

The illustration depicts a group of diverse young people engaged in various activities that symbolize building a path from the margin to the center. At the top, a group of four people walks towards the right, carrying a large yellow flag. To their left, a person in a wheelchair is also moving right. Below them, a person is using a power drill on a large yellow cube. In the center, the text 'FROM MARGIN TO CENTER' is written in large, bold, black letters, with small floral and leaf motifs around it. Below the text, a yellow banner reads 'Coming Together For Our Health, Rights, and Justice'. To the right of the banner, a person is climbing a ladder. In the foreground, three yellow cubes are arranged in a row, with people standing on them. One person is helping another climb onto the first cube. A person is standing on the second cube, and another is standing on the third cube, which is labeled 'Youth Activist Institute 2021'. A person is also standing on a ladder next to the third cube. The background is a light beige color with a subtle texture.

FROM MARGIN TO CENTER

Coming Together For Our Health, Rights, and Justice

Youth
Activist
Institute
2021

Young.
Powerful.
Taking Over.

Advocates
for Youth
Young. Powerful. Taking Over.

Welcome to Advocates for Youth's 2021 Youth Activist Institute!

FROM MARGIN TO CENTER: COMING TOGETHER FOR OUR HEALTH, RIGHTS, AND JUSTICE

We're excited to welcome young activists from around the country to the 2021 Youth Activist Institute! This year's theme is **From Margin to Center - Coming Together For Our Health, Rights, and Justice**. In this moment of multiple layers of crisis, violence, and marginalization, we are coming together to train and prepare you to build and take radical political action in the upcoming year. Over 4 days online, we hope you will connect with one another across the 10 councils in our Youth Activist Network, receive training in grassroots organizing for change, hear from speakers around a variety of topics connected to our work, and lobby members of Congress to make tangible change.

This year's theme is a nod to intersectional feminist activists who came before us, and to our worth and value as marginalized people. At Advocates, we know the unique and valuable contributions young people provide to movement building for our bodies, lives, and futures. We stress the importance of solidarity with one another while celebrating the diversity of our unique lived experiences. To end all forms of patriarchal violence and build a world where reproductive justice is achieved, we must act now to build the momentum to fight for a better world.

We know we must pull together all the resources, people, and organized groups on our side to demand what's right. We are everything we need, and we are the people we're looking for. We hope the 2021 Youth Activist Institute will support and strengthen your work in your communities, and deepen our collective commitment to organizing for all youth to have what they need to survive and thrive.

Advocates for Youth partners with youth leaders, adult allies, and youth-serving organizations to advocate for policies and champion programs that recognize young people's rights to: honest sexual health information; accessible, confidential, and affordable sexual health services; and the resources and opportunities necessary to create sexual health equity for all youth. Advocates' Youth Activist Network (YAN) consists of young people from across the US. They represent the global youth movement fighting for every young person's right to honest sexual health information and affordable sexual health services.

The YAN consists of the following groups of youth leaders:

ABORTION OUT LOUD

Abortion Out Loud, formerly the 1 in 3 Campaign, harnesses the power of storytelling, grassroots organizing, leadership development, and policy advocacy to end abortion stigma and strengthen support for young people's access to abortion. Young people refuse to be silenced as politicians aim to take away their access to care. Activists leading the Abortion Out Loud project in their community host abortion speakouts, lead public education campaigns, and work with campus and local officials to strengthen young people's access to abortion services as well as build practical support networks for young people's abortion access. Abortion Out Loud leaders are building a groundswell of youth activism for abortion access.

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES AROUND HIV ORGANIZING (ECHO)

Through ECHO, Advocates recruits, trains and supports a cohort of young people living with HIV to serve as leaders in the fight to end HIV stigma and criminalization. ECHO leaders recognize HIV's disparate impact on young people of color, including Black and Latino young men who have sex with men, and trans youth of color. Members use social media campaigns, peer education, storytelling, and media outreach to raise awareness of the interconnection between HIV disparity, racism, homophobia, and transphobia and advocate for the inclusion of youth most impacted by HIV in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs and policies that affect their health and well being. ECHO activists contribute to My Story Out Loud, a digital storytelling campaign dedicated to uplifting the narratives of young people living with HIV and LGBTQ+ youth of color across the nation.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (IYLC)

The International Youth Leadership Council (IYLC) at Advocates for Youth is a group of DC-based college students that work to advance youth sexual and reproductive health and rights in the global south. IYLC believes in using our unique opportunity as DC students to influence US foreign policy that directly harms people in other countries. We work to center the voices and needs of women, girls, and non-binary people in the global south, and work to #DecolonizeSRHR.

