



National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles
543 N. Fairfax Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2016
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**IN OUR OWN WORDS:
Standing Together for Reproductive Rights, Health & Justice
Celebrating Roe v. Wade's 43rd Anniversary
#Roe43LA**

A Free Community Program

Los Angeles, CA - The National Council of Jewish Women Los Angeles (NCJW/LA) hosts a free community program to be held on January 21, 2016 from 6:30pm-8:30 p.m. at NCJW/LA Council House, 543 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90036, to celebrate Roe v. Wade's 43rd anniversary.

NCJW/LA and the Unplanned Story Party team up with reproductive justice, rights, and health leaders from across L.A. and the nation for a night of powerful storytelling and taking action. Some of L.A.'s best storytellers will share their own stories on stage, making us laugh and cry, and challenging us as we engage in real time advocacy to stand together for reproductive rights, health, and justice.

Special Guest Speakers:

- Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez, 51st District
- Donna Benjamin, Vice President of Advocacy, NCJW/LA
- Celinda M. Vázquez, Vice President of Public Affairs, Planned Parenthood Los Angeles
- Jan Robinson Flint, Executive Director, Black Women for Wellness
- Gabriela Valle, Sr. Director of Community Education & Mobilization, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice

Unplanned Story Party Storytellers:

- Jenna Brister, Standup Comedian & Writer
- Becca Frucht, Founder, Unplanned Story Party
- Lakhiya Hicks, Liberation Arts-Activist & Educator

- Krissy Leahy, Reproductive Justice Advocate & Health Educator
- Margot Leitman, Writer & Performer
- Will Weldon, Comedian

Regarding the event, Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez stated: *"The landmark decision of Roe v. Wade 43 years ago paved the way for victories in women's and reproductive health over the last few decades. Today, as we celebrate these victories, we reaffirm our commitment to this cause and pledge to stand united against the renewed attacks on reproductive justice. I will continue to fight for a woman's right to make her own health decisions by expanding access to clinics and ensuring privacy and resources are provided to women throughout our state."*

NCJW/LA Vice President of Advocacy Donna Benjamin stated: *"NCJW/LA is commemorating the 43rd anniversary of the signing of Roe v. Wade, giving women in the United States the right to have an abortion. Unfortunately, many states have been passing laws making abortions harder and harder to access. We believe that it is crucial that we keep abortion safe and legal. This program will not only present personal stories of the difficulties women have in accessing abortions, but will also educate the community about state laws around the country which create barriers for women from access their legal right to abortion."*

Co-Sponsored by:

- ACLU of Southern California
- Anti-Defamation League
- Bend the Arc
- Black Women for Wellness
- California Family Health Council
- California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
- California Women's Law Center
- City of West Hollywood, Women's Advisory Board
- Feminist Majority Foundation
- Feminist Storytelling Party
- NARAL Pro-Choice California
- National Health Law Program
- California National Organization for Women
- Hollywood National Organization for Women
- Planned Parenthood Los Angeles
- Planned Parenthood Young Professionals
- Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
- Los Angeles Coalition for Reproductive Justice
- SexSpeaks
- Unplanned Story Party
- Women's Reproductive Rights Assistance Project

Please join us on January 21, 2016 at 6:30pm for this free community program. For more information, media inquiries, or to RSVP, contact maya@ncjwla.org or call 323-852-8536.

Website Event Page: <http://ncjwla.org/events/16/in-our-own-words-standing-together-for-reproductive-rights-health-and-justice>

Facebook Event Page: <http://www.facebook.com/events/161610180862059>

Use the hashtag **#Roe43LA** to be part of the conversation on social media.

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ABOUT NCJW/LA

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates committed to the welfare and well-being of the Los Angeles Community. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. NCJW/LA serves more than 12,000 individuals through our Community Mental Health and Supportive Services, Scholarships, Talkline, Youth Educational Programs and Services, Back 2 School Store, intern training programs and our clothing assistance projects. NCJW/LA social justice programs provide education and legislative advocacy on issues that affect and impact women, children and families in the areas of children's rights, economic justice, healthcare, human trafficking, reproductive justice, LGBTQ, and gender related violence. All donations to our 8 Council Thrift Shops support the programs and services of NCJW/LA. NCJW/LA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (Tax ID #95-1641433). Donate Today to Council Thrift (800)400-6259. To Get Help Call 877-655-3807 or for more info visit www.ncjwla.org, call 323-651-2930, or email info@ncjwla.org. **Donate Today to Council Thrift (800)400-6259. To Get Help Call 877-655-3807** or for more info visit www.ncjwla.org, call 323-651-2930, or email info@ncjwla.org.