

Defining Our Frameworks

Reproductive freedom is an expression of the universal values of bodily autonomy and self-determination. It represents the individual's right to be free from government intrusion, as well as from outside force, danger or judgment on matters of reproductive decision making. Reproductive freedom touches upon topics related to reproductive healthcare, sex, sexuality, birthing, parenting, gender roles, abortion, contraception, and more, as well as the drive toward recognition of equality for all.

Adapted from *Finally, A Feminism 101 Blog*

<https://finallyfeminism101.wordpress.com/2007/03/17/faq-what-do-feminists-mean-by-reproductive-freedom/>

Reproductive Health

Reproductive Health addresses the reproductive health needs of all persons. It “focuses on healthcare, services, information, as well as research and health data... and to improve and expand services, research and access, particularly in prevention, and [to] provide culturally competent care...”

Reproductive Rights

Reproductive Rights refers to legal and advocacy efforts to define, protect and secure an individual's legal right to reproductive health care services, and the societal structures to support it. The goal is to secure constitutional rights that assure that universal legal protection is available to meet the needs of all individuals. Reproductive rights, pursued in international human rights bodies, courts, legislative bodies, hospitals and elsewhere, address the legal protections that make reproductive healthcare available and accessible to all who need it.

Reproductive Justice Framework

Reproductive Justice, first articulated by women of color in the SisterSong Women of Color Network, is described as “a movement-building framework that identifies how reproductive oppression is the result of the intersections of multiple oppressions and is inherently connected to the struggle for social justice and human rights.” Reproductive justice acknowledges that a person's “environment, economics and culture affect her reproductive life.” Controlling individuals through oppressions of race, class, gender, sexuality, ability, age and immigration status become a strategic pathway to regulating entire communities and reproductive justice challenges people to question and change structural power inequalities. At its core, Reproductive Justice supports the right of people to have or not to have children, to parent their children in a safe, healthy and economically secure environment, while also acknowledging the intersections of multiple oppressions and identities.

Adapted from *A New Vision for Advancing Our Movement for Reproductive Health, Reproductive Rights, and Reproductive Justice* (Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice, 2005) <http://strongfamiliesmovement.org/assets/docs/ACRJ-A-New-Vision.pdf> and *Understanding Reproductive Justice* (Loretta Ross, SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, 2006, updated 2011) <http://www.trustblackwomen.org/our-work/what-is-reproductive-justice/9-what-is-reproductive-justice>

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