IYLC members work on a wide-range of issues, including such as sexuality education, international family planning and contraceptive access, abortion, global HIV and AIDS, gender equality, harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital cutting/mutilation, gender-based violence, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights. IYLC is made up of students who have ties to or strong interests in the global south and who serve as activists, advocates, and spokespeople on sexual and reproductive health and rights policies that affect young people in low and middle-income countries.

KNOW YOUR IX CAMPAIGN

Know Your IX is a survivor- and-youth-led project that aims to end sexual and dating violence in their schools. Know Your IX leaders educate college and high school students about their rights to an education free from gender violence and discrimination. Know Your IX leaders create lasting change through training, organizing, and supporting student survivor activists in challenging their educational institutions to address violence and discrimination, and advocate for policy change at the local, state, and federal levels to ensure meaningful systemic action to end gender violence.

www.knowyourix.org

2 MUSLIM YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Muslim Youth Leadership Council (MyLC) is a group of Muslim-identifying people ages 17-24 from across the country, working locally and nationally as activists, organizers, writers, leaders and more to promote LGBTQ rights, immigrant rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights for Muslims. MyLC focuses on four main areas of work: countering Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate, strengthening sexual health and reproductive rights for young Muslims, promoting LGBTQ rights and supporting queer Muslims, and working towards racial justice and countering anti-Blackness in our communities. MyLC advocates for the inclusion of young Muslim identifying people in Reproductive Justice programming and promotion of health and rights, creates resources for queer Muslim youth, and hosts the #MuslimAnd campaign.

STUDENT ORGANIZERS

The Student Organizing Team is a cohort of high school and college students who serve as youth activists leading the reproductive justice movement at the local, state, and national level. With the support of Advocates for Youth, they run strategic issue-based campaigns to bring material improvements to young people's sexual health and rights at their schools. Some of their campaigns for change in their communities include organizing for free menstrual products, free condoms, gender-neutral restrooms, and other issues in the fight for comprehensive sex education, contraceptive access, abortion access, LGBTQ health and rights, and HIV prevention.

YOUTHRESOURCE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (YOUTHRESOURCE)

YouthResource Leadership Program is designed by and for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people of color. YouthResource members advocate around LGBTQ health and rights issues on college campuses, in their communities, and at the state and federal level. A few LGBTQ health and rights issues include expanding access to PrEP, training healthcare staff on LGBTQ inclusion, adopting gender-neutral restrooms, ensuring access to HIV treatment and care. YouthResource members contribute to My Story Out Loud, a digital storytelling campaign dedicated to uplifting the narratives of LGBTQ+ youth of color across the nation.

YOUNG WOMXN OF COLOR 4 REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE COUNCIL (YWOC4RJ)

The Young Womxn of Color for Reproductive Justice Leadership Council (YWOC), a project of Advocates For Youth, is a council of 14-24 year old young women and nonbinary organizers of color who are working to educate, empower, and fight back against issues impacting their community through a reproductive justice lens. We seek to aid young people of color in harnessing their power and mobilize them in solidarity with each other to create a society free from all forms of oppression, specifically those that directly impact young womxn and nonbinary folks of color. YWOC serves as the leadership council for the YWOC4RJ Collective and regularly engages the larger

collective through online and offline activism opportunities. YWOC is currently made up of 16 activists from across the country organizing to decrease sexual health disparities in communities of color, advocating for the inclusion of young people of color in creating solutions to address the impacts of oppression, and building power with a new generation of organizers for reproductive justice.

YOUTH ACTIVIST ALLIANCE LEADERS

Youth Activist Alliance Leaders are youth organizers who run local or state-level grassroots campaigns for change in youth sexual health and rights and reproductive justice. By joining our Youth Activist Network (YAN), youth serve as local lead organizers for a city, county or state alliance. By co-creating bold visions in the fight for a world free from oppression, each alliance will launch their own campaign for change targeting their county and city councils, school boards, and state legislatures, and build up a powerful base of young activists committed to the movement for reproductive justice.

FREE THE PILL

The Free the Pill youth council is a cohort of youth organizers working to build public support for the #FreeThePill campaign, a national effort to bring a birth control pill over the counter, covered by insurance, and without age restrictions. The youth council highlights the specific barriers that young people face to getting the care they need, especially young people of color and LGBTQ young people. In addition to this national work, Free the Pill council members work to expand access to contraception at the state and local level.

