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THE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
COALITION OF SOUTH AFRICA

CHOICES • ABORTION

The SRJC is a key South African NGO organising around sexual and reproductive justice issues, including safe abortion, contraception, sex work decriminalisation, queer health, and adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Sexual and reproductive justice embraces more than just the rights of the individual by including the importance of community and context. It addresses the conditions that enable a pregnancy to be continued or not, thereby viewing the fertility of women as linked to the inequitable conditions of a society.

We work with decision makers, perform advocacy, media and communications, engage in research activities, enable networking activities and engage in legal processes. The aim is to improve sexual and reproductive justice for all.

As a result of our advocacy, the South African Cabinet has included sexual and reproductive justice in official government policies.

KEY AREAS OF WORK



DECISION MAKERS

We work with local and global decision makers, including government task teams and international processes at the United Nations and Human Rights Council.



ADVOCACY, MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

We have developed content in a range of media, including social media. Ours is the only South African website to have comprehensive and locally applicable information on abortion.



RESEARCH

We are running research on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) with Mothers for the Future (a sex worker support group) to understand their experiences of accessing information on SRHR, contraception options and abortion services.



NETWORKING

The SRJC arranges monthly networking meet-ups at our hub in Cape Town. This creates a safe and brave space where we can address challenging issues. The SRJC was part of the steering committee of the 3rd Abortion and Reproductive Justice Conference held in Makhanda in July 2018. We have a partnership with Global Doctors for Choice.



LEGAL

We have a legal group which has responded to challenges to the South African Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act in parliament and barriers to implementation within health services. The legal working group has also supported the Civil Unions Amendment Act, which penalises government officers trying to avoid performing civil unions through claiming conscientious objection.



VISION

A future of sexual and reproductive justice informed by an intersectional perspective in which all people, irrespective of class, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, disability, age, religion or any other factor can enjoy their sexuality, make reproductive decisions and access high quality services in ways that enhance their dignity, bodily integrity and wellbeing.



MISSION

To provide a platform through which individuals and organisations produce and use evidence to foster informed public debate and consensus building working towards holding policymakers and implementers accountable for progress towards realising sexual and reproductive justice for all.

WHO WE ARE

Working from an ethics of justice and an ethics of care standpoint, the SRJC is a coalition of organisations and individuals engaged in advocacy, research, service delivery, education, policy analysis and activism work in the fields of gender, sexual and reproductive justice, health, rights and care.

Building on this, we understand sexual and reproductive justice as:

- Locating sexualities and reproduction intersectionally within social, economic, cultural, gendered, geographical, political, racialised, age-based and ability-based and other power relations;
- Overcoming inequalities and oppressions, including silencing, stigma, judgement, and other barriers to accessing information, resources and services;
- Affirming diversity of identities;
- Recognising different vulnerabilities and abilities;
- Addressing violations, particularly gender-based coercion and violence that occur in a number of settings;
- Advocating comprehensive care, including mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health;
- Acknowledging and overcoming cross-cutting pervasive social challenges, such as transport, safety, water, sanitation, violence, crime, alcohol, drugs, migration and labour exploitation;
- Affirming sex-positive, sexualities positive and positive reproductive decision-making approaches.