

Begin Transcript

Part 1:

00:00:00 Speaker 2

OK.

00:00:01 Speaker 2

Hey, everybody.

00:00:02 Speaker 2

Welcome, welcome.

00:00:04 Speaker 2

I'm Denise.

00:00:05 Speaker 1

I'm Leona.

00:00:07 Speaker 2

And we're the women lead network.

00:00:10 Speaker 2

Hey, so this podcast is, you know, sort of had this benign name of women lead network.

00:00:16 Speaker 2

And we wanted to make it really informational.

00:00:18 Speaker 2

But, you know, in recent days we've become pretty enraged.

00:00:22 Speaker 2

So, you know, who knows?

00:00:23 Speaker 2

We may have a a.

00:00:24 Speaker 1

Maybe different names?

00:00:25 Speaker 2

A different name, maybe something related to our rage, so we'll see what happens.

00:00:30

In a few.

00:00:31 Speaker 2

Well hey Leona, this time we're talking about.

00:00:35 Speaker 2

Some some, you know, stuff that I think has been hard for us to talk about.

00:00:41 Speaker 2

At least for me, I've been.

00:00:43 Speaker 2

Trying to figure out how I'm feeling in the moment because of all the changes in society.

00:00:49 Speaker 2

And so this week we're or this?

00:00:52 Speaker 2

You know, episode we're really going to focus in on reproductive justice.

00:00:55 Speaker 2

And of course that means that we'll have to talk about abortion.

00:01:01 Speaker 2

And I know that some of the things that we've brought up in the past is, you know, sort of how we think about reproductive justice and, you know, the way that interacts with some of the interesting movement by corporations to quote UN quote support.

00:01:21 Speaker 2

Access to reproductive.

00:01:23 Speaker 2

So, so we'll dive into that.

00:01:26 Speaker 1

And if you have have no idea why we're raging about this.

00:01:31 Speaker 1

But in the United States of America?

00:01:36 Speaker 1

I'm always like.

00:01:37 Speaker 1

What can I say that won't have?

00:01:39 Speaker 1

Me end up in like Guantanamo Bay.

00:01:43 Speaker 1

Good luck right our.

00:01:46 Speaker 1

Stale kind.

00:01:47 Speaker 1

I was going to say our unlawful Supreme Court, but the Supreme Court?

00:01:54 Speaker 1

Struck down Roe versus Wade, so we.

00:01:59 Speaker 1

Uh, we had a lot of rage around.

00:02:02 Speaker 1

It I had like.

00:02:03 Speaker 1

A little mini breakdown in my backyard.

00:02:06 Speaker 1

I'm sure my neighbors were like, what is going on?

00:02:09 Speaker 1

But that is really the catalyst.

00:02:11 Speaker 1

So if if you.

00:02:12 Speaker 1

Were like, wait, why are they talking about?

00:02:13 Speaker 1

Reproductive justice and.

00:02:15 Speaker 1

Or big read.

00:02:16 Speaker 1

UM, ships caught on fire here in the United States, so we we wanted to talk about it.

00:02:21 Speaker 2

Schitt's kind of on fire.

00:02:23 Speaker 2

Hey, so, you know, as we get started, I just want to frame something out and we mentioned this the last time, you know, we have a tendency as a society generally.

00:02:34 Speaker 2

To really think about some of these things.

00:02:38 Speaker 2

Social issues and other things within context in very binary ways, including gender.

00:02:44 Speaker 2

And of course, because we're going to be talking about things related to women, we're always going to have to think about that framework.

00:02:51 Speaker 2

So, you know, we try really hard to, you know, really think about and talk about all of our.

00:02:58 Speaker 2

Topics including abortion.

00:03:00 Speaker 2

By using language that really reflects the full diversity.

00:03:05 Speaker 2

Of the issues so.

00:03:07 Speaker 2

For example, women have abortions unfortunately, right?

00:03:11 Speaker 2

Girls have abortions, men have abortions.

00:03:14 Speaker 2

Gender non binary folks have abortions.

00:03:16 Speaker 2

And so you know.

00:03:17 Speaker 2

We will be talking.

00:03:18 Speaker 2

About abortion we won't be.

00:03:20 Speaker 2

Pretending like we're not.

00:03:23 Speaker 2

But we're also.

00:03:23 Speaker 2

Going to be really thinking about it.

00:03:25 Speaker 2

Within that context.

00:03:27 Speaker 2

You know, Speaking of Roe V Wade, you know, well, certainly Roe V Wade was a a landmark case that provided a lot of, of, you know, protections for folks who were accessing abortion.

00:03:44 Speaker 2

There were lots and lots of people who couldn't access.

00:03:49 Speaker 2

Even with Roe V Wade, right?

00:03:50 Speaker 2

So depending on their immigration or incarceration status, poverty, age, disability, right?

00:03:56 Speaker 2

All of those.

00:03:57 Speaker 2

Things were a reality.

00:04:00 Speaker 2

And I think for me, one of the reasons it's so important to really have a conversation about reproductive justice and abortion at this time, right?

00:04:12 Speaker 2

Because obviously abortion is a.

00:04:15 Speaker 2

Yeah, topic of societal conversation.

00:04:18 Speaker 2

But there are a whole other way.

00:04:21 Speaker 2

There are whole lots of other ways that women and other, you know, folks bodies have been controlled by.

00:04:31 Speaker 2

The government and patriarchy, et cetera.

00:04:35 Speaker 2

You know, we're.

00:04:35 Speaker 2

Talking maybe specifically about abortion and the protections under.

00:04:39 Speaker 2

Roe V Wade, but.

00:04:40 Speaker 2

You know, there are lots of other ways that.

00:04:44 Speaker 2

Society controlled the bodies of women, girls, and other birthing folks, like making birth control inaccessible or nonconsensual sterilization and even UM.

00:04:56 Speaker 2

You know, the inability or bans on things like gender affirming treatments are all part of this conversation.

00:05:03 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah.

00:05:04 Speaker 1

And and and thank you for that distinction because this is when we say reproductive justice we're we are keeping.