THE THREE R'S

Advocates for Youth envisions a society in which all young people are valued, respected, and treated with dignity; sexuality is accepted as a healthy part of being human; and youth sexual development is recognized as normal. In such a world, all youth and young adults would be celebrated for who they are and provided with the economic, educational, and social opportunities to reach their full potential. Society would recognize young people's rights to honest sexual health education and provide confidential and affordable access to culturally appropriate, youth-friendly sexual health education and services, so that all young people would have the opportunity to thrive.

Advocates' vision is informed by its core values of Rights. Respect. Responsibility.

Advocates believes that:

- Youth have the inalienable right to honest sexual health information; confidential, consensual sexual health services; and equitable opportunities to reach their full potential.
- Youth deserve respect. Valuing young people means authentically involving them in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs and policies that affect their health and well-being.
- Society has the responsibility to provide young people with all of the tools they need to safeguard their sexual health.*

*This has been adapted from Advocates for Youth full vision statement around Rights. Respect. Responsibility. Our full vision statement can be found: <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/about-us/the-3rs>.

Youth Activist Institute: Creating a Learning Space for All

The Youth Activist Institute is committed to creating a positive learning environment for all participants. We want everyone to learn a lot, meet fierce activists from across the country and feel good about connecting with each other as we build a stronger sexual and reproductive rights movement together. To that end, we want to remind everyone of Advocates' core values that are essential to maintaining a respectful environment for all.

- Youth have the **right** to honest sexual health information; confidential sexual health services; and equitable opportunities to reach their full potential.
- Youth deserve **respect**.
- Society has the **responsibility** to provide young people with all of the tools they need to safeguard their sexual health.*

During the Youth Activist Institute, Advocates for Youth strives to create a learning space that is as positive and inclusive as possible for all youth activists and staff. We know that there will be moments during our time together where you will be challenged and exposed to new experiences. We encourage everyone to bring their full self into the space. Acknowledging that we are here to learn and grow together.

A learning space that is both positive and inclusive is:

- One where everyone feels supported, included and encouraged to be themselves;
- Where each person is recognized as a diverse individual connected to a community;
- Where diversity is recognized, accepted and celebrated between and among individuals and groups;
- Where we challenge each other, learn from each other and grow stronger together; and
- Where dignity, safety and respect for all individuals and groups is realized.

By entering the Youth Activist Institute, we have a shared commitment to reaching our goal of fostering an inclusive environment for all participants. As such, here are our guidelines to ensure our inclusive space becomes a reality:

- Be open to educate and to learn from others.
- Respect peoples' opinions, beliefs, experiences and differing points of view.
- Respect everyone's identity and background, including pronouns and names. Do not assume anyone's race, ethnicity, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, educational background, survivor status, economic status, immigration status, health, abortion experiences, HIV status, parenting status or abilities.
- Be responsible for your own actions. Be aware that your actions have an effect on others, despite what your intentions may be. Listen and be open to reflecting, and if needed adjust your behavior if someone tells you that you are making them uncomfortable.
- Be aware of your prejudices and privileges and the space you take up.

The Youth Activist Institute is proud to host a beautiful and diverse community of youth activists where diversity in race, ethnicity, age, ability, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, educational background, country of origin, HIV status, and economic status is welcome. It is all of our responsibility to ensure that each member of the Advocates for Youth family feels welcomed and affirmed.

If at any time you feel that our Learning Space Statement has been violated by another youth activist or staff members please reach out to your youth program coordinator or a staff member of Advocates for Youth whom you trust.



Cultural Responsiveness

Cultural Responsiveness means acknowledging and responding to different backgrounds, worldviews, and lived realities of different people in our lives. It's a lifelong process which requires understanding of our own biases, how those biases affect our actions, and trying to understand the beliefs, traditions, and values of others. At the Youth Activist Institute we will all work together on developing an understanding of how we feel and think, on examining our biases, and on becoming more culturally responsive. Developing cultural responsiveness is a crucial part of being an advocate for reproductive and sexual health, rights and justice. It helps us better understand and advocate more effectively for and with youth from a variety of backgrounds.

What do we mean by "Culture"?

A person's culture is their set of shared values, goals, beliefs, and practices that they hold and that they share with each other. Family, friends, community, and other ideas can all contribute to someone's culture. People can be part of different culture. People with similar backgrounds and experiences often have similar points of view. To understand a culture is to understand a particular worldview.

What do we mean by "Social Inequities"?

Our society gives people unequal access to things like education, career opportunities, money, and power based on particular attributes such as cultural identity, gender, skin color, national origin, sexual orientation, and gender identity, among others. Based on these attributes some people have greater and easier access to resources than others. We talk about these people as having privilege. People that experience barriers to these resources because of these attributes face oppression.

