

In Spring of 2021, AWHs awarded a Community Grant to Tannuja Rozario and Harmehar Kohli, in partnership with South Queens Women's March, to spearhead a reproductive health series in underserved communities in South Queens. The goals for the reproductive health series was to increase access to reproductive health care by providing resources, educating New Yorker's on various reproductive health topics, and inspiring legislative change. The grant has allowed for distribution of safe sex products (including external and internal condoms) at various outreach events, such as tabling in local communities, various workshops and food pantries which brought direct access to hundreds of community members. Along-side the safe-sex kits, thousands of period supplies, including menstrual cups, tampons, and pads to New Yorker's were distributed. Supplies were also distributed in spaces aimed to break the stigma around menstruation by engaging in storytelling and art, which can ultimately prevent period poverty. For example, during the summer of 2021, in partnership with King Manor Museum an art event was hosted, where community members were able to share their period stories, decorate pads with art materials, and receive free menstrual products.

Another major goal for the reproductive health series was to educate and increase awareness about contraception in local communities. In partnership with New York Birth Control Access Project a workshop was hosted on birth control with over 60 community members in attendance of all genders. The workshop discussed the stigma around birth control, different methods of birth control, and participants were given the opportunity to speak to medical professionals with all their questions and concerns. This workshop series is planned to continue throughout 2022 and will cover topics such as PCOS, what is a doula, infertility, abortion, and much more. The next workshop will be held in April and will focus on the topic of menopause.

As a part of the reproductive health series, creating spaces to have conversations about reproductive rights and educate community members about restrictive legislation regarding reproductive health was of great importance. During the fall of 2021 a reproductive justice rally was held in South Queens, and was attended by local elected officials, various reproductive justice organizations, and many community members. The goal was to raise awareness about the current climate of reproductive politics in the United States and call on community members to build awareness in their communities around abortion care. The rally emphasized many call to actions, which include to center and amplify the voices and needs of the lives that are most impacted by reproductive health restrictions and elevate BIPOC leadership in the reproductive justice movement--ensuring that BIPOC communities' needs are being heard and addressed. Another call is to support patients by creating abortion experiences that are focused on their safety encouraging conversations regarding reproductive justice outside of health institutions as well so further help mitigate the stigma. The rally was able to empower and unify the community while supporting organizations of the front lines of reproductive justice.

Currently, the reproductive health series is ongoing and aims to continue educating and dispersing resources to underserved communities in NYC. Thank you to the AWHs community

project grant for allowing this series to be possible and helping bring a great movement to South Queens.