00:05:15 Speaker 1

That in the back of our minds.

00:05:16 Speaker 1

But today we're just going to rage about how reproductive justice is being Co opted by corporations.

00:05:24 Speaker 1

Uhm, and through capitalism, it really shapes the ways in which people have control of their body and access to their body, and even the ways that they can harm their ability to have access around their body.

00:05:38

Yeah, yeah.

00:05:40 Speaker 2

Yeah, so I thought uhm.

00:05:43 Speaker 2

I thought that maybe I would start by just framing out a little bit of what we're talking about or what is talked about when we when we use the phrase reproductive justice and how that might be different or connected.

00:05:57 Speaker 3

Did too.

00:05:59 Speaker 2

To reproductive rights, because, you know, we hear the language sort of different.

00:06:05 Speaker 2

People talk about it differently, but.

00:06:09 Speaker 2

I thought that.

00:06:09 Speaker 2

It might be an interesting way to start our conversation by sort of framing out that a little bit.

00:06:16 Speaker 3

OK.

00:06:16

And no.

00:06:17 Speaker 1

Before we do that.

00:06:18 Speaker 1

Can I just say that our our cameo, there's, there's like a little bell ringing.

00:06:23 Speaker 1

We have a raging cat.

00:06:26 Speaker 1

Who's audio is being picked up?

00:06:29 Speaker 2

So yeah, she was she was hungry.

00:06:33 Speaker 2

She's she's mad.

00:06:34 Speaker 2

And so she's going to the refrigerator and eating her treats.

00:06:38 Speaker 3

She's angry.

00:06:39 Speaker 1

So we could.

00:06:40 Speaker 1

I could hear her little her little bell ringing so.

00:06:42 Speaker 1

I I'm not.

00:06:43 Speaker 2

Gonna hit that out.

00:06:44 Speaker 1

And if someone is like listening and they're like, what is that no noise?

00:06:48 Speaker 1

It's an angry.

00:06:49 Speaker 1

Puss, that's what it's.

00:06:49 Speaker 2

An angry.

00:06:50 Speaker 2

*****, yeah.

00:06:52 Speaker 2

An enraged ***** is what it is.

00:06:55 Speaker 2

And so that, of course, allows us to, you know, really think about, you know, the ways in which, you know, we think about and talk about reproductive rights and reproductive justice and so, so a lot of our.

00:07:09 Speaker 2

I mean, you know, we've, we've talked about this before, but a lot of our sort of societal language around.

00:07:21 Speaker 2

Uh, around abortion really is connected to this idea of of reproductive rights, right.

00:07:29 Speaker 2

So, you know, Roe V Wade was the, you know, this, this way for society, for our constitutional society, our constitutional democracy, right to enshrine this protection.

00:07:44 Speaker 2

That is different though.

00:07:46 Speaker 2

So then when we think about and folks who think about it from a reproductive justice point of view, so I think.

00:07:58 Speaker 2

You know one of the people that I have learned a lot from?

00:08:05 Speaker 2

And and so I would encourage folks who are listening to this to explore her work is Doctor Loretta Ross.

00:08:14 Speaker 2

And doctor Loretta Ross was one of the founders of Sister Sol.

00:08:19 Speaker 2

And sister's on the sister song collective, for those who don't know, was a, you know, a collective of women of color, primarily black women.

00:08:30 Speaker 2

Who recognized in the 90s that?

00:08:32 Speaker 2

The fight for reproductive rights.

00:08:35 Speaker 2

Was limited in its inclusivity and so.

00:08:39 Speaker 2

They introduced this, sort of.

00:08:41 Speaker 2

Topic of reproductive justice.

00:08:44 Speaker 2

And so, you know, rights really come from this idea that you're.

00:08:52 Speaker 2

Uh, if you are a U.S.

00:08:54 Speaker 2

citizen or have a certain legal standing in a society, that that society writes into its laws.

00:09:02 Speaker 2

Some sort of sort of.

00:09:03 Speaker 2

Protection of you, right?

00:09:05 Speaker 2

And so that's this idea of rights that there's this constitutional structure that protects.

00:09:14 Speaker 2

People and in this case women, right?

00:09:17 Speaker 2

Are folks who you know are able to birthright to people?

00:09:22 Speaker 2

Who have uteruses?

00:09:24 Speaker 2

To protect them somehow and and protects a right that they have somehow but.

00:09:30 Speaker 2

You know one of the things that I learned in listening and studying Doctor.

00:09:36 Speaker 2

Ross's work was.

00:09:37 Speaker 2

That, you know, during the time when abortion became.

00:09:44 Speaker 2

Sort of the.

00:09:45 Speaker 2

Main, sort of main topic that was discussed around reproductive rights that many communities of color and poor, you know, women were really left out of that equation.

00:09:58 Speaker 2

'cause, you know, while abortion is a really important aspect of, you know, having access to reproductive care, it's not the only ways in which many poor women and women of color were, you know, having their reproductive bodies.

00:10:18 Speaker 2

Controlled right.

00:10:19 Speaker 2

Things like forced sterilization, sexual violence.

00:10:24 Speaker 2

Uhm, you know, poverty, you know, environmental issues, all of these prevented.

00:10:33 Speaker 2

Many women in poor communities and communities of color from being able to read.

00:10:41 Speaker 2

You know, take control over their reproductive bodies.

00:10:47 Speaker 2

So, uhm, so I thought it was kind of interesting to listen to Doctor Ross lay out the sort of main tenants of reproductive justice.

00:11:00 Speaker 2

The first being that everyone has the human right not to have a child, which of course right we think about when we talk about abortion.

00:11:09 Speaker 2

So access to abortion versus medical, etc.

00:11:10 Speaker 3

Now, yeah.

00:11:12 Speaker 1

And how it makes a lot of people angry.

00:11:12

Right.

00:11:14

Right.

00:11:15 Speaker 3

It doesn't make people.

00:11:16 Speaker 1

So angry that you could have a right.

00:11:19 Speaker 1

To not have a child.

00:11:19 Speaker 2

And now I have a child, right?