Every person has more than a single cultural identity and, thus, in different situations, varied experiences of privilege or oppression. Many people are privileged in some ways, yet may be oppressed in others. For instance, a person might experience the privilege of being white or a cisgender male, but may also face the oppression of being a member of the LGBTQ community or undocumented. We should be mindful of the ways we're privileged and keep in mind others experiences privilege and oppression as well. Being cultural competent means examining our privileges, biases and notions about cultures not our own and working to understand how social inequities shape a person's reality. It also means working to bring those social inequities to an end.

How do we become 'culturally responsive'?

Work on becoming self-aware

Self-awareness means thoroughly examining our own lifestyle, thoughts, and assumptions—particularly our cultural assumptions. For example, our inner feelings about affirmative action, immigration laws, gay marriage, transgender rights and hate crimes often make clear our cultural attitudes and biases.

Begin to analyze ourselves

How do our attitudes, values, and beliefs determine the ways we interact with others? We need to look at how our cultural upbringing impacts the ways we think about cultural and ethnic groups that differ from our own. What attitudes did we unknowingly form at an early age? How do our actions reflect those attitudes and what real world experience shows these attitudes to be unfair and/or hurtful to others?

Take concrete steps, including:

- Being intentionally aware of and sensitive to each of our own cultural heritages and respecting and valuing other heritages
- Having good understating of the power structures in society and how non-dominant groups are treated
- Being aware of institutional barriers that prevent members of disadvantaged groups from using organizational and societal resources
- Show by your behavior that you are working toward cultural responsiveness

Show by your behavior that you are working toward cultural responsiveness

- Don't assume that someone has particular values or characteristics because they belong to a certain race, religion, ethnic group, or other cultural group
- When you encounter a belief or custom that is unfamiliar, don't react negatively, either verbally, or with body language. Have an open mind about new experiences and differences across cultures
- Examine your own bias. If your assumptions, statements, or behaviors are challenged, respond thoughtfully, rather than defensively. Committing to an honest discussion will be more productive than arguing.

Throughout our lives we meet new people and enter new contexts that challenge our assumptions and beliefs. The process of becoming more culturally responsive can shape our activism for the better.

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Speaker Bios

Opening Speaker



PARK CANNON she/her

Rep. Park Cannon is a Georgia State Representative, one of two openly queer lawmakers in the Georgia General Assembly and its youngest. She represents House District 58 which encompasses a diverse cross-section of Atlanta.

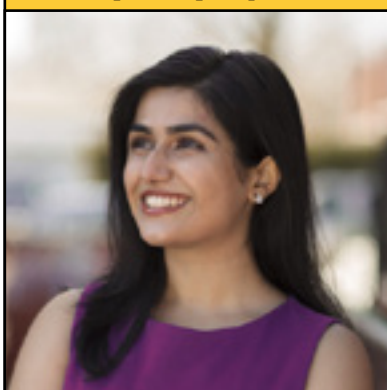
The Democratic lawmaker recently made national headlines when she was unlawfully arrested and removed from the Georgia Capitol after she knocked on the door to the Republican governor's office during his signing of SB 202, a restrictive law that limits voting rights in the state. Republicans rushed the bill through both chambers of the legislature a few hours before he signed it into law. It has been harshly criticized nationwide for disenfranchising Black voters, is being challenged in court and is being dubbed Jim Crow 2.0.

Rep. Cannon champions a range of social justice causes and her legislative efforts focus on education, jobs, and health care. Rep. Cannon seeks to stop the erosion of affordability for basic needs which she believes are the foundations of social stability. She also devotes her legislative work to protecting Georgia's most vulnerable citizens: women and children, the elderly and the LGBTQ+ community. She has worked to address maternal mortality rates and the HIV epidemic in Georgia, housing affordability and extending protections to victims of family violence and sexual assault.

Rep. Cannon attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Hispanic Linguistics and a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics, and minored in Women's and Gender Studies. During her time at UNC Chapel Hill, Rep. Cannon was named a Camões Award Recipient and inducted into the Order of The Old Well. She also participated in the Harvard Kennedy School of Government's Executive Education State and Local Government program. She was named by the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) as a Bohnett LGBTQ Leaders Fellow and studied police accountability.

Rep. Cannon has been honored for her service to numerous organizations including SisterSong, the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, NOBEL Women, the League of Women Voters, National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), and the Atlanta NAACP. She was named a CALS Fellow and Henry Toll Fellow by the Council of State Governments and also participated in the Atlanta Regional Commission's Leadership Institute.

