powerful and enriching three part symposium with two breakout sessions includes discussion about igniting the Reproductive Justice movement in Texas, a faith-based round table discussion on the church’s responses to women & HIV/AIDS and a holistic approach to women’s health that treats the whole woman rather than simply the disease. After a full day of strategic engagement and healing, women will leave with tools and guidance to create and build an even stronger solidarity. This is a time where we seek to unite women, black women, and all other marginalized women standing together in unity demanding justice.

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LUNCH PROVIDED $20 ADMISSION
The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Inc.
FOR TICKETS CALL 214-743-2400
2400 1309 CANTON STREET DALLAS, TX 75201
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WHAT DOES CHANGING THE NARRATIVE LOOK LIKE IN REAL TIME?:
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KEEP CALM AND ASK ME QUESTIONS