

Medical Students for Choice UIC: Anti-Racism & Reproductive Justice Intersectionality Resources

Alicia Garza, #BlackLivesMatter: “Reproductive justice is very much situated within the Black Lives Matter movement. And the way we that talk about that is that essentially, it’s not just about the right for women to be able to determine when and how and where they want to start families, but it is also very much about our right to be able to raise families, to be able to raise children to become adults.... And that is being hindered by state violence in many different forms. One form being violence by law enforcement or other state forces, and the other form of crisis through poverty and lack of access to resources and lack of access to health communities that are safe and sustainable.”

Materials to answer: what is the importance of the intersectionality between racism and reproductive justice? How do these two systems correlate with each other? What can I do to help?

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I WANT TO LEARN MORE

Reproductive Justice Resource Lists:

- [Applying an Intersectional Analysis to Reproductive Justice and Other Forms of Oppression: Collaborating Across Movements and Issues](#): The resources in this section address a variety of issues that intersect with reproductive justice, including economic rights, the rights of incarcerated women, immigrants' rights, transgender rights, disability rights, religion, birth choice and birth rights, voting rights, and environmental conservation.

Readings:

- [Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty](#) by Dorothy Roberts — A black feminist anthem and a rallying cry to civil rights activists who have gone soft, Dorothy Roberts' *Killing the Black Body* exposes how recent legislation has restricted the reproductive rights of black people, particularly those who live in poverty. No discussion of reproductive or racial justice is complete without this book.
- [Undivided Rights: Women of Color Organizing for Reproductive Justice](#) by Loretta Ross — presents a textured understanding of the reproductive rights movement by placing the experiences, priorities, and activism of women of color in the foreground. Using historical research, original organizational case studies, and personal interviews, the authors illuminate how women of color have led the fight to control their own bodies and reproductive destinies.
- [Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present](#) by Harriet A Washington — the first and only comprehensive history of medical experimentation on African Americans. Starting with the earliest encounters between black Americans and Western medical researchers and the racist pseudoscience that resulted, it details the ways both slaves and freedmen were used in hospitals for experiments conducted without their knowledge, a practice that continues today.
- [Wake Up Little Susie: Single Pregnancy & Race Before Roe v. Wade](#) by Rickie Solinger — Focusing on the two decades that followed World War II, Rickie Solinger's *Wake Up Little Susie* dissects the double standard that emerged toward unwed pregnancy in the postwar period. White parents gave up children for adoption, which was not available to black parents, and this disparity was used — and continues to be used today — to argue against black families' worth and self-direction in the U.S.
- [Reproducing Race: An Ethnography of Pregnancy as a Site of Racialization](#) by Khiara Bridges — this ethnography of pregnancy and birth at a large New York City public hospital explores the role of race in the medical setting and investigates how race carries powerful and disproportionately tragic material consequences for black mothers.

- [Revolutionary Mothering: Love on the Front Lines](#) edited by Alexis Pauline Gumbs
- [Radical Reproductive Justice: Foundation, Theory, Practice, Critique](#) edited by Whitney Peoples, Lynn Roberts, Loretta Ross, and Erika Derkas
- [Women of Color and the Reproductive Rights Movement](#) by Jennifer Nelson
- [Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South](#) by Talitha L. LeFlouria
- [Reproductive Injustice: Racism, Pregnancy, and Premature Birth](#) by Dana-Ain Davis
- [Policing the National Body: Race, Gender and Criminalization in the United States](#) by Jael Silliman and Anannya Bhattacharjee
- [Listen to Me Good: The Story of an Alabama Midwife](#), by Margaret Charles Smith
- [Reproductive Rights as Human Rights: Women of Color and the Fight for Reproductive Justice](#) by Zakiya Luna
- [What the Abortion Bans Have to do With Poverty and Race](#) by Renee Bracey Sherman
- [Addressing Disparities in Reproductive and Sexual Health Care in the U.S.](#) from the Center for Reproductive Rights
- [Applying a critical race lens to relationship-centered care in pregnancy and childbirth](#) from the Journal for Birth Issues in Perinatal Care
- [Eliminating Racial Disparities in Maternal and Infant Mortality: A Comprehensive Policy Blueprint](#) from the Center for American Progress

Webinars:

- **June 18:** Planned Parenthood of IL webinar, registration for discussion on Black maternal health [LINK](#)
- [Defending black bodies, a reproductive justice town hall by sistersong](#)
- [Reproductive Injustice, White Supremacy, and Feminist Resistance Strategies by Loretta Ross](#)

TED Talks:

- [Dorothy Roberts: The Problem with Race-Based Medicine](#)
- [Mwende Katwiwa: Black Life at the Intersection of Birth and Death](#)
- [Miriam Zoila Perez: How Racism Harms Pregnant & What We Can do to Help](#)
- [Changing The Reproductive Rights Conversation | Jessica Waters | TEDxBaltimore](#)

I WANT TO SUPPORT MORE

DONATE MONEY

Sister Song Birth Justice Fund: [LINK](#)

- The Birth Justice Care Fund will support:
 - Essential Items, such as formula, diapers, wipes, clothing, car seat, changing table, and bassinets for pick up or delivery.
 - The services of a midwife or a labor support and/or a postpartum doula.
 - Transportation and food.
- *Support given to families is not limited to one category.

DONATE OTHER RESOURCES

Chicago Birthworks Collaborative

- CBC has a mission to decrease birth mortality rates for Black women and families. Our work has always been grounded in advocacy against implicit bias and racial disparities in health care for Black and Brown women and their children. Now, during this time of crisis, we are committed to expanding our Tribe to provide mama + baby essentials to all Black Chicago families in need.
- Current collecting donations for love packages to moms in need across Chicago. Items being collected:
 - Pull-ups and larger sized baby diapers
 - Newborn diapers
 - Infant and Children's Ibuprofen or Tylenol
 - Deodorant
 - Laundry detergent
 - Cleaning supplies
 - Women's feminine hygiene products (particularity for postpartum)
 - Fresh family meals (contact us for possible dietary restrictions)
 - Large size packing boxes
- Our board member, Maria (mvalle8@uic.edu), is a drop off site so you can also contact her if you have items you want to donate.

I WANT TO ADVOCATE MORE

Legal Resources

- IfWhenHow.Com- Lawyering for Reproductive Justice

Illinois

Contact your Illinois state reps and senators!

- HB0004: Provides that doula services shall be covered under the medical assistance program (Medicaid).
 - This bill will add doula services (which have been [proven](#) a great tool for improving maternal mortality of Black and Brown mothers) to Medicaid coverage. The bill is currently in committee in the house, but could be voted on any day. Contact your representatives and let them know you support this bill!
 - Find your elected officials [here](#)!

Federal

- Follow organizations like [URGE](#) to keep up to date on federal issues affecting Reproductive Justice