Lobby Day Speaker



JASLIN KAUR she/her

Jaslin Kaur is based in Queens, New York where she has worked on local progressive campaigns, and was a former candidate for NYC city council where she received endorsements from Bernie Sanders and AOC. She is a former organizer with Know Your IX where she trained student leaders to bring their student bodies together to make their campuses and our state safer and more supportive for survivors of assault, abuse, and gender discrimination. Prior, Jaslin worked at New American Leaders where she supported projects for a national network of first-time, immigrant elected officials and worked in policy and communications for the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum on a range of national immigration and reproductive justice issues including healthcare access and detention and deportation. She is most interested in anti-carceral political education on state-sanctioned violence and gender-based

violence. Jaslin holds a B.A. in Women & Gender Studies and Human Rights from CUNY Hunter College and an A.A. in Liberal Arts from Nassau Community College. In her free time, Jaslin is often experimenting in the kitchen or training in karate and yoga.

Youth Panelists

Youth Panel Facilitator



PONNY WHITE she/her

Minnesota Youth Activist Alliance leader. This is my fourth year with Advocates, I graduated Minnesota State University Moorhead in 2020 with a double Bachelors in political science and multimedia journalism with an emphasis in women's and gender studies. I work on child care policies and racial justice work as well as reproductive justice advocacy. I am a July Leo puuuurrrr. And the greatest lesson 2020-2021 has given me is the importance of letting go and prioritizing my health and safety.

Youth Panelist



AUDIN LEUNG they/them

Audin Leung is the Co-founder and Political Director of Free The Period, a student-led coalition fighting to end period poverty (the lack of access to menstrual healthcare) in California. They graduated from UC Davis, where their experience with sexual assault woke them to the personal as political and their power to bring about change in the conditions that govern our lives. This year, they led an effort to pass The California Menstrual Equity For All Act (AB367) which would make free menstrual products available in public schools throughout the state.

Youth Panelist



KAYLA QUIMBLEY she/her

Kayla is a graduate of Columbus State University where she obtained her B.S. in psychology. She has been in advocacy for 7 years, and is very passionate about HIV field work and policy advisory. She currently works closely with her local state representative in an effort to decriminalize laws that are harmful to those living with HIV. Her ultimate goal is to destigmatize and educate people about HIV on a broad scale and to create a space of inclusion for those living with HIV.

Youth Panelist



PALVASHA KHAN she/her

Palvasha Khan (she/her) is a Freshman at Williams College and a member of the Muslim Youth Leadership Council. She is currently the Hive Coordinator for TREEage, a youth led organization fighting for climate justice in New York City. She is passionate about creating a just society that works for everyone regardless of their background, and has actively worked to elect candidates that do just that.

Workshop Facilitators

Workshop Facilitator



NOOR ZK they/them

is a passionate lifelong community organizer, dedicated to creating and practicing strategies for resistance, survival, accountability, and joy. They are a disabled queer and trans activist, educator, artist, and sex worker of South Asian descent. In 2013 they co-founded Cicada Collective, a QTPOC-centered reproductive justice organization that helps reduce the barriers to reproductive care for all by providing abortion access support, doula trainings, trans community networks, and comprehensive sex & gender education in North Texas and beyond. They are a leader of the Sex Workers Outreach Project in Austin, where they help cultivate safer spaces and redistribute resources for sex workers in need, and a coordinator at Inside Books Project Archive, where they help manage a collection of art and writing submitted by incarcerated individuals across the U.S.A. They also volunteer their free time at Buckle Bunnies Fund, an autonomous abortion fund and access portal created by a group of young queer Texans. They are an abortion doula, but also have experience providing doula support through general medical experiences, grief/loss, gender affirming procedures, and other circumstances requiring companion care.

Workshop Facilitator



KINJO KIEMA she/her

is the Associate Director of Youth Organizing, where she works to expand, engage, and mobilize Advocates' vast Youth Activist Network. She also manages the Young Womxn of Color for Reproductive Justice Leadership Council, a group of 14-24 year old young womxn of color who are working to organize around issues impacting their community through a reproductive justice lens. Her activist expertise was developed at George Washington University where she received a BA in American Studies and led successful on-campus campaigns as a leader in two progressive student organizations, the Roosevelt Institute and Students for Justice in Palestine. Prior to working at Advocates, she was an Organizer at Service Employees International Union (SEIU), where she organized workers to take collective action and form a union.

