

REPRO SHABBAT

JAN 28-29, 2022



NCJ TM 

National Council of Jewish Women

Language Best Practices

We know that abortion is a very charged and personal topic for a lot of people, so here are a few guides to some of what's understood to be best practices for language use, so that everyone in your community can feel as included and cared for as possible over the course of Repro Shabbat, and beyond:

Instead of:
"Safe, Legal, and Rare"



Say:
"Support abortion access"

Why? Demanding that abortion be "rare" stigmatizes those who do have abortions.

Instead of:
"Women"



Say:
"People who need abortion access" or "patients"

Why? Some trans men and some non-binary people also need access to abortion care. "People" or "patients" is more accurate and inclusive.

Instead of:
"Pro-Choice"



Say:
**"Pro-abortion access,"
"pro-reproductive freedom,"
"pro-reproductive health care," or "abortion justice"**

Why? Not everyone has the same choices when it comes to abortion; "pro-choice" flattens issues of access, and how immigration, poverty, racism, incarceration, and other issues impact people's reproductive lives.

Instead of:
"Vulnerable"



Say:
"Impacted"

Why? "Vulnerable" connotes a savior attitude, rather than focusing on the agency of those in need of abortion access.

Some Other Useful Terms

Abortion justice is a framework for achieving reproductive freedom that centers the experience of — and focuses attention on removing roadblocks from — those most affected by restrictions on abortion care, most commonly Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), people with disabilities/disabled people, immigrants, people struggling financially, transgender and non-binary people, and young people.

NCJW uses the Reproductive Justice framework to inform our advocacy work. The phrase “Reproductive Justice” refers to a specific movement founded and led by Black women and nonbinary people though some other people of color-led Reproductive Justice organizations have joined the movement as well. As such, the phrase “Reproductive Justice” should only be used to describe this specific movement. In *Our Own Voice: National Black Women’s Reproductive Justice Agenda* defines Reproductive Justice as “the human right to control our sexuality, our gender, our work, and our reproduction. That right can only be achieved when all women and girls have the complete economic, social, and political power and resources to make healthy decisions about our bodies, our families, and our communities in all areas of our lives. At the core of Reproductive Justice is the belief that all women have the right to have children; the right to not have children and; the right to nurture the children we have in a safe and healthy environment.” This includes, but extends beyond, the work of abortion justice. To learn more about Reproductive Justice, you can visit <https://blackrj.org>.

Jewish leaders can pave the way for culture change in Jewish spaces.

- Model to community members how to talk about abortion without fear or stigma, using inclusive language.
- Make spaces where people can be welcomed and comfortable talking about their experiences around abortion, fertility challenges, pregnancy loss, uncertainty with regards to reproductive decisions, being childfree, and every other kind of issue related to their reproductive lives.
- Create spaces where people can listen empathetically and respond thoughtfully.
- Understand that given how strong the wider cultural forces are, culture change towards inclusivity might not happen overnight —but it can happen.
- Get your community involved in the work of learning about and advocacy for reproductive freedom. 73Forward.org is a great starting place.



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