

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

STAND WITH US TO PROTECT OUR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM AND JUSTICE FOR ALL WOMEN

CHOICE JUSTICE ACCESS HEALTH ABORTION GLOBAL AND FAMILY PLANNING

Bay Area Women in Black vigils to support the March for Women's Lives for reproductive freedom and justice for all women being held in Washington, D.C. and around the United States today.

We stand to protect our right to birth control, emergency contraception, abortion and all reproductive health services as well as our right to have children and plan our own families according to our own personal, religious and moral beliefs.

We stand with girls and women who live with the fears and devastation of poverty, war, intolerance and sexual violence that limit their choices. And we stand with the fathers, lovers, husbands, brothers and sons who care about us.

Women's right to abortion is at risk. In 1992, the US Supreme Court almost overturned their previous decision, Roe v. Wade, giving women the right to choose abortion. The addition of even one more anti-choice Justice could result in either overturning Roe v. Wade or so weakening this right that many women will effectively be forced to back alleys for abortions.

At the state level, restriction after restriction is being passed to limit access to family planning and abortion, especially for poor women and young women.

International family planning funding has been cut back. Under the Global Gag Rule reinstated by President Bush, foreign family planning agencies may not receive U.S. assistance if they provide abortion services, including counseling or referrals on abortion, or lobby to make or keep abortion legal in their own country.

ACCESS TO FAMILY PLANNING HEALTH CARE IS BEING ERODED:

- Women of color have disproportionately high maternal and infant mortality rates.
- Federal health programs will not pay for most abortions for poor women.
- Bans on abortion procedures deceptively named "partial-birth abortions" are written to criminalize safe abortion procedures.
- Every minute, somewhere in the world, a woman dies in pregnancy or childbirth.
- Family planning would save at least 25% of those women's lives by preventing high risk pregnancies.
- Well over 100 million women alive today will experience an unsafe abortion at least once in their lifetime. Restricting aid to family planning clinics is increasing this number.
- More than 75,000 women die each year from complications due to unsafe abortion, often leaving helpless newborns and older children behind.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Register to Vote and be sure to Vote for local and national Pro-Choice Candidates
- Send a letter to your Senators and Representatives stating your firm belief in a woman's right to choose a safe, legal abortion and a woman's right to birth control. Invite your friends to send a letter too.
- Support women's continued right to decide these fundamental issues of our lives. The future of our reproductive rights is at stake
- Contact the co-sponsors of the March and see how you can get involved in the coming months.

WWW.MARCH FOR WOMEN.ORG They include: American Civil Liberties Union, Black Women's Health Imperative, Feminist Majority, NARAL Pro-Choice America, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, National Organization for Women, Planned Parenthood Federation of America

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MISSION STATEMENT

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK, a group of Jewish feminists and allies, stands in solidarity with Israeli Women in Black who have held vigils weekly since 1988 to protest the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, and to mourn the Israeli and Palestinian lives that have been lost.

We call for:

- ... An end to the Israeli Occupation and the evacuation of all the Jewish settlements on Palestinian land.
- ... Reduce economic and military aid by the amount Israel spends on maintaining the settlements.
- ... The establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside the state of Israel on the basis of the 1967 borders.
- ... Jerusalem as the shared capitol of both states.
- ... A just solution to the needs of Palestinian refugees based on a negotiated combination of compensation and return taking the needs and concerns of Israelis and Palestinians into consideration.
- ... United Nations protection of Palestinian and Israeli civilians.
- ... Israeli and Palestinian women active in the leadership of all negotiations leading toward a cease-fire and a peace settlement.

We wear black as a symbol of sorrow for all victims of war and as a way to join in spirit with the more than 150 other Women in Black groups around the world who protest against militarism, violence, oppression, anti-Semitism, and racism, wherever it occurs.

We oppose militaristic and fundamentalist leadership in all countries, including our own, and are committed to nonviolent resistance against tyranny. We believe all people must have the right to security, home, education and freedom.

As Jews and allies, we embrace the commandment: "Choose Life, so that your children may live." To choose life, we must struggle for the conditions that allow it to flourish. Bay Area Women in Black creates public rituals that incorporate music, art, poetry, spoken word and silent protest, providing a place for people to express their desire for a world free of war and violence.

We also hold silent vigils through city streets, creating a visible presence as women in protest and mourning for all the lives that have been lost in religious, political and nationalistic struggles around the world.