Workshop Facilitator



SAGE CARSON she/her

is the manager of Know Your IX, a youth and survivor lead program that aims to empower students to end gender violence in their schools. KYIX trains students about their legal rights, teaches students how to engage in activism and organizing, and advocates for policy changes at the campus, state, and federal levels. She began working with KYIX in 2015 to successfully defeat a mandatory police referral bill in Delaware. She has worked and volunteered as an advocate for survivors of gender violence in the criminal legal system, on campus, and in her community. She was the Delaware State Organizer for Rise, a survivor lead organization that was responsible for passing the national Survivor's Bill of Rights. She previously worked as the campaign coordinator for She Decide Delaware, where she successfully passed a bill that codified Roe v. Wade into the Delaware state code. She is a graduate of the University of Delaware where she studied Anthropology and Women and Gender Studies with a concentration in Domestic Violence Prevention and Services.

Workshop Facilitator



HAIZE she/her

is a 28 year old Black, Cuban, Argentinian queer community organizer in Washington DC. She organizes around racial justice, queer justice, spiritual evolution, prison abolition and does so on the foundation of Black liberation above all else. Haize believes freeing your mind and spirit of the chains of colonialism and white supremacy is key to freeing our bodies and communities and passionately pours her knowledge into her community whenever possible. She acts as an independent concerned citizen and intentionally does not attach herself to any organizations so she can move freely and help her community with zero confines. At her core, Haize stands for radical love, self expression, connection to self, Spirit and ancestors, unconventional learning and unity amongst Black, brown, indigenous, LAGBTQQAIPNB2S people for a better future for us all.

Mutual Aid Panelists

Mutual Aid Moderator



MAKAYLA MONTOYA FRAZIER she/her

Makayla Montoya Frazier is a community sexual health specialist and reproductive justice organizer in San Antonio TX. She is fighting for the decriminalization & liberation of bodies through mutual aid. Co-founder of Buckle Bunnies Fund, Makayla funds abortions across Texas alongside other volunteers.

Mutual Aid Panelist



PEARL RICKS they/them

Pearl Ricks is a whole person with many skills and hobbies. In this arena, we'll know them as a social change writer, Louisiana community member, and the Executive Director and founding member of what is now the Reproductive Justice Action Collective or ReJAC. Being a Black, trans/gender expansive person, they have experienced the joys, triumphs, beauties, and complexities of their identities; as well as the discrimination, harassment, and violence that stemmed from being Black, fat, queer, trans, nonbinary, etc. Seeking empowerment in those experiences, Pearl works at the intersections Reproductive Justice, strategic communications, and community collaborations to create, support, or maintain meaningful action and change.

Mutual Aid Panelist



LAKIA WILLIAMS she/her

LaKia Williams is a recent May 2021 college graduate with a B.S. in Neuroscience and a minor in Africana Studies, she is the Digital Organizer for SisterSong where she oversees many of the social media and digital organizing efforts as well as the youth outreach initiatives.

LaKia created a sexual and reproductive health mutual aid program, Big Easy EC, providing free Plan B, condoms, and pregnancy tests to students at two universities. LaKia is also the host of the Black Feminist Rants Podcasts that cover topics relating to Black Feminism and Reproductive Justice through the experiences of young Black feminists. LaKia has been featured in Ms. Magazine and Mashable for her Reproductive Justice activism and organizing.

Mutual Aid Panelist



NICHOLAS L HATCHER he/they

Nicholas L Hatcher is a writer and artist passionate about building infrastructure for people of color with intersectional identities. They founded Triple Threat Strategies to provide strategic communications and messaging support to those working to advance social justice. They also organized with Ward 1 Mutual Aid in Washington, DC for over a year and helped convene a city-wide summit to discuss mutual aid efforts one-year pandemic lockdowns began in the city. Nick is an alum of the Rising Organizers Fellowship and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where they received the Walter S. Spearman Award.



Friday Agenda

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

• ALL TIMES EST •

BUILDING COMMUNITY

5 PM

Welcome and Youth Activist Spotlight Panel 5:00pm - 5:45pm

Council Introductions (Part 1) 5:45pm - 6:05pm

6 PM

Opening Plenary Speaker: Park Cannon (she/her) 6:05pm - 6:45pm

20 minute break 6:45pm - 7:05pm

7 PM

Council Introductions (Part 2) 7:05pm - 7:30pm

"Speed dating" and Closing

8 PM

7:40pm - 8:10pm



Saturday Agenda

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

• ALL TIMES EST •

2 PM

Grounding Activity and Short Video (What Reproductive Justice Means to Us)
2:30pm - 2:45pm

3 PM

Individual Council Training
2:45pm - 4:15pm

4 PM

30 minute break 4:15pm - 4:45pm

5 PM

Workshops Block
4:45pm - 6:00pm

- **Care not Cages:** Organizing to Divest from Policing and Invest in Reproductive Justice - Kinjo Kiema
- **Protest, healing, and community care** - Haize
- **Gender Expansive Communities and Abortion** - Noor ZK
- **From States to SCOTUS:** How the courts have been rigged to limit progressive power and what activists can do to reclaim the courts - Sage Carson

