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# Centering a Practice of Hope to Advance Birth Justice



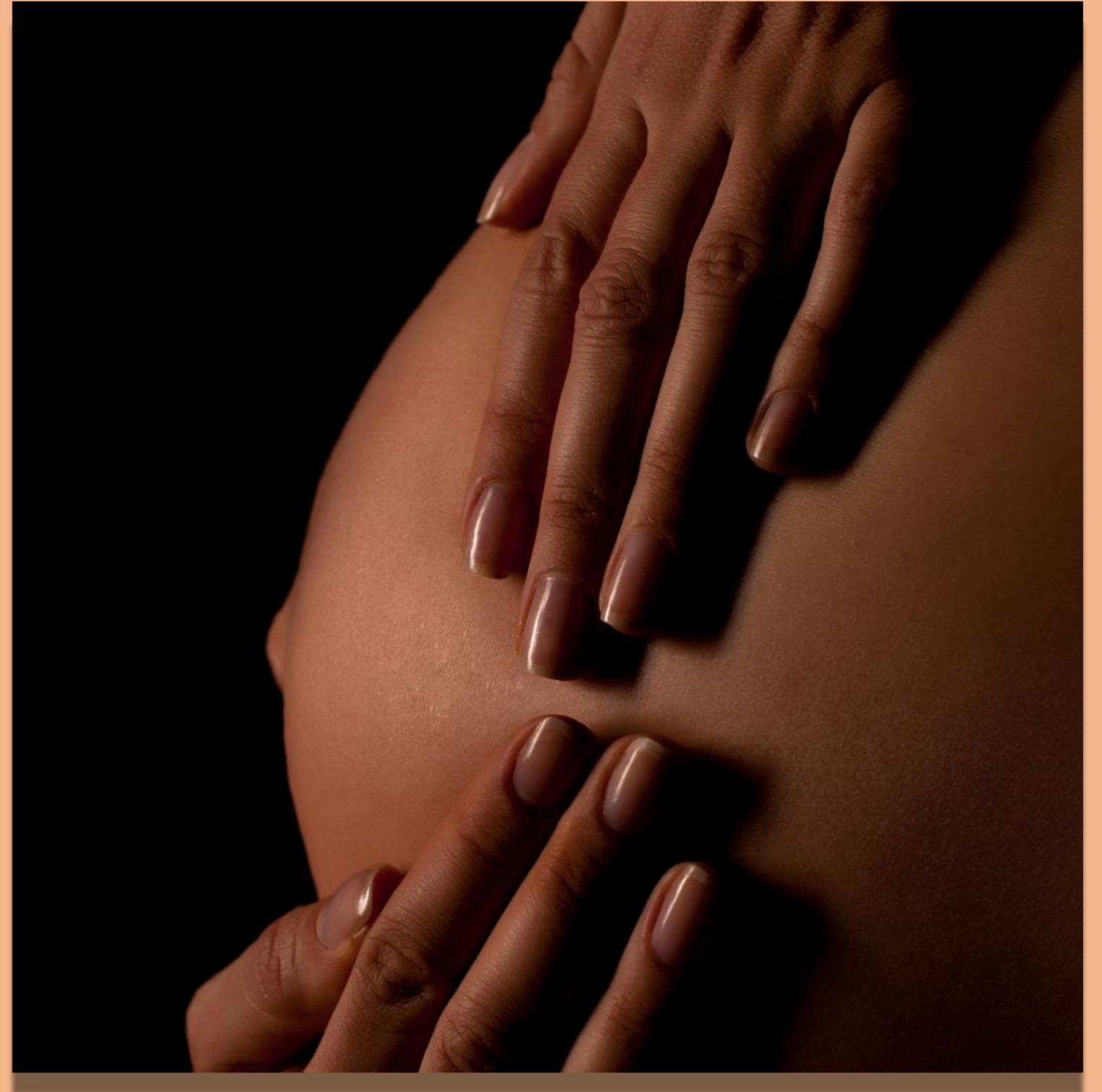
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National Perinatal Conference 2022

Ancient Song Doula Services  
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# **Birth Justice**

**A concept, practice, and  
movement.**



# Birth Justice Centers Us in Understanding

- ◀ When individuals regardless of race or gender identity are able to make informed decisions during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum for themselves and babies that is free from racism and implicit bias. Without fear of coercion into unnecessary medical interventions, reprisal for refusal of care, and/or face inadequate medical care and are able to express their full human rights around their reproductive health choices for themselves and families that incorporates the intersectional and structural needs of the individual and communities .



