

OCs OTC Working Group Steering Committee Statement on Racial Justice

The Oral Contraceptives (OCs) Over-the-Counter (OTC) Working Group Steering Committee believes that now is a critical moment to speak out about racial injustice and particularly about state violence against Black, Indigenous, and other people of color.

The OCs OTC Working Group Steering Committee unequivocally declares that Black Lives Matter. The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade and so many others put individual names, stories and pain to the impact of systemic racism—the same systemic racism that is an underlying cause of the disproportionate impact that COVID-19 has on people of color and Indigenous communities. It's also the same systemic racism that is an underlying cause of inequities in maternal mortality, contraception access, abortion access, and other sexual and reproductive health care.

We take this moment to reflect on our commitment to racial justice and to make explicit the core values that have implicitly and intentionally guided our work. We believe these to be some of the most key values that we share with racial justice movements.

The OCs OTC Working Group Steering Committee is committed to these core values:

- **Bodily autonomy.** All people are born with inalienable and indivisible human rights including the right to bodily autonomy. Everyone must be able to determine what to do with their body. The OCs OTC Working Group is driven by the desire to ensure more bodily autonomy for those who currently face the greatest barriers to contraceptive access.
- **Community accountability/principled partnerships.** Our actions as individuals and as organizations often have impact beyond our intentions. The OCs OTC Working Group trusts the voices of those most impacted and our actions are guided by that wisdom. We practice in the spirit of principled partnerships.
- **Remembering and reconciliation.** The OCs OTC Working Group is committed to the important task of remembering and reconciling with the painful past of the development of contraceptives from experiments on unconsenting people of color and disabled people to state sanctioned forced sterilization of incarcerated people. Repair cannot take place without reckoning.

The OCs OTC Working Group Steering Committee affirms that contraceptive equity can never be accomplished as long as racism continues to exist. We stand committed to racial justice.

1. Kelly Blanchard, Ibis Reproductive Health, OCs OTC Steering Committee
2. Anne Burke, Johns Hopkins University, OCs OTC Steering Committee

3. Micaela Gaviola, Indiana University, OCs OTC Steering Committee
4. Dan Grossman, Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health/UCSF, OCs OTC Steering Committee
5. Debra Hauser, Advocates for Youth, OCs OTC Steering Committee
6. Pamela Kingfisher, Native American Community Board, OCs OTC Steering Committee
7. Carmen Leibrock, Cobalt, OCs OTC Steering Committee
8. Raegan McDonald-Mosley, Planned Parenthood of Maryland, OCs OTC Steering Committee
9. Tyunique Nelson, Advocates for Youth, OCs OTC Steering Committee
10. Elizabeth Raymond, Gynuity Health Projects, OCs OTC Steering Committee
11. Lauren Schenk, Girls Inc., OCs OTC Steering Committee
12. Monica Simpson, SisterSong, OCs OTC Steering Committee
13. Belle Taylor-McGhee, Reproductive Justice/Reproductive Health Advocate and Writer, OCs OTC Steering Committee
14. Krishna Upadhyia, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, OCs OTC Steering Committee
15. Britt Wahlin, Ibis Reproductive Health, OCs OTC Steering Committee
16. Beverly Winikoff, Gynuity Health Projects, OCs OTC Steering Committee

OCs OTC Working Group member sign-ons

1. American Society for Emergency Contraception
2. EverThrive Illinois
3. Healthy Teen Network
4. Reproaction
5. Rez Condom Tour
6. SisterLove

Individuals

1. Edith Guilbert, National Institute of Public Health of Quebec, Canada