6 PM

15 minute break 6:00pm - 6:15pm

Individual Council Training
6:15pm - 7:30pm

7 PM

Trivia & Raffle 7:30pm - 7:45pm

8 PM

Project Runway [in your house] 7:45pm - 8:45pm



Sunday Agenda

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

• ALL TIMES EST •

1 PM

Individual Council Training

2 PM

1:30pm - 3:15pm

3 PM

30 minute break 3:15pm - 3:45pm

PANEL

4 PM

From Margin to Center: Bringing Community Solidarity to The Forefront Through Mutual Aid 3:45pm - 5:15pm

- Nick Hatcher - DC Ward 1 Mutual Aid
- LaKia Williams - SisterSong/YWOC Alum
- Pearl Ricks - ReJAC/Plan B Nola

5 PM

15 minute break 5:15pm - 5:30pm

Policy Training 5:30pm - 7:30pm

6 PM

Centering our Voices, Reclaiming our Power through Lobbying

- Introduction
- Keynote Speaker - Jaslin Kaur
- Lobbying 101
- Ask Overview and Practice (WHPA & Equality Act)
- Roleplay
- Questions and Coordination

7 PM

Trivia & Raffle 7:30pm - 7:45pm



Monday Agenda

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

• ALL TIMES EST •

LOBBY DAY

10 PM

East Coast Meetings (East and Central Offices) 10:00am - 12:00pm

11 PM

12 PM

West Coast Meetings (West and Mountain Offices) 12:00pm - 2:00pm

1 PM

2 PM

3 PM

Lobby Day Debrief 3:30pm - 4:00pm

4 PM

Youth Activist Institute Closing 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Workshop Descriptions

Gender Expansive Communities and Abortion: Nuances in Disclosure, Safety, How to Navigate Abortion and Healthcare as a Gender Expansive Person

Facilitator: Noor ZK

In this workshop, we will begin by examining and breaking down social constructs of gender, and commonly gendered terms and experiences in the medical industrial complex. Participants will be given opportunities to practice using different pronouns in the context of navigating healthcare, share strategies to intervene when encountering cis-centric doctors or facilities, and learn the basics of how to advocate for self and others in a gendered setting. All participants will have opportunities to co-learn about and share examples of successful (or unsuccessful) methods of disclosure, safety, and navigating abortion and healthcare as gender expansive people.

All participants are encouraged to talk and share mindfully during breakout groups, however participation in larger group discussions may be limited to those who openly identify as trans, non-binary, intersex, agender, or otherwise gender-diverse / non-cis. Unless stated otherwise, cis attendees are requested to submit questions to the speaker in writing only, and to “step back” or limit vocal participation (while actively listening, learning, and practicing) during small and large groups to facilitate an environment that centers the lived experiences and safety of trans and gender diverse individuals. We recognize that not all individuals are comfortable being “out” in front of their peers, and encourage those of you who do not want to be outed to participate at whatever level is comfortable for you. We will not be policing anyone’s identity or appearance - these guidelines are entirely self-enforced; if you know you are cis, please be mindful of leaving space for trans and gender diverse people to discuss and share, while also valuing the experience of getting to witness and learn from hearing the perspectives of your gender expansive peers. We welcome and encourage trans and gender diverse individuals to openly share your questions and thoughts, but be cautious that there are cis attendees who will be watching, listening, and learning, so only share what you are comfortable being heard saying in an audience with varying gender identities. No oppressive speech or behavior will be tolerated in this space.

Protest, Healing, and Community Care

Facilitator: Haize

Protest is a method of disruption that we use in our fight for a better world, but it is also a radical way of taking space in a world that constantly denies our existence. Oftentimes, though, participating in protest, as well as living as a marginalized person, can result in trauma and feelings of disconnection from our surroundings. Join Haize, a DC community organizer, in learning about harnessing the power of protest, healing from pain and trauma, and developing methods of community care. This workshop will involve an open discussion of connecting to your personal faith, protecting + cleansing yourself spiritually when dealing with so many emotionally charged situations and people, connecting to your community by deepening your connection to self, the beautiful role healing plays in our lives and a guided meditation to help us connect to our bodies. Feel free to bring your own questions regarding healing, grief and spirituality!

Care not Cages: Organizing to Divest from Policing and Invest in Reproductive Justice

Facilitator: Kinjo Kiema

During this workshop, participants will learn about the intersections between the movements for abolition and reproductive justice, receive training in how to run a campaign for divesting from policing and investing in things young people need, and hear from a panel of local leaders who have led successful campaigns in their local communities.

