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GETTING TO THE ROOT CAUSE:

THE INTERSECTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND REPRODUCTIVE VIOLENCE

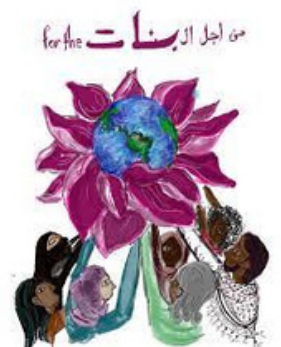


10/6/2022



if
when
how

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



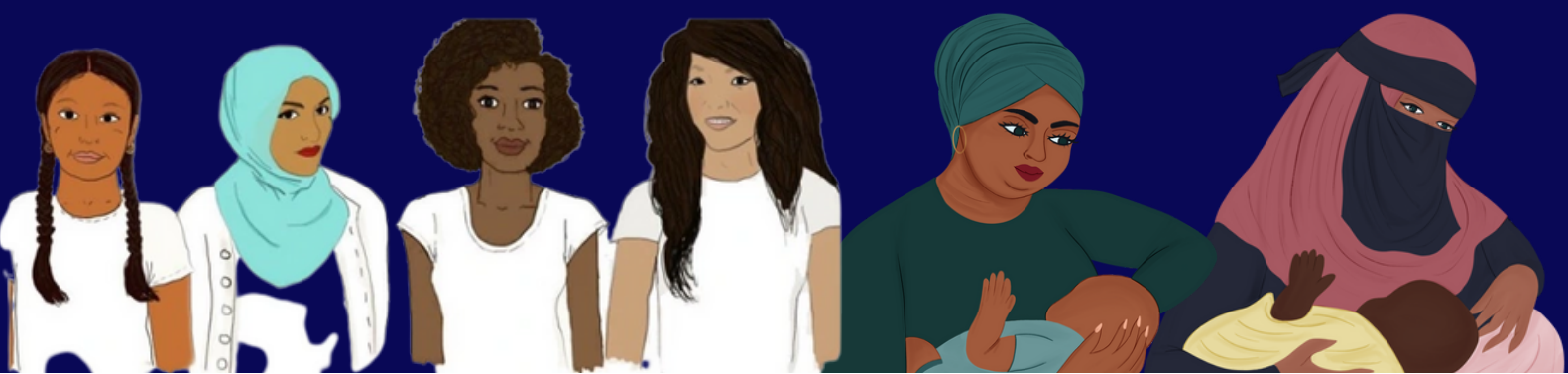


To the survivors who have experienced violence or are still experiencing violence:

You are not alone, it is not your fault, we hear you, we see you, and we believe you.

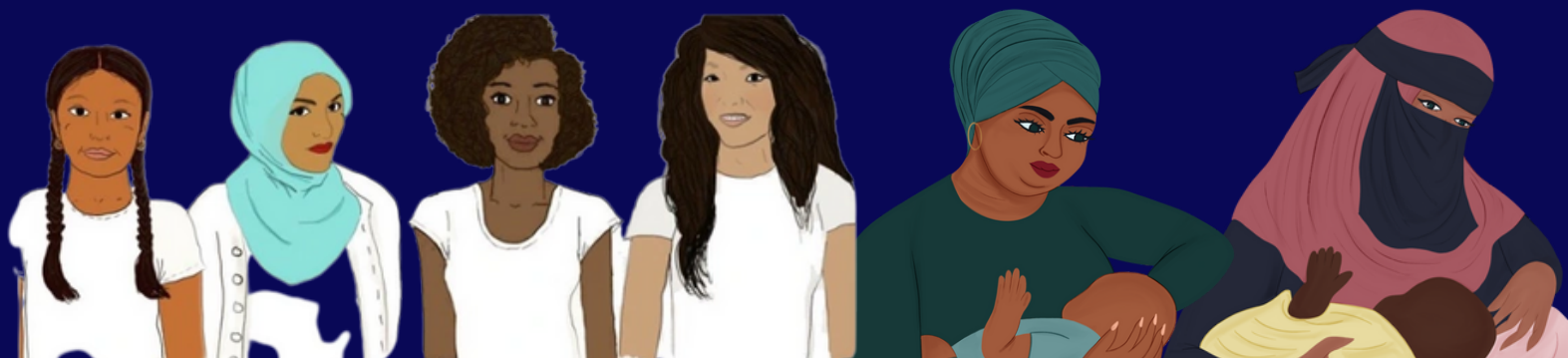
Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior that is rooted in power and control—in toxic masculinity, rape culture, and systemic oppression. **Every year, more than 10 million people in the US are subjected to domestic violence.** Moreover, there are other types of abuse, such as emotional, financial, or spiritual abuse, as well as unreported cases of violence and gender nonconforming individuals. These forms of abuse are linked; for example, between 94-99% of domestic violence survivors have also experienced economic abuse.

