

Family, Community and Sexuality Project Building a Movement

from the Ground Up

Broadening support for Reproductive Justice and Queer Liberation

As the conservative right continues to use issues like abortion and gay marriage as wedges to chip away at support for a broad progressive agenda – it is critical that any social justice organization identify their role in broadening support for Reproductive Justice and Queer Liberation. The following are some ideas for organizations to consider.

- Make sure your organizational culture supports people in bringing their whole selves to the work. Issues of reproductive health and access affect the constituency of every organization. 40% of women will have an abortion in their lifetime but many women feel isolated in that experience. GLBTQ people are part of all of our organizations but are not often supported using that experience to participate fully in the work of the organization. Members, leaders, staff and board members can offer more when they don't have to hide their lives and experiences.
- Publicly link your organization's priority issues to struggles for reproductive justice and queer liberation. You won't have to look far for opportunities. Organizations can take positions on anti-gay ballot measure or attempts to roll-back access to reproductive health care. At rallies or events, have speakers who can link your priority issues to other struggles. Do this work consistently and it will have a big impact.
- Use your member and leader development activities to engage people in political education around reproductive justice and queer liberation issues. If we provide spaces for low-income, people of color, youth, immigrant and refugee constituencies to talk about health, sexuality, families and community, we are supporting their leadership in broadening the definitions and goals of the reproductive justice and queer liberation movements.
- Do the research so that you know how members, leaders, staff and board of your organization are affected by queer oppression and the myriad of ways that reproductive health information, services and resources are denied to many communities. A member survey can surface critical information as well as be a vehicle for political education.
- Build long-term ally relationships with reproductive justice and queer organizations that are working for progressive social change. Make the effort to identify the organizations and groups based in low-income, people of color, youth and immigrant and refugee communities so that your relationships can help build their power and resources.