00:11:21 Speaker 2

That people are up in arms over the fact that someone can not be.

00:11:25 Speaker 2

Forced to give.

00:11:28 Speaker 2

The the 2nd.

00:11:29 Speaker 2

Tenant and so I thought we might talk about these after I share them.

00:11:33 Speaker 2

The second tenant was really that everyone has a right, a human right, not a government given right.

00:11:40 Speaker 2

But a human?

00:11:41 Speaker 2

Right, just by me, just by.

00:11:42 Speaker 2

Virtue of being born right to have a.

00:11:45 Speaker 2

Child under the conditions that they.

00:11:47 Speaker 2

Want to have them?

00:11:48 Speaker 2

So you know, things like having being economically self-sufficient or having access to, you know, to healthcare.

00:12:01 Speaker 2

Uh, maybe even having access to a doula or a midwife, or to have your.

00:12:07 Speaker 2

Uh, your birthing plan respected, right?

00:12:11 Speaker 2

When you, you know, go into birth, which for many in particular women of color is, is often ignored.

00:12:19 Speaker 2

And then the third was really to raise children in healthy conditions.

00:12:28 Speaker 2

Right.

00:12:28 Speaker 2

So this actually aligns very closely with other social movements, you know, things like the physical safety of children, you know, police violence again.

00:12:40 Speaker 2

Against communities of color missing indigenous girls, right.

00:12:45 Speaker 2

Issues related to gun violence, right?

00:12:47 Speaker 2

All of those things.

00:12:48 Speaker 2

Would fit up under that third tenant.

00:12:52 Speaker 2

And just right before we sort of begin to talk about these and you maybe share with me what you're thinking about them?

00:13:03 Speaker 2

One of the things that's so amazing about the work of women and grassroots communities is that there is so much capacity to shift and change the narrative when necessary, and so increasingly.

00:13:17 Speaker 3

Huh? Huh?

00:13:21 Speaker 2

Reproductive justice has adopted a model that recognizes a fourth tenant, which has to do with bodily autonomy.

00:13:29 Speaker 2

So making the decision, having the human right to make a decision about your own gender, right, your own sexual pleasure, your own safety around sexuality.

00:13:35 Speaker 3

OK.

00:13:40 Speaker 2

So I don't know, I.

00:13:41 Speaker 2

Thought it would be.

00:13:41 Speaker 2

You know, sort of a important framing for us to maybe start there and think about, you know, how those things are connected.

00:13:50 Speaker 2

Certainly reproductive rights are important and abortion is important.

00:13:54 Speaker 2

Uhm, at the same time, you know, it's so critical to think more expansively, I think about it.

00:14:01 Speaker 1

No, absolutely.

00:14:02 Speaker 1

I also think it's interesting that when we talk about like abortion.

00:14:06 Speaker 1

Being a human right.

00:14:07 Speaker 1

Like you have the right to make a decision about your body and this idea that.

00:14:13 Speaker 1

A collection of cells.

00:14:15 Speaker 1

Or fetus doesn't supersede a fully formed human beings right to bodily autonomy.

00:14:22 Speaker 1

That people get very.

00:14:24 Speaker 1

Upset about it, right.

00:14:25 Speaker 1

They, they, they're, they're like, no.

00:14:28 Speaker 1

And then I always think about it in the sense of is this also because, you know, if you go back like in early colonial recordings of of the United States, abortion was not illegal.

00:14:42 Speaker 1

Like, so even the argument that, oh, well, this is.

00:14:45 Speaker 1

We we are following no it.

00:14:46 Speaker 1

It didn't exist because.

00:14:48 Speaker 1

At one point in our human development, why would you risk?

00:14:53 Speaker 1

The life of the fully formed human being for something that once birth did not have a high probability of living.

00:15:00 Speaker 1

So we are, we're living under the conditions of, like, the expansion of us as a species.

00:15:07 Speaker 1

And this expansion of us as a species in some ways, to me is frightening because we're losing.

00:15:13 Speaker 1

This idea of like what it means to be an individual within the species?

00:15:17 Speaker 1

What does it mean to honor folks in the species?

00:15:22 Speaker 1

And how destructive we can be to.

00:15:23 Speaker 1

Each other as human.

00:15:27 Speaker 1

Beings and and and this and this.

00:15:30 Speaker 1

Direction of also using your theology and your spiritual practices.

00:15:37 Speaker 1

To say no, you have to.

00:15:39 Speaker 1

And it's like, well.

00:15:40 Speaker 1

I don't.

00:15:41 Speaker 1

I don't believe that.

00:15:42 Speaker 1

So why?

00:15:42 Speaker 1

Am I being dictated by?

00:15:44 Speaker 1

They buy your theology.

00:15:45 Speaker 2

Well, yeah.

00:15:46 Speaker 2

And so so this is.

00:15:48 Speaker 2

What I find so interesting, right about people, you know.

00:15:54

The quote UN quote.

00:15:55 Speaker 2

Hill that people.

00:15:55 Speaker 2

Die on around.

00:15:59 Speaker 2

And you know how it's so connected with this idea of.

00:16:05 Speaker 2

Theology, right?

00:16:06 Speaker 2

Or somebody, you know, belief in a particular religion.

00:16:11 Speaker 2

What I find so fascinating about that narrative is that that's actually a narrative that.

00:16:20 Speaker 2

That was introduced after Roe versus Wade, right.

00:16:24 Speaker 3

Yeah, yeah.

00:16:25 Speaker 2

So as you pointed out, I think it's important to sort of maybe back step a little bit and think about the sort of social construction of abortion, so to speak, right?

00:16:38 Speaker 2

Uhm, you know, abortion was actually a very common practice in the quote UN quote colonies, right when you know the when the English and French colonized indigenous land.

00:16:53 Speaker 2

Up here, right in what we now call the United States of America, it was actually a very common practice in the colonies.

00:17:04 Speaker 2

And what was what is particularly interesting is to think about, you know, the ways in which race and poverty have constructed this narrative around abortion.

00:17:15 Speaker 2

That says that it's.

00:17:15 Speaker 3

Huh? Huh?