We cannot talk about gender-based violence without addressing the root causes.



Considering the foundation of domestic violence necessitates making reproductive (in)justice a key part of our analysis. Domestic violence frequently includes reproductive violence. This can look like dictating how survivors can manage their own sexual and reproductive health, such as if, when, and how the survivor can or cannot make independent decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and wellness - including

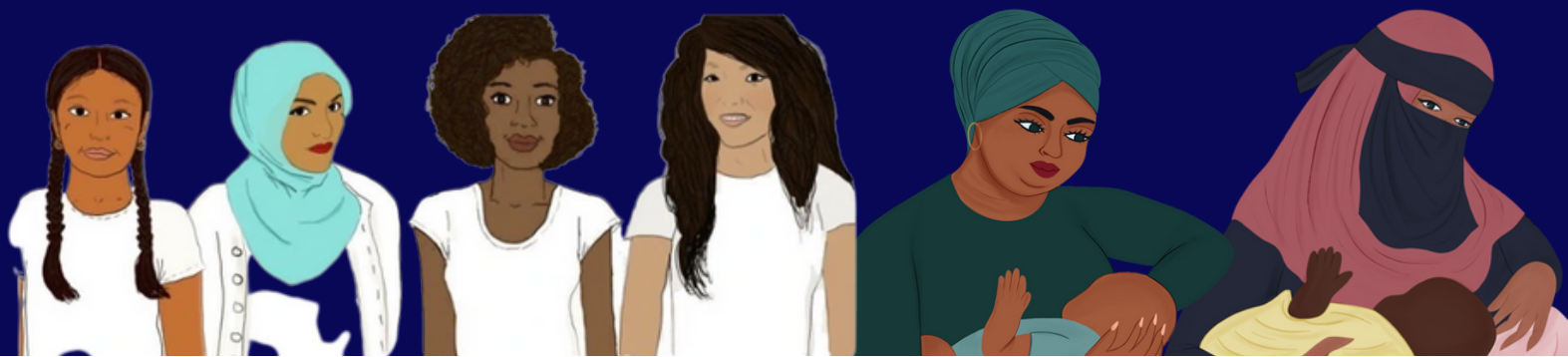
- **Forcing unprotected sex, including putting on and then removing a condom during sex**
- **Rape-induced pregnancy**
- **Generally forcing an unwanted pregnancy**
- **Attempting to control pregnancy outcomes, e.g., sabotaging a healthy and wanted pregnancy or forcing an abortion**
- **Limiting access to resources for reproductive care, including practical support like transportation to doctor visits**





Reproductive violence limits a survivor's bodily decision-making. In one study, researchers found that 1 in 4 women seeking sexual and reproductive healthcare services experience reproductive control. And after the Supreme Court overruling of Roe v. Wade, survivors are more susceptible to being forced into unwanted pregnancies and unwanted abortions: from the systems level, exacerbating reproductive coercion and violence experienced in intimate relationships. When we further consider the disproportionate impacts policy has on BIPOC, low income, and queer and trans communities, it becomes even more apparent how vital it is to consider the unique circumstances of multiply marginalized communities.

