Part 11: What is reproductive justice?
Words to Know in Part 7
Abortion

When a person decides to end their pregnancy without giving birth.

Birth control

Medication that makes it so you can’t get pregnant as long as you keep taking it.

Complications

Medical conditions that happen because someone is pregnant.
Forced sterilization

When the government forces someone to get a surgery that makes it so that person can’t have children.

Reproductive

When something is about having children.
Reproductive justice

A human right that says all people have the right to:

• Have bodily autonomy and self-determination

• Have children, if they want to

• Not have children, if they want to

• Parent their children in a safe and healthy world

Sterilized

Having surgery so you cannot get pregnant anymore.
What is reproductive justice?

Reproductive justice is a human right.

(“Reproductive” means “about having children.”)
Reproductive justice says that all people have the right to:

- Have bodily autonomy and self-determination.

- Have children, if they want to.

- Not have children, if they want to.

- Parent their children in a safe and healthy world.
Women of color, especially Black women, came up with the phrase “reproductive justice.”

The reproductive justice movement focuses on more than just whether abortion is legal.

The reproductive justice movement focuses on whether abortion is accessible to all people.

Reproductive justice focuses on whether people can access abortion in their area.

Reproductive justice focuses on whether people can afford to pay for an abortion.
Reproductive justice also focuses on more than just abortion.

Reproductive justice also talks about access to things like:

• Birth control.

• Learning about safe, healthy sex and relationships.

• Health care during pregnancy.
• Safe homes and living spaces.

• Getting paid enough to support a family.
Reproductive justice is really important.

It is important that people have access to all different kinds of choices around:

- pregnancy.
- abortion.
- parenting.
It is important that people have all the information they need to live the life they want.

It is important that people have all the support they need to live the life they want.

It is important that people have all the information they need to choose whether they have children.

It is important that people have all the support they need to choose whether they have children.
For example:

People of color are more likely than white people to be poor.

People of color are less likely than white people to have safe housing.

When people don’t have a lot of money, they may feel like they can’t have children.

When people don’t have safe housing, they may feel like they can’t have children.
Making sure people have enough money is part of reproductive justice.

Making sure people have safe housing is part of reproductive justice.
Reproductive justice is also about health and safety during pregnancy and giving birth.

All people deserve to be safe and healthy during pregnancy.

But in the United States, about 700 people die each year because of pregnancy or its complications.
Complications are medical conditions that happen because someone is pregnant.

For example, some people get diabetes while pregnant.

Their diabetes is a complication of pregnancy.

Black people are much more likely than white people to die because of pregnancy or its complications.
One study found that Black pregnant people are 3 times as likely as white pregnant people to die.

We don’t know exactly why this is.

But we think it is because of racism in the health care system.

We think it is because doctors take less good care of Black pregnant people.

They take better care of white pregnant people.
Reproductive justice is important to people with disabilities.

Like we talked about, people with disabilities are more likely to be forcibly sterilized.

Also, the government might say we can’t be good parents because we have disabilities.

The government might take our children away from us because we have disabilities.
This is wrong!

People with disabilities can be good parents.

We deserve to parent our children, just like other parents do.
We don’t just want a world where abortion is legal.

We want a world where choices about pregnancy are accessible to everyone.

We want a world where people who want abortions can get them easily.

We want a world where people who want children can parent their children in safe, healthy environments.

We want a world where people don’t fear the government will take their children away.