From States to SCOTUS: How the courts have been rigged to limit progressive power and what activists can do to reclaim the courts

Facilitator: Sage Carson

For decades, conservatives have been working to rig the courts to limit the progress of the progressive movement. Thanks to court packing and gerrymandering, courts have become policy making bodies aimed at furthering conservative causes that lack constituent support. Join us to demystify the judiciary and learn about how the courts have been rigged against us and what young activists can do to reclaim the courts.

Ready to Take Action?

Get Involved in Advocates for Youth's Campaigns

Advocates for Youth runs a variety of campaigns that are open to youth activists across Advocates' programs. Read the descriptions below to see what interests you.

THE CONDOM COLLECTIVE



The Condom Collective is a youth-led grassroots movement to make condoms available to every student who needs them. Contraceptives should be a right for all, and our SafeSites give free condoms to people who need them in their communities. College students in all 50 states give out 1,000,000 Trojan Brand condoms on their campuses a year and organize to increase access to contraceptives. Our collective takes action to give young people

access to free condoms, promote sexual health, advocate for condoms to be widely available, and make their communities a better place. For more information email Anu Sharma, Youth Activist Network Manager at anu@advocatesforyouth.org

#MYSTORYOUTLOUD



(mystoryOUTloud.org) is a digital storytelling campaign dedicated to uplifting the narratives of LGBTQ+ youth of

color across the nation by capturing OUR stories, our experiences, our truths. #MyStoryOUTloud is a safer, liberated space for queer and trans youth of color to find the power in their own journeys and to find connection in the journeys of others like us. To get involved, email Armonte Butler, Senior Program Manager, LGBTQ Health and Rights, at Armonte@advocatesforyouth.org

YOUNG WOMXN OF COLOR FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE



The Young Womxn of Color for Reproductive Justice Leadership Council (YWOC), a project of Advocates For Youth, is a council of 14-24 year old young women and nonbinary organizers of color who are working to educate, empower, and fight back against issues impacting their community through a reproductive justice lens. We seek to aid young people of color in harnessing their

power and mobilize them in solidarity with each other to create a society free from all forms of oppression, specifically those that directly impact young womxn and nonbinary folks of color. YWOC serves as the leadership council for the YWOC4RJ Collective and regularly engages the larger collective through online and offline activism opportunities. YWOC is currently made up of 16 activists from across the country organizing to decrease sexual health disparities in communities of color, advocating for the inclusion of young people of color in creating solutions to address the impacts of oppression, and building power with a new generation of organizers for reproductive justice. For more information email Kinjo Kiema, Associate Director of Youth Organizing & Manager of Young Womxn of Color Leadership Programs, at kinjo@advocatesforyouth.org

ABORTION OUT LOUD



Abortion Out Loud, formerly the 1 in 3 Campaign, harnesses the power of storytelling, grassroots organizing, leadership development, and policy advocacy to end abortion

stigma and strengthen support for young people's access to abortion. Young people refuse to be silenced as politicians aim to take away their access to care. Activists leading the Abortion Out Loud project in their community host abortion speakouts, lead public education campaigns, and work with campus and local officials to strengthen young people's access to abortion services. Abortion Out Loud leaders are building a groundswell of youth activism for abortion access.

For more information email Marandah Field-Elliott, State Campaign Manager for Abortion Access, at Marandah@advocatesforyouth.org

NATIONAL YOUTH HIV AND AIDS AWARENESS DAY



National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day (April 10) is a day to educate the public about the impact of HIV and AIDS on young people as well as highlight the amazing work young people are doing across the country to fight the HIV & AIDS epidemic. NYHAAD is observed on campuses and communities across the nation through in-person

and online events and advocacy.

For more information email Armonte Butler, Senior Program Manager, LGBTQ Health and Rights, at NYHAAD@advocatesforyouth.org

KNOW YOUR IX



Know Your IX is a survivor- and youth-led campaign that aims to empower students to end sexual and dating violence in their schools. We envision a world in which all students

can pursue their civil right to educations free from violence and harassment. We accomplish our mission through: Educating college and high school students in the United States about their legal rights to safe educations free from gender-based harms; Training, organizing, and supporting student survivor activists in challenging their educational institutions to address violence and discrimination; Advocating for policy change at the campus, state, and federal levels to ensure meaningful systemic action to end gender violence. To get involved or find out more, email Sage, Senior Manager of the Know Your IX Campaign, at sage@advocatesforyouth.org

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