



This resource guide is intended to help Reform Jewish sisterhoods, congregations, and individuals mobilize and advocate for reproductive health, rights, and justice in their communities. This comprehensive guide of resources and actions will help you kickstart or expand advocacy efforts for this issue.

WRJ & Repro Rights

For nearly 85 years, WRJ has been a leading advocate for reproductive health rights. We've adopted more than a dozen resolutions affirming a strong and vocal stance and mobilized members to speak out for women's rights. We were among the first in the Reform Movement to call for access to information about contraception and abortion reform.

On abortion, WRJ makes clear that "the right to choose ... is a personal decision based on religious, moral, or cultural values and beliefs. It should not be determined for others by special interest groups, whether religious or otherwise, nor should the government be the enforcing agency for their points of view."

Similarly, the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), and other Reform Movement affiliates have long supported the rights of pregnant individuals to make decisions about their reproductive health according to their own beliefs. Before Roe v. Wade, the Reform Movement cited a "moral imperative to modernize abortion legislation," lamenting that "illegal abortions yearly take a tragic and needless toll." When Roe v. Wade legalized abortion, the URJ applauded the decision and issued a resolution opposing government restrictions that would limit access to abortion services.

In the decades following this landmark court decision, there were countless attempts to erode the constitutional right to an abortion on federal and state levels. Court decisions, federal laws, and state

restrictions have made abortion inaccessible and unaffordable for millions of Americans, especially Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants, young people, people with disabilities, and lower-income individuals. After the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the Reform Movement released a [statement](#) condemning the decision. This decision leaves abortion rights up to the states, with 26 states likely to ban abortion, and has devastating effects, particularly for these marginalized communities. For this reason, we are committed to working in solidarity with leaders in marginalized communities and grounding our advocacy in the reproductive justice framework.

Reproductive Justice is a human rights framework coined by Black leaders nearly 30 years ago. SisterSong defines it as "The human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities. When using the term reproductive justice, we must address how race, class, gender identity, immigration status, disability, location, and other levels of oppression impact our experiences.

To learn more about the origins of the reproductive justice framework, visit [SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective](#) and *In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda*.

We are also compelled to advocate for accessible and affordable family planning services that can disrupt generational poverty cycles and avoid preventable maternal and infant deaths. We see the critical need for comprehensive sex education, which empowers people to make informed decisions about their bodies, sexual activities, and futures.

A Word About Language

Women are not the only people who get pregnant. This does not mean we are moving away from identifying this as a women's issue, but it can be both women and people who can get pregnant. Please use inclusive and affirming language, including "pregnant people" or "people at risk of pregnancy."

Say the word "abortion:" When we say "abortion" instead of using euphemisms, it sends the message that abortion should be free from barriers and is not a shameful, secretive, or last resort decision. Abortion is a nuanced medical decision that many people come to over the course of their lives. We are asking for legally protected, funded, equitable, supported, and destigmatized access to abortion as soon as someone makes their decision.

We also encourage you to include language around "abortion access," not just reproductive rights. Rights do not guarantee access. This has been a significant barrier for decades—especially in minority communities—even when rights were protected. Together, we can move towards justice, compassion, accessibility, and respect. Even with Roe, which protected the right to abortion, abortion was still not accessible, affordable, or free from shame and stigma.