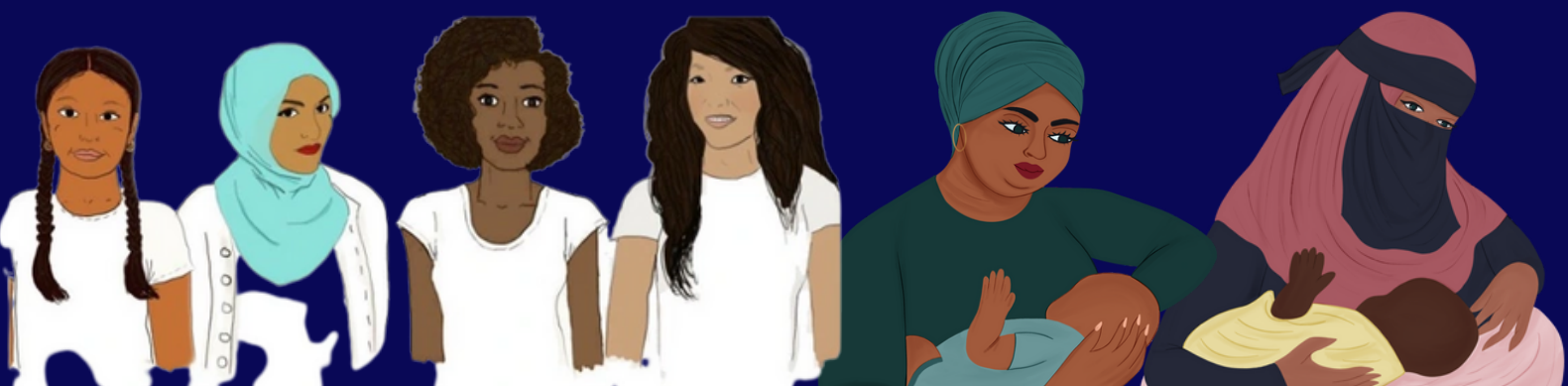
This month, and every month, we are dedicated to addressing the root causes: calling for a sustainable, intersectional, and abolitionist world-building to imagine safer communities.



FUNDERS AND DONORS

As a coalition of organizations doing the work in our community, we present the following calls to action:

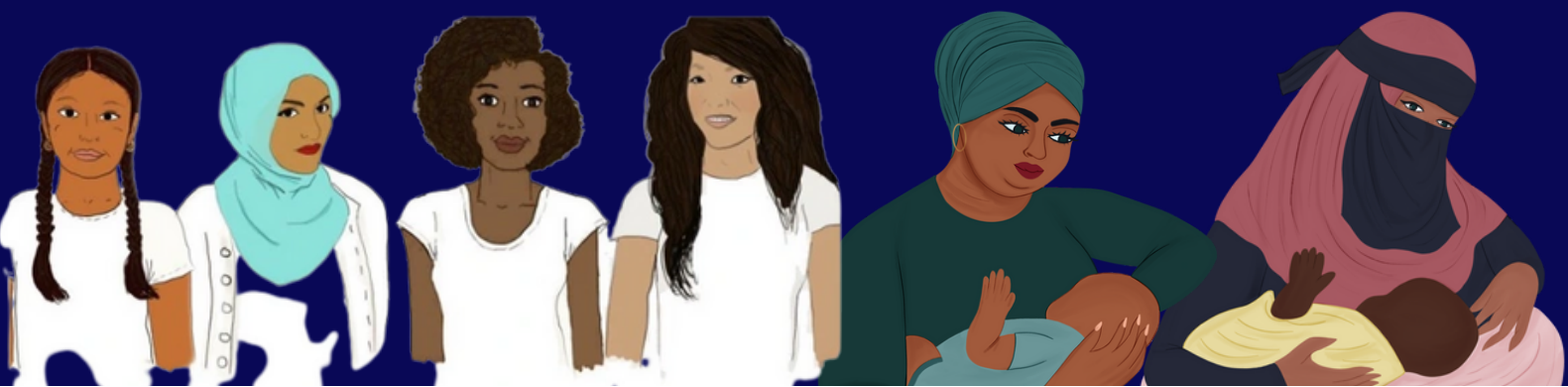
1. We call on funders, donors, and others who resource our work to think more intersectionally and expansively about gender-based violence and reproductive justice. We need long-term, general operating support through public and private funding, capacity building, specialized training and more. This will enable us to - in expansive and emergent ways - equip advocates with culturally sensitive, trauma-informed and justice-centered tools and approaches to implement reproductive violence prevention and intervention/harm reduction.



ORGANIZATIONS

As a coalition of organizations doing the work in our community, we present the following calls to action:

2. **We call on organizations doing the work, including ourselves,** to recommit to and invite other partners to recommit to: intentionally exploring reproductive violence as a special focus within domestic violence/intimate partner violence prevention and intervention; and work with each other to train our staff as well as partners and allies to affirm this increasingly urgent intersection.





COMMUNITY

As a coalition of organizations doing the work in our community, we present the following calls to action:

3. We call on the community to deepen your community care networks and mechanisms.

Ending violence in our communities means knowing how to navigate disclosures, supporting survivors, and practicing RAHMA (compassion or mercy). This includes making it easier for a victim to leave their abuser.

In solidarity,

HEART

If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice

KAN-WIN

Access Reproductive Justice

Raksha, Inc

The Person Center

API GBV

Apna Ghar

ACCESS

For the Binat

Feminist Women's Health Center