00:17:15 Speaker 2

Such a terrible thing.

00:17:17 Speaker 2

So for example.

00:17:20 Speaker 2

You know, kidnapped and enslaved African women who were.

00:17:24 Speaker 2

Brought to the US as.

00:17:26 Speaker 2

As an economic resource, right?

00:17:28 Speaker 2

To build this so-called country.

00:17:31 Speaker 2

Brought with them.

00:17:33 Speaker 2

Sacred knowledge having used birth control and abortion to manage their family size in their.

00:17:38 Speaker 2

Home countries, right?

00:17:39 Speaker 2

This is also the case, of course.

00:17:41 Speaker 2

For indigenous women who are already here.

00:17:45 Speaker 2

But abortion and birth control restrictions didn't actually get put into place.

00:17:51 Speaker 2

This is a very.

00:17:51 Speaker 2

Common practice, right?

00:17:53 Speaker 2

In in in African home countries, right, and in indigenous practices.

00:17:59 Speaker 2

But abortion and birth control restrictions didn't actually get put in place until.

00:18:04 Speaker 2

White doctors were asked by slave owners to investigate why there were some plantations that had such drastically.

00:18:14 Speaker 2

Reduced birth birth.

00:18:15 Speaker 2

Rates amongst slave women.

00:18:17

Right.

00:18:18 Speaker 2

And, you know, upon investigation, the doctors discovered that these enslaved women were using those sit that sacred knowledge, those traditional practices to prevent themselves from from birthing, right?

00:18:32 Speaker 3

Yeah, worse.

00:18:33 Speaker 2

Being more slaves, either via sexual assault as we know that was happening consistently or otherwise, and so.

00:18:42 Speaker 2

You know, we didn't even have any restrictions at at that point, you know, we began to see restrictions around abortion being implemented.

00:18:52 Speaker 2

And of course that's connected to race, right, and economics and and then just, you know, sort of thinking also about that construction.

00:19:03 Speaker 2

You know, we all are familiar with Margaret Sanger, whose work was sort of the precursor to what we now know as Planned Parenthood.

00:19:11 Speaker 2

We acknowledge here that there are lots of stories about some of the problems with her approach, ultimately her approach really.

00:19:23 Speaker 2

Was out of a concern for poor women, admittedly, right.

00:19:29 Speaker 2

Poor white women, primarily.

00:19:31 Speaker 2

Uhm, who were in many ways not given access to information about how to limit their families because capitalism as an economic structure saw poor workers as an important resource.

00:19:48 Speaker 2

Worse within society.

00:19:50 Speaker 2

And so I always think it's interesting because, you know, as you point out, everybody sort of dies.

00:19:54 Speaker 2

On this hill of religiosity.

00:19:57 Speaker 3

But the?

00:19:57 Speaker 2

Reality is that these are constructed ideas that had nothing.

00:20:00 Speaker 2

To do at all with.

00:20:01 Speaker 1

Religion, no.

00:20:02 Speaker 1

And then I also think it's important when we bring up, say, for instance, the Margaret Sanger.

00:20:07 Speaker 1

Uhm, controversy around her legacy in history.

00:20:12 Speaker 1

Eugenism and white supremacy also are used to weaponize against communities of color and poor communities and say we'll see if you had an abortion.

00:20:24 Speaker 1

I I mean I once that's one say this to my face.

00:20:26 Speaker 1

Like if you if you were to get an abortion as a black woman, then that's one last black person.

00:20:31 Speaker 1

And I was like, I didn't know I was the mother.

00:20:33 Speaker 1

Of them all, like I'm not the mother of Dragons, therefore I'm not the mother of.

00:20:36 Speaker 1

All black people and.

00:20:39 Speaker 1

Why do I have to be responsible for keeping alive a race of people when there is an entire ***** continent?

00:20:49 Speaker 3

Having it.

00:20:50 Speaker 2

Being raised a child myself, I think the mother of Dragons is a much better role set.

00:20:56 Speaker 1

But you know, this idea that it's used to just scare people who, you know, like, yes, as a black person.

00:21:04 Speaker 3

We people who?

00:21:06 Speaker 1

Are generationally linked to the diaspora of those of insulate.

00:21:13 Speaker 1

We keep low numbers, right?

00:21:14 Speaker 1

We we we don't.

00:21:16 Speaker 1

And there are a.

00:21:16 Speaker 1

Lot of factors.

00:21:17 Speaker 1

That go into and I'm not going to get into it for.

00:21:18 Speaker 1

This podcast, but there are a lot.

00:21:19 Speaker 1

Of factors why people who are.

00:21:25 Speaker 1

Descendants of African enslaved people in the United States of America keep low numbers.

00:21:30 Speaker 1

And so this idea that when we.

00:21:32 Speaker 1

Use this the.

00:21:33 Speaker 1

Abortion conversation to say, well, we can't have them have abortions because then you know you're going to lose your people.

00:21:39 Speaker 1

And it's like, well, the mother mortality rate and child mortality rate for birthing.

00:21:45 Speaker 1

Black individuals is astronomically high, so why aren't we?

00:21:51 Speaker 1

If we're concerned about keeping us as a people, why aren't we talking about the fact that if I did decide to have a child, I would be at significant risk of dying in the United States of America?

00:22:04 Speaker 2

I mean, the risk of of, you know, mortality for all women is much higher for actually birthing.

00:22:16 Speaker 2

Than it is.

00:22:16 Speaker 2

For abortions or you know, even any other.

00:22:21 Speaker 3

Sort of.

00:22:24 Speaker 2

Reproductive situation, but in particular right for black women and women of color, right?

00:22:32 Speaker 2

It is astronomical and this idea that that somehow.

00:22:38 Speaker 2

Your life would have to be traded for the life.

00:22:42 Speaker 2

Of a child.

00:22:45 Speaker 2

Even and those conversations happening within communities of color, right, are, I think, a very clear example of when we talk about the ways in which gender and race.

00:23:00 Speaker 2

Intersect, right?

00:23:01 Speaker 2

So you know this idea that somehow your life is not quite as valuable as the potential human being, right?

