



*From Theory to
Practice: Community
Building and Advocacy
for Reproductive
Justice*

Stacie McCormick and D'Andra Willis

The Afiya Center

Dallas, TX

The Afiya Center

We're the only Black womxn-founded & directed [#ReproductiveJustice](#) organization in North Texas, launched to address the HIV epidemic among Black womxn and girls in Texas. Our work now extends beyond HIV programming to include a wide range of services with the goal of achieving full reproductive freedom.

Our programs are designed to ensure Black womxn have the right to choose if, when, and how we parent. We offer:

- 👤 Full-spectrum doula services
- 📌 HIV advocacy + education
- ☐ Peer support groups
- 🤝 Mutual aid support
- 💖 And so much more



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Dr. Stacie McCormick

Afiya Center

Research Partner

- My work as an advocate
- broadening the lens
of Reproductive Justice
- Theories that inform my
practice.
- How I've done this work
with The Afiya Center.



- My work as an advocate
-Birth Justice
- Ways I've worked to build sustainable communities.
- How I've advocated on behalf of others.

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Black Wombholders' Bill of Rights

(inspired by NAABB's Black Birthing Bill of Rights)

Black Wombholder's Bill of Rights

- I have the right to choose NOT to have children at any point in my life.
- I have the unlimited right to an abortion at any gestational point in the pregnancy.
- I have the right to a judgment-free experience with healthcare providers and judgment free conversations about sexual and reproductive health in my community.
- I have the right to a safe and compassionate gynecological healthcare experience.
- I have the right to receive information about ALL of the options available to me as it relates to my sexual and reproductive health.
- I have the right to make the best choice for me at ANY age!
- I have the right to care that is not informed by ableism or race-based medicine.
- I have the right to gynecological care that is not influenced by homophobia, transphobia, or any other normative perspective that does not consider my identity.
- I have the right to be called by my chosen name and not my given name during medical appointments.
- I have the right for my son to receive a thorough education on his sexual, reproductive health and rights.
- I have the right to supportive, shame-free, and anti-sexist community conversations about my sexual and reproductive health.

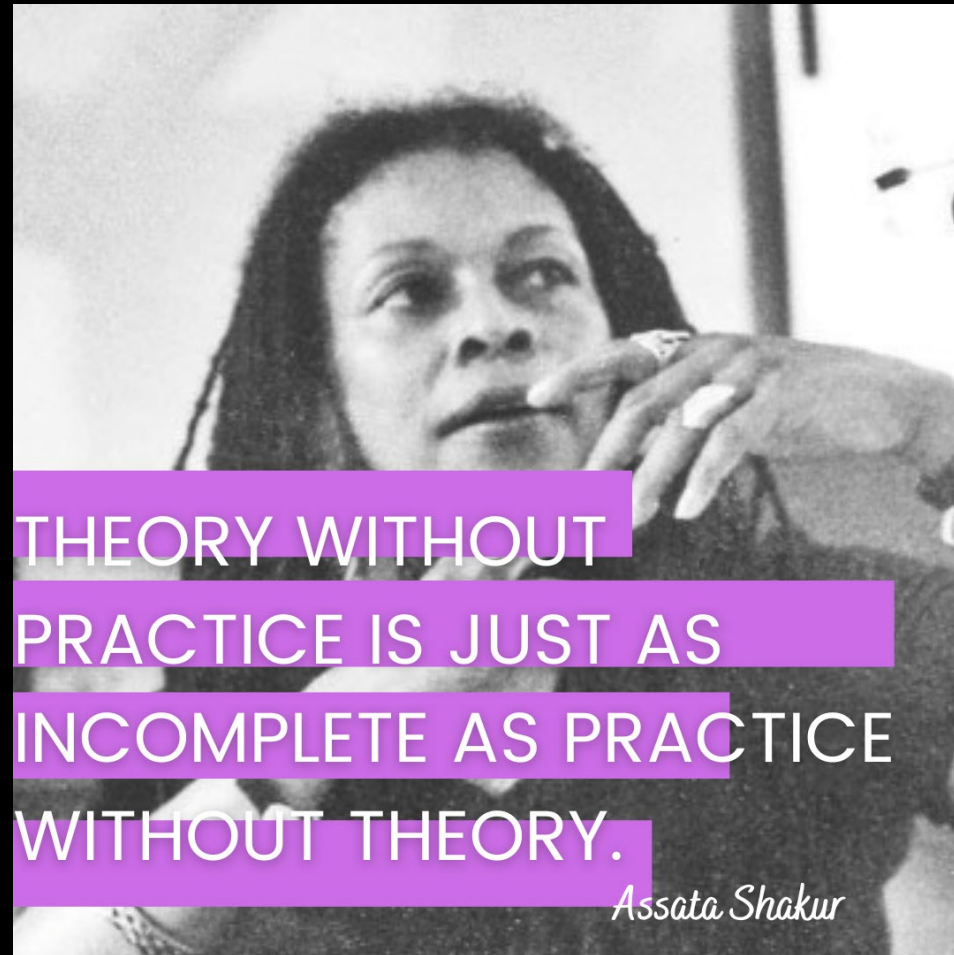
Principles for Advocacy

Advocacy looks different for different communities in different spaces. Here are some principles that should be at the center of any of your work as an advocate.

- Speak **with** and not for the communities you represent.
- Meet your community members where they are. Understand their perspectives through performing a risk assessment of what they are willing to do to achieve their goals. This also means centering their safety.
- Co-create outcomes with your community. Let them take the lead. Leadership of the most impacted decenters power and gives everyone a voice in the conversation.
- Vet the resources you share before presenting them to your communities.
- Be versatile. Talk with different constituencies and be prepared to present your ideas in different ways for different audiences.
- Be committed to ending [white supremacy culture](#) in your praxis.

Thank you!

Questions and Conversation



THEORY WITHOUT
PRACTICE IS JUST AS
INCOMPLETE AS PRACTICE
WITHOUT THEORY.

Assata Shakur