

Reproductive Justice is a Fundamental Right

Machar Position Statement

November 16, 2022

Reproductive justice is a fundamental right. It links reproductive rights such as the freedom to make decisions concerning one's healthcare with efforts to address the social, political and economic inequalities affecting a person's ability to access reproductive healthcare services. Core components include equal access to family planning, safe abortion, affordable contraceptives and comprehensive sex education.

We are outraged that the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* and revoked this fundamental right, thus enabling states to prohibit abortion. Some state laws prohibit abortion in any circumstance, while others allow a few exceptions, such as for rape, incest or saving a pregnant person's life. Many states do not allow enough time for people to know they are pregnant before the deadline for abortion has passed. All these criteria fall short of fully ensuring reproductive justice and freedom. Any legislation limiting access to the full range of reproductive healthcare unduly imposes one set of beliefs on all people and harms many Americans.

We, Machar, the Secular Humanistic Jewish Congregation of Greater Washington, affirm the core values of reproductive justice and freedom: the right to make decisions about one's own body and health according to one's beliefs and values which determine the course of one's own life. This includes the right to healthcare, the right to choose whether or not to have a child, and the right to parent a child in a safe and healthy environment. Providing comprehensive family planning honors the dignity of all people and contributes to empowerment, equality and wellbeing. We believe that it is a proper role of government to ensure reproductive justice by protecting reproductive rights; inherent in this is that there should be no punishment for anyone exercising these rights or for anyone aiding another exercising these rights.