00:23:07 Speaker 2

That you could bring into the.

00:23:08 Speaker 1

World and the potential human being that could possibly experience some harm by the institution that then forced me to birth that child.

00:23:14 Speaker 2

Right.

00:23:17 Speaker 2

Correct, absolutely.

Part 2:

00:00:01

Well, that that gives us.

00:00:02 Speaker 1

An opportunity to move on and talk a little bit about corporations and, oh, the wonderful role that apparently they seem to feel like they're playing in ensuring bodily autonomy.

00:00:14 Speaker 1

I'll let you lead.

00:00:16

This to me.

00:00:16 Speaker 1

Well, I think.

00:00:17 Speaker 2

That this is a good transition because people start to feel hopeless and they feel not heard by their government.

00:00:24 Speaker 2

And since the formal establishment of industrialism, right?

00:00:30 Speaker 2

Corporations, like we had factory towns, we had all these things where corporations said, hey, your local governmental entities are not able to meet the needs.

00:00:40 Speaker 2

So if you come work for us, we will meet those needs for you.

00:00:44 Speaker 2

And so one of the things that I was looking for when I was researching this topic is.

00:00:49 Speaker 2

This idea that.

00:00:51 Speaker 2

We do oftentimes look to companies to see, you know, what moral standards are they holding?

00:00:58 Speaker 2

How are they meeting social constructs that contribute to a better and healthier life?

00:01:04 Speaker 2

But it puts the onus on corporations that have a bottom line, like they have to make money.

00:01:11 Speaker 2

Right. And they have to do it in a particular way that how it's been constructed now in the latter part of the 20th century into the 21st century is that it's a high concentration of wealth.

00:01:23 Speaker 2

And so when we were looking at their bottom line, some of the things that I was finding is that companies that are more aligned with what we, we believe as being reproductive justice and things like that are saying, hey, we're going to set it up so that you when you work for us, you will get these protections around abortion and since then we'll pay for travel will will pay for you.

00:01:44 Speaker 2

To have access to it, we'll make sure that it's still in our in our insurance, but the the conversation around that is that.

00:01:52 Speaker 2

You know.

00:01:53 Speaker 2

A significant number of.

00:01:54 Speaker 2

People may not have access to those benefits.

00:01:56 Speaker 2

Right, because you're a part time employee.

00:02:00 Speaker 2

Depending on what state you're in, things like that you may not get access to full, full benefits, and the benefits that you do get access to or restricted in.

00:02:08 Speaker 2

The ways that you.

00:02:09 Speaker 2

Do it and then there's.

00:02:10 Speaker 2

This idea of like OK.

00:02:12 Speaker 2

Well then, if it's not going to be.

00:02:13 Speaker 2

Through insurance.

00:02:14 Speaker 2

Maybe it's just employers have a set amount.

00:02:17 Speaker 2

That is budgeted into their bottom line that they will pay out for people to get this travel or have access to abortions.

00:02:24 Speaker 2

But then that becomes a question of privacy.

00:02:26 Speaker 2

Who do you go to?

00:02:27 Speaker 2

You have to go to HR now.

00:02:28 Speaker 2

HR needs to have this information and in states like Texas where they have like a whistleblower legislation, you.

00:02:37 Speaker 2

You go to your supervisor and your supervisor doesn't believe in abortion and then goes and reports it to the state and says, hey, they're paying for people to get abortions, right?

00:02:47 Speaker 1

Yeah, I mean, and as you're talking about this, I'm.

00:02:51 Speaker 1

I'm thinking.

00:02:53 Speaker 1

Obviously about like how do people access?

00:02:56 Speaker 1

This right it's.

00:02:57 Speaker 1

Limited in scope, of course, but then like at what point does you know, what point does that corporation say?

00:03:06 Speaker 1

Oh, I can't help with that piece because of course one of the things that you know we've seen happen, it's.

00:03:12 Speaker 1

It's not just a.

00:03:13 Speaker 1

Issue of.

00:03:14 Speaker 1

You know.

00:03:15 Speaker 1

Of of not having access to abortion rights, right?

00:03:21 Speaker 1

But we're increasingly seeing the criminalization of people who have, who are helping, right?

00:03:26 Speaker 1

So, you know, I mean, I think there was just something, you know, recently where Facebook handed over like messages.

00:03:33 Speaker 1

Between a mom and a kid.

00:03:35 Speaker 1

Because the mom was trying to help her daughter get an abortion, right?

00:03:39 Speaker 1

Well, Facebook is a company that has.

00:03:42 Speaker 1

You know limits.

00:03:45 Speaker 1

On what it can do all be it because it's a corporation in the United States.

00:03:48 Speaker 1

There are limits on what it can do then what I can, what I can do.

00:03:49 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah.

00:03:52 Speaker 1

But you know, like at what point?

00:03:56 Speaker 1

Is there a line that the company then decides, Oh no, we're not going this far, so now we're reliant.

00:04:02 Speaker 1

On the corporation, right.

00:04:04 Speaker 1

And the corporation.

00:04:05 Speaker 1

Now says, oh, but that's a road too far.

00:04:08 Speaker 2

Yeah, because it starts to impact their bottom line.

00:04:11

Right, like.

00:04:12 Speaker 2

And then the the best part of all of.

00:04:13 Speaker 2

This is that we're.

00:04:16 Speaker 2

We are having these conversations and corporations are stepping up, but we recognize that.

00:04:21 Speaker 2

How easy is it for people to take time off in general?

00:04:23 Speaker 2

Like, how often are people using their paid time off?

00:04:26 Speaker 2

How often are they encouraged to do it?

00:04:29 Speaker 2

Like we we have a really horrible situation when it comes to workers and their legal time.

00:04:37 Speaker 2

Right.

00:04:37 Speaker 2

And so will this be vacation time?

00:04:40 Speaker 2

Will this just be your sick time?

00:04:42 Speaker 2

How much of your sick time are you?

00:04:44 Speaker 2

Able to use.

00:04:45 Speaker 2

And once again, like, who is recording this?