# Reproductive Justice & Human Rights Framework



- ❑ Anti-Racism and Equity
- ❑ Accountability
- ❑ Inclusion
- ❑ Bodily Autonomy
- ❑ Informed Consent
- ❑ Respectful Care
- ❑ Culturally Congruent
- ❑ Human Rights
- ❑ BIPOC Leadership

# A National Call to Demand Accountability

It moves away from Permission Politics to center the liberation of historically disenfranchised communities of Black, Brown, and Indigenous peoples.



What happens when the narrative shifts to.....

# Why America's Black Mothers and Babies Are in a Life-or-Death Crisis

The answer to the disparity in death rates has everything to do with the lived experience of being a black woman in America.

NY Times Feature

## Our Black maternal health crisis is an American tragedy

Headline from American Medical Association

**'Birthing while Black' is a national crisis for the US. Here's what Black lawmakers want to do about it**



Chanel L. Porchia-Albert - Ancient Song

# BLACK DEATH

**LOST MOTHERS**

## **Nothing Protects Black Women From Dying in Pregnancy and Childbirth**

Not education. Not income. Not even being an expert on racial disparities in health care.

# We perpetuate trauma and how it shows up!

## Conditioned Responses

Centered in adaptive behaviors that served to protect oneself, child,, family member or community during a traumatic occurrence that becomes normalized trauma response and internalized as normal behaviors or cultural identity markers overtime.

Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome - Dr. Joy DeGruy

# What we need to understand.

The heart of justice is truth telling, seeing ourselves and the world the way it is rather than the way we want it to be.

- bell hooks



# Centering Hope

A movement towards Liberatory  
Practices



# Intergenerational Hope Centers



the intersections of transgenerational messages passed down through culture, familial, language, justice, Love, Purpose, Ancestral Remembrance, and Resilience. Triggered by a commitment to center Joy, self care, accountability to self and community, decolonization of systems of oppression and liberation movements that center intersectional perspectives of how people care for themselves.

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Concept developed by Chanel Porchia-Albert  
of Ancient Song

## Intergenerational Trauma

Maternal Death  
Middle Passage  
Police Brutality  
Food Apartheid  
Jim Crow  
ICE  
Internment Camps  
Voter Suppression  
Forced Sterilization  
Environmental Injustice  
Assimilation Schools  
Racism  
Bias, Pandemic

## Intergenerational Hope

Herbal Remedies  
Decolonization of Systems of  
Oppression  
Food  
Children, Families,  
Community  
Reclaiming Ancestral Practices  
Reclaiming Midwifery  
Farming  
Mutual Aid  
Self Care  
Laughter  
Joy, Anti-Racist Medical Models  
of Care

# YOU

Actively  
addressing the  
present,  
building on the  
future and  
centering the  
past

# We are .....



- Removing Black Death from the narrative.
- Centering hope through policy, movement building, and action to center humanity.
- We are understanding the historical context and using the blueprints that have been created in our present day reality.

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# Intergenerational Hope Honors

## **The feeling. Lived Experiences**

An understanding that your feelings are valid even rage when breaking, learning, and moving through trauma.

It also honors the practice of "doing" sometimes while in transformation we don't realize how far we have come and where we are going as we stand in the present.

## **The act of self reclamation & liberation.**

Reclaiming liberatory practices that center the whole not just the parts.

That encompasses the remembrance of ancestral practices and the creation of new practices that center not just individuals, but entire communities.

## **The past, present, & builds on the future.**

An understanding that is intergenerational but also transgenerational and acknowledges the intersectionality of self, family, and community.

# Standing Strong in Liberatory Practices!

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We are standing in the hope of our ancestors while manifesting hope in our present and building hope for future generations of Black & Brown birthing bodies & communities to center JOY, LOVE PEACE, and Infinite Possibilities



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# References

The Legacy of Trauma by Tori DeAngelis  
<https://www.apa.org/monitor/2019/02/legacy-trauma>

All About Love - By bell hooks

Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome -  
Dr. Joy DrGruy

Centering Intergenerational Hope -  
By Chanel Porchia-Albert

Killing the Black Body - Dorothy  
Roberts

Advancing Birth Justice: Community Based Models for  
Eliminating Racial Disparties - Ancient Song, Village Birth  
Intl, and Every Mother Counts 2019