NWSA: One Year After The Dobbs Decision

One year ago, when SCOTUS issued their decision in the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization case, they not only reversed 49 years of precedent and disproportionately impacted economically challenged communities of color and marginalized groups who were already navigating the existing healthcare obstacles, but they undermined the health, privacy, autonomy, and safety of all women, girls, and people with wombs.

At that time, the National Women's Studies Association felt compelled to speak out against this decision. It has been a challenging year, and we are still alarmed, concerned, and furious. That decision represented the culmination of work by the conservative right over several decades to reverse Roe v. Wade (1973) and give states the ultimate authority to govern, police, and oversee our most personal decisions about our bodies. This was a complete reversal of the Roe decision—in that case, they concluded that the constitutional rights to privacy and liberty protected a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy. Justice Harry Blackmun, who wrote the opinion for the majority, noted that while "the Constitution does not explicitly mention any right to privacy," several prior decisions had found "a guarantee of certain areas or zones of privacy." This guarantee of privacy is grounded in several amendments within the Bill of Rights and in the 14th Amendment's guarantee of liberty, which, taken together, "create zones of privacy in areas of society such as marriage, contraception, family relationships, and child-rearing."

Since the Dobbs decision, at least 20 states have enacted a near or full ban on abortion. Multiple states are discussing and debating legislation designed to attack, deny, or limit our ability to make our own reproductive choices. We have also seen some states fight back as 25 states, including Washington, DC, have passed laws protecting abortion, and in some cases providing funding, shielding those seeking or providing abortions, and protecting people from other states coming into their states seeking an abortion. To be clear, NWSA, the world's largest network of feminist scholars, educators, and activists, unequivocally affirms that a person's right to govern their body is a fundamental human right that must be enshrined into law in every state.

As we take a moment to stop and recognize how hard it has been over the past year, we urge you (again) to practice radical and intentional self-care. We need you to be healthy and prepared for whatever is coming next. We are in the midst of a fight for our lives and our livelihoods, and we must continue to push back and speak out. As we continue to prepare for our Annual Conference in
Baltimore, we want to take every available moment to organize and push back. We must remember that they will try to silence us. They will try to stop us. They will try to bury us, but they do not realize that we are seeds, and we will grow where we are planted and fight where we bloom.

In love and solidarity,
Karsonya Wise Whitehead, NWSA President
Erica Williams, NWSA Secretary
Domonique Hill, NWSA Member-at-Large
Beverly Guy Sheftall, NWSA Past President

Resources for people seeking access to healthcare

Amnesty.org - Basic facts about Abortion
Gynopedia - a nonprofit organization that runs an open resource wiki for sexual, reproductive, and women's health care around the world
Guttmacher Institute - a primary source for research and policy analysis on abortion in the United States.
National Abortion Federation - The mission of the National Abortion Federation is to unite, represent, serve, and support abortion providers in delivering patient-centered, evidence-based care.
National Network of Abortion Funds - connects you with organizations that can support your financial and logistical needs as you arrange for your abortion.
Planned Parenthood - A Comprehensive Guide for Unplanned Pregnancy
RAINN - National Sexual Assault Hotline
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice - a network of ministers and rabbis that refer women to abortion providers they had researched and found to be safe
Texas Equal Access Fund - provides emotional and financial support to people who are seeking abortion care.
Women's Reproductive Rights Assistance Project - helps bridge the financial gap for women who seek an abortion or emergency contraceptives.

If you need help getting an abortion go to these sites
AbortionFinder - With more than 750 health centers, AbortionFinder.org features the most comprehensive directory of trusted (and verified) abortion service providers in the United States.
**Afiya Center** - their mission is to transform the lives, health, and overall wellbeing of Black women and girls by providing refuge, education, and resources. They act to ignite the communal voices of Black women resulting in our full achievement of reproductive freedom.

**AidAccess** - consists of a team of doctors, activists, and advocates for abortion rights that help people access abortion or miscarriage treatment. They send the pill worldwide for $110/90€

**Bridge Collective** - provides practical and responsive abortion services to Central Texas

**Buckle Bunnies Fund** - provide practical support for people seeking abortions. Help with transportation, funds to help with hotels, lodging costs and emergency contraceptive funds to actually go towards abortion.

**Carafem** - helps with abortion, birth control, and questions about reproductive healthcare. They do consultations online and send abortion pills in the mail.

**Cobalt Abortion Fund** - provides direct financial assistance to individuals seeking abortion care. Our mission is to work toward reproductive freedom for all people and to provide financial assistance without judgment or question to people who seek an abortion but are unable to pay the full cost.

**Colorado Abortion Providers**

**Faith Aloud** - compassionate religious and spiritual support for abortion and pregnancy options

**Frontera Fund** - makes abortion accessible in the Rio Grande Valley (Texas) by providing financial and practical support regardless of immigration status, gender identity, ability, sexual orientation, race, class, age, or religious affiliation and to build grassroots organizing power at intersecting issues across our region to shift the culture of shame and stigma.

**HeyJane** - Modern abortion care, without the clinic, Get fast, safe, and affordable abortion care from home. Chat with a medical provider within 36 hours. Medications are shipped daily.

**International Consortium on Emergency Contraception** - Emergency Oral Contraceptive Doses for Birth Control, U.S.

**Jane’s Due Process** - helps minors in Texas with judicial bypass for abortion, navigate parental consent laws and confidentially access abortion and birth control. They provide free legal support, 1-on-1 case management, and stigma-free information on sexual and reproductive health.

**Justice Empowerment Network** - focuses on abortion access in South Dakota

**Kentucky Health Justice Network** - helps w both abortion care and gender affirming care in Kentucky

**Lillith Fund** - the oldest abortion fund in Texas, serving the central and southern regions of the state with direct financial assistance for abortions.

**Northwest Abortion Access Fund** - provides funds to help folks in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska
Plan C Pills - provides up-to-date information on how people in the U.S. are accessing abortion pills online

Planned Parenthood

Westfund - focuses on Latino and low-income communities

Women on Web - an online abortion service can help you do a safe abortion with pills.