00:04:48 Speaker 2

How is this information being tracked?

00:04:50 Speaker 2

Where are all the mechanisms by which this happens that then could impact someone?

00:04:55 Speaker 2

I see.

00:04:55 Speaker 1

Well, and who are?

00:04:56 Speaker 1

The you know the.

00:04:58 Speaker 1

Uh, obstructionist when it comes to union organizing, right when it comes to fair labor practices in a state that would actually ensure that you had.

00:05:11 Speaker 1

Access to all those.

00:05:12 Speaker 1

Things like time off and healthcare, et cetera.

00:05:15 Speaker 1

You know, these corporations are blocking that.

00:05:18 Speaker 1

At any and every turn, so you know the idea that they're going to.

00:05:24 Speaker 1

Sort of save women from the government.

00:05:30 Speaker 1

I don't know what they're sort of with their goal.

00:05:33 Speaker 2

And it also is an example of giving with one hand and taking with the other.

00:05:37 Speaker 2

Because some of.

00:05:38 Speaker 2

These corporations who have stepped forward, we're starting to find out that they have donated 2 legislators who have.

00:05:45 Speaker 2

Uhm, been active in ensuring that access to reproductive rights are are restricted in their states, right?

00:05:54 Speaker 2

So it's like and then also what's with is very fascinating.

00:05:59 Speaker 2

Is that those who are forced birth are now using the language of we'll see corporations just they want to have more worker they they don't want to have to pay for you for your maternity leave or paternity leave.

00:06:15 Speaker 2

They don't want to do so.

00:06:16 Speaker 2

They're starting to use language that has already been used.

00:06:20 Speaker 2

By folks to hold corporations accountable when it comes to making sure that people have paid.

00:06:25 Speaker 2

Time off and.

00:06:25 Speaker 2

It's like the forced birth people don't care about that.

00:06:30 Speaker 1

Like, what's the this, this?

00:06:33 Speaker 1

It was like this.

00:06:34 Speaker 1

Like this saying that's like, you know?

00:06:36 Speaker 1

I don't think you know what that.

00:06:37 Speaker 1

Means isn't that like?

00:06:38 Speaker 1

I saying I don't think.

00:06:39 Speaker 2

Yeah, that that is like, oh.

00:06:40 Speaker 2

It's from The Princess Bride, you're yeah.

00:06:42

Oh, is that what it is?

00:06:44 Speaker 2

Here you're you're using that or you don't know what it means, right?

00:06:46 Speaker 1

Do you know what that mean?

00:06:47 Speaker 2

I don't think you know what that means.

00:06:49 Speaker 2

And so it's fascinating that then we're going to start getting it in a place where people are going to use language that activists have outside of reproductive justice, have used to hold corporations accountable when it comes to.

00:07:04 Speaker 2

Family medical leave and things like that, then they're going to distort it.

00:07:08 Speaker 2

And so that makes it really confusing for some folks because they're like, yeah, we we do need to hold companies accountable for making sure that we have paid maternity and paternity leave.

00:07:18 Speaker 2

We do need make make sure that we hold them accountable for ensuring that everyone has access to health benefits.

00:07:24 Speaker 2

Right.

00:07:25 Speaker 2

And simultaneously have that access to those health benefits.

00:07:29 Speaker 2

Are you get supplemental insurance that helps pay for an abortion or whatever, blah blah?

00:07:34 Speaker 2

Then what are the legal protections they have around your privacy and ensuring that your information can be used against you?

00:07:41 Speaker 2

And what legal funds are they now going to also be building into their bottom line to ensure that, yeah, when we say we're going.

00:07:48 Speaker 2

To fight this.

00:07:50 Speaker 2

We're going to fight it all the way so that we can create precedent.

00:07:52 Speaker 2

Legally to take.

00:07:54 Speaker 2

Ourselves back again to hopefully a more just Supreme Court to bring back full reproductive rights into the United States.

00:08:05 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah.

00:08:08 Speaker 2

Right. And it's just like.

00:08:09 Speaker 1

I stay down there.

00:08:10 Speaker 2

OK, sure, sure that's gonna happen.

00:08:11 Speaker 1

I I see.

00:08:12 Speaker 1

Yeah, like, right, I say.

00:08:13 Speaker 1

Yeah, like four times because, you know, then there's this whole.

00:08:19 Speaker 1

I try to.

00:08:22 Speaker 1

You know, I try to be hopeful, yeah, but the reality is that it it feels a bit like an exercise in branding, right?

00:08:33 Speaker 1

To sort of don't pay attention to all the other ***** things that I'm doing, right.

00:08:40 Speaker 1

Just look at this great thing that I'm doing for you and, you know, again, and I think as we maybe transition into a little more discussion, you know, then.

00:08:53 Speaker 1

I think that introduces this idea of like.

00:08:57 Speaker 1

Like, well, who's whose job?

00:09:00 Speaker 1

Is it right to ensure that people have access to the human right?

00:09:08 Speaker 1

Of bodily autonomy, like managing their own family size or reproduction like.

00:09:16 Speaker 1

Who does that right?

00:09:18 Speaker 1

Who do we want to trust?

00:09:19 Speaker 1

With that really important thing.

00:09:21 Speaker 1

So like these, you know, this idea that corporations can brand themselves.

00:09:28 Speaker 1

As being.

00:09:31 Speaker 1

Supportive of women.

00:09:34 Speaker 1

And and at the same time.

00:09:38 Speaker 1

Uhm, you know.

00:09:41 Speaker 1

Not promote the rights of trans folks, right?

00:09:48 Speaker 1

Or any number of other types, or immigrants, or any number like like.

00:09:54 Speaker 1

Then it just becomes an exercise in sort of.

00:09:57 Speaker 1

Uh, another it's like a new logo, right?

00:10:00 Speaker 1

Like it's gonna make people think differently about my.

00:10:00

Well, yeah.

00:10:03 Speaker 2

And what's gonna make them want to continue to?

00:10:05 Speaker 2

Be a consumer of my brand and my product.

00:10:09 Speaker 2

And so then if if.

