



Reproductive Justice for Immigrant Survivors of Gender Based Violence

(TW: rape, trauma, violence)

As advocates for immigrant survivors of gender-based violence, we know that restricting a person's access to reproductive care and denying them the ability to decide what to do with their own body is a common tactic of abuse. As our allies in the reproductive justice movement have long observed, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization, and limiting access to contraception are just some of the means of reproductive control and coercion employed by abusers. Gender-based violence extends beyond interpersonal violence; it also includes state violence. As immigrant and refugee survivors know all too well, rape is often employed as a weapon of war. When governments restrict access to reproductive health care and criminalize those who seek it, survivors of rape are re-victimized and re-traumatized at the hands of the state.

Abortion restrictions in particular most grievously impact those with the least access to resources, namely those who are poor and already marginalized because of the color of their skin, the language they speak, and their national origin. In a country where non-citizens are frequently demonized and criminalized, abortion restrictions place an even greater target on immigrant

survivors. Compounding the trauma they have already endured, such restrictions condemn immigrant survivors to forced pregnancy and parenthood; to dangerous, illegal, often life-threatening procedures; and to further criminalization. Such laws also criminalize the friends, family members, and advocates who help survivors navigate these extremely dangerous and traumatic circumstances. Additionally, these restrictions place immigrant advocates for reproductive freedom at risk of incurring immigration penalties for violating them. At ASISTA, we stand in solidarity with all those who are fighting to ensure that all people can exercise their human right to control their own bodies and their own reproductive lives.

In Solidarity,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirsten". The script is fluid and cursive.

Kirsten Rambo, Ph.D.

ASISTA Executive Director

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