00:10:10 Speaker 2

It shifts if the wind shifts.

00:10:13 Speaker 2

Are you going because you're not really held accountable to anything?

00:10:16 Speaker 2

Are you then going to drop this and move on to something else?

00:10:20 Speaker 1

Right.

00:10:21 Speaker 1

And in the end, it becomes less about their employees, right?

00:10:25 Speaker 1

Less about the people who work for the company and more about the consumer, more about the product.

00:10:31 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah.

Part 3:

00:00:00 Speaker 1

Well, and I.

00:00:00 Speaker 2

Think that this like leads us into talking about one of the last things we really wanted to talk about is the role of government and bodily autonomy, right?

00:00:08 Speaker 2

Because I I want to be honest.

00:00:09 Speaker 2

I don't trust corporate.

00:00:10 Speaker 2

I mean, I trust the government half the.

00:00:12 Speaker 2

Time when we.

00:00:13 Speaker 2

Don't trust corporations, right?

00:00:16 Speaker 2

Because their focus is to make money.

00:00:20 Speaker 2

And make money in a in a large amount for a concentrated group of folks.

00:00:26 Speaker 2

And so, you know, we look to our government because we say that we're a Democratic Republic and we have this Constitution and, you know, the will of the people.

00:00:38 Speaker 2

But but what? What does?

00:00:40 Speaker 2

That actually really mean?

00:00:42 Speaker 2

Like how does?

00:00:43 Speaker 2

The government fit in this because now we government has said no.

00:00:46 Speaker 2

We've decided you can't do this and states are going, yeah, we're the government, we are going to determine what is best for your body.

00:00:54 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah.

00:00:56 Speaker 1

I mean, it's a complicated question, right?

00:00:58 Speaker 1

Because, you know, I've.

00:01:00 Speaker 1

I consider myself in many ways a revolutionary, but as somebody who did a significant amount of policy work.

00:01:10 Speaker 1

I've, you know, often relied on.

00:01:15 Speaker 1

Government systems and structures to protect people who were vulnerable and and I think that, you know now the reality is that many people did not have access to government protections.

00:01:32 Speaker 1

Right.

00:01:33 Speaker 1

You know, I worked for many.

00:01:34 Speaker 1

Years with the folks were who were undocumented, who couldn't really rely on the government in any way to to protect them.

00:01:43 Speaker 1

But, you know, I think that it's a, uh, interesting question.

00:01:48 Speaker 1

Like, I think the government, that government has a particular role.

00:01:52 Speaker 1

Uhm, you know.

00:01:55 Speaker 1

Obviously a political role right around electing.

00:02:02 Speaker 1

You know people or.

00:02:04 Speaker 1

Elected officials playing.

00:02:06 Speaker 1

A role in ensuring that there are laws that are put.

00:02:09 Speaker 1

In place to protect.

00:02:11 Speaker 1

People a financial role, right?

Part 4:

00:00:00 Speaker 1

A financial role to, you know, ensure that.

00:00:04 Speaker 1

People have access, but, you know, like we are leery of the role of corporations.

00:00:14 Speaker 1

I, you know, in this moment and somewhat leery of the role of government.

00:00:19 Speaker 1

Well, actually, you know, maybe less in this moment, you know, more having being reflective.

00:00:24 Speaker 1

Over the last several years and what can happen?

00:00:27 Speaker 2

Yeah, I also think this brings up this idea 'cause, you know, people talk about mutual aid or they talk about.

00:00:33 Speaker 2

About a month like.

00:00:35 Speaker 2

Collectivism or what does it mean to create, you know, more egalitarian societies? And I, I think that what we circle around 2:00 is in the same way that corporations are made-up of people, government is made-up of people. And, you know, as humans we are very complex.

00:00:54 Speaker 2

And the ways in which we see our social issues, the ways in which we construct our society, does ebb and flow with whomever has the most power at a particular time and how they wield that power.

00:01:08 Speaker 2

For now, I sound like, you know, a Marvel comic writer.

00:01:11 Speaker 2

They will.

00:01:12 Speaker 1

That more?

00:01:13 Speaker 1

Well, maybe we could write our own.

00:01:14 Speaker 2

Works better.

00:01:15 Speaker 1

Comic book about graphic novel about it.

00:01:16 Speaker 2

I know, right?

00:01:18 Speaker 2

Yeah, I don't know if there's an easy answer to it.

00:01:21 Speaker 2

I don't know because I've been, you know, and we talked about this in the last podcast.

00:01:25 Speaker 2

I've been in situations with people, people.

00:01:27 Speaker 2

Who we're all like, oh, we're out.

00:01:29 Speaker 2

To do good and.

00:01:29 Speaker 2

They do harm.

00:01:30 Speaker 2

Within it, yeah.

00:01:31 Speaker 2

So is, is the answer to this to keep having these conversations?

00:01:37 Speaker 2

To push us to be more just right?

00:01:39 Speaker 2

Is this just a thought experiment?

00:01:43 Speaker 2

Are are we now gonna, like Denise and Leona join an abortion Underground Railroad like?

00:01:51 Speaker 1

I mean, the answer is probably.

00:01:52 Speaker 1

Yes to that one I.

00:01:53 Speaker 2

Know right, right, right. Like.

00:01:58 Speaker 2

Am I never going to be able to travel to certain states because I definitely know that they are not safe states for me as long as I stay within my reproductive years?

00:02:07 Speaker 1

Yeah, I I mean, I I think these are.

00:02:11 Speaker 1

The fundamental questions, then?

00:02:13 Speaker 1

Maybe we come back to on a regular basis, right?

00:02:16 Speaker 1

What is it so you know, for example?

00:02:21 Speaker 1

Perhaps the governmental structure that we have now is unreliable.

00:02:27 Speaker 2

OK.

00:02:27 Speaker 1

Are there other models that might make?

00:02:33 Speaker 1

Uh, collect collective?

00:02:35 Speaker 1

Dignity more accessible.

00:02:37 Speaker 1

Like I'm, you know, constantly thinking about, you know.

00:02:41 Speaker 1

How do you how do you fight patriarchy within?

00:02:47 Speaker 1

A system of patriarchy, right?

00:02:49 Speaker 1

Like, you know, like, you know, our current, you know, having a, uh, a model of government that is primarily centered around favoring so-called masculine power that really creates these very rigid.

00:03:07 Speaker 1

Gendered roles around family.

00:03:10 Speaker 1

And, you know, child care for, you know, women and girls and femme folks.

00:03:16 Speaker 1

And then you know this idea of protection, including protection of women.

00:03:23 Speaker 1

Right as a as a sort of masculine power, I really don't like the model, even when it benefits me of.

00:03:32 Speaker 1

You know of having to be protected in.

00:03:35 Speaker 2

Well, I have to be protected by the.

00:03:38 Speaker 2

From the people who are allegedly protecting me.

00:03:40

Right.

00:03:40 Speaker 2

So the body already flawed, so they're like, oh, we've got to protect.

00:03:43 Speaker 2

Well, who are you protecting me from?

00:03:44 Speaker 2

Oh, you're protecting me from people like you.

00:03:46 Speaker 2

So then maybe that we should pack up and think about, well, what kind of society do we have that you?

00:03:47

Right.

00:03:53 Speaker 2

You have to then protect me from people who.

00:03:55 Speaker 1

Right.

00:03:56 Speaker 1

From you, yeah.

00:03:57 Speaker 1

Protecting from you, I mean.

00:03:59 Speaker 1

And then, you know, I think, you know, mutual aid is a great idea.

00:04:06 Speaker 1

And I, I do really think that there are a lot of amazing organizations that are doing, you know, great work right now like plan C pills and you know, there's a several like the abortion funds network at the same time.

00:04:27 Speaker 1

You know, as we pointed out, as you mentioned in the last podcast, but also, you know, going back to the beginning.

00:04:33 Speaker 1

Being thinking about Doctor Loretta Ross and the work of sister song, you know, one of the reasons that they adopted and developed this reproductive justice model is because the organizations that existed at the time, the mutual aid organizations that existed at the time, we're not addressing.

00:04:52 Speaker 2

These needs broadly.

00:04:54 Speaker 1

So I do think it's a, you know, deeply complicated situation.

00:05:01 Speaker 1

Which means that.

00:05:02 Speaker 1

As we close, we have given nobody.

00:05:06 Speaker 1

And no, we have no answers answer.

00:05:08 Speaker 1

No, perhaps not.

00:05:10 Speaker 1

Made anybody feel any better?

00:05:12 Speaker 1

No it.

00:05:12 Speaker 2

This this this.

00:05:14 Speaker 2

This, this raging that.

00:05:15 Speaker 2

We said that in the beginning, though, we didn't want to.

00:05:18 Speaker 2

We just want to rage.

00:05:19 Speaker 2

We just want to talk it through.

00:05:21 Speaker 2

Because when you feel helpless, you have to.

00:05:24 Speaker 2

Speak about it right, like.

00:05:26 Speaker 2

You have to not let it.

00:05:28 Speaker 2

Sit with inside you and fester.

00:05:31 Speaker 2

And I think I take joy in the fact that people had been having these conversations before me right and before I even existed.

00:05:40 Speaker 2

And we got to a place.

00:05:42 Speaker 2

Where we were looking at, hey, how can we make it better?

00:05:45 Speaker 2

And then we regress because that's what humans do.

00:05:48 Speaker 2

We regress and then we're going to push forward again.

00:05:51 Speaker 2

And I hope that the the next push.

00:05:55 Speaker 2

Puts us in a place where we meet those ideals that are more equitable and more inclusive and better than what we had before.

00:06:05 Speaker 1

Yeah, for sure.

00:06:06 Speaker 1

And I I really think that some of what we've covered today, even though, of course we are enraged and sad and, you know, unsure sometimes about what's.

00:06:20 Speaker 1

Going to happen in the future.

00:06:23 Speaker 1

That we've sort of stuck to what we've committed to do here at women lead network, which is, you know, to raise these issues in a really intersectional way and think about them critically and also to highlight.

00:06:38 Speaker 1

The work of.

00:06:40 Speaker 1

Women who have been thinking.

00:06:41 Speaker 1

On these things.

00:06:43 Speaker 1

You know before.

00:06:44 Speaker 1

And will continue to to think of them, think on.

00:06:48 Speaker 1

Them in the future.

00:06:50 Speaker 1

So uhm, I guess that.

00:06:53 Speaker 1

I mean it certainly certainly doesn't do.

00:06:53 Speaker 2

That's it.

00:06:55 Speaker 1

Us? I'm sure there are.

00:06:56

Yeah, but that's.

00:06:57 Speaker 1

Lots of other things that.

00:06:57 Speaker 2

That's enough raging for.

00:06:59 Speaker 2

Now I.

00:07:00 Speaker 2

Think, but not a significant amount of raging.

00:07:02 Speaker 1

Maybe I'll go sit in.

00:07:03 Speaker 1

My hot tub or something.

00:07:04

Yeah, right.

00:07:06 Speaker 2

We have to, we have to constantly remind.

00:07:08 Speaker 2

People to like subscribe.

00:07:10 Speaker 2

And follow because eventually we would like to.

00:07:12 Speaker 1

OK.

00:07:14 Speaker 2

Get paid for our age.

00:07:16 Speaker 2

OK, so you will close.

00:07:19 Speaker 2

About like corporations, blah blah blah and capitalism and I'm like, yeah, well, you know.

00:07:25 Speaker 2

I still gotta live in it.

00:07:26 Speaker 1

Yeah. Well, so folks.

00:07:30 Speaker 1

If you like what you heard, or even if you don't like what you heard and you want to.

00:07:34 Speaker 1

Come back for the next.

00:07:35 Speaker 1

Yeah, please, like, subscribe, right?

00:07:39 Speaker 1

Follow us.

00:07:40 Speaker 1

Not literally, no.

00:07:44 Speaker 1

And, you know, join the conversation.

00:07:48 Speaker 2

Alright, thank you.