

IFÁ (Yorùbá for 'Wisdom'):

## Intro for All

A free short course on Black Studies

You are invited  
to five  
FREE lectures  
on five  
fundamentals



Aug 26:

Color

Sep 2:

Class

Sep 9:

Culture

Sep 16:

Gender

Sep 23:

Consciousness



Saturdays 10–11:30 am US Central time (UTC–5)  
Register at <https://go.illinois.edu/ifa>

Abdul Alkalimat,  
Instructor

# Welcome!

We'll start a few  
minutes after 10am  
US Central Time

# Gender

**Abdul Alkalimat**  
**IFA: Intro for all**  
**Community Lecture #4**  
**September 16, 2023**

# Outline

1. **What is gender? Sex?**
2. **Struggles of Black women**
3. **End of binary gender**
4. **Current social crisis**



**Gender** refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed. This includes norms, behaviours and roles associated with being a woman, man, girl or boy, as well as relationships with each other. As a social construct, gender varies from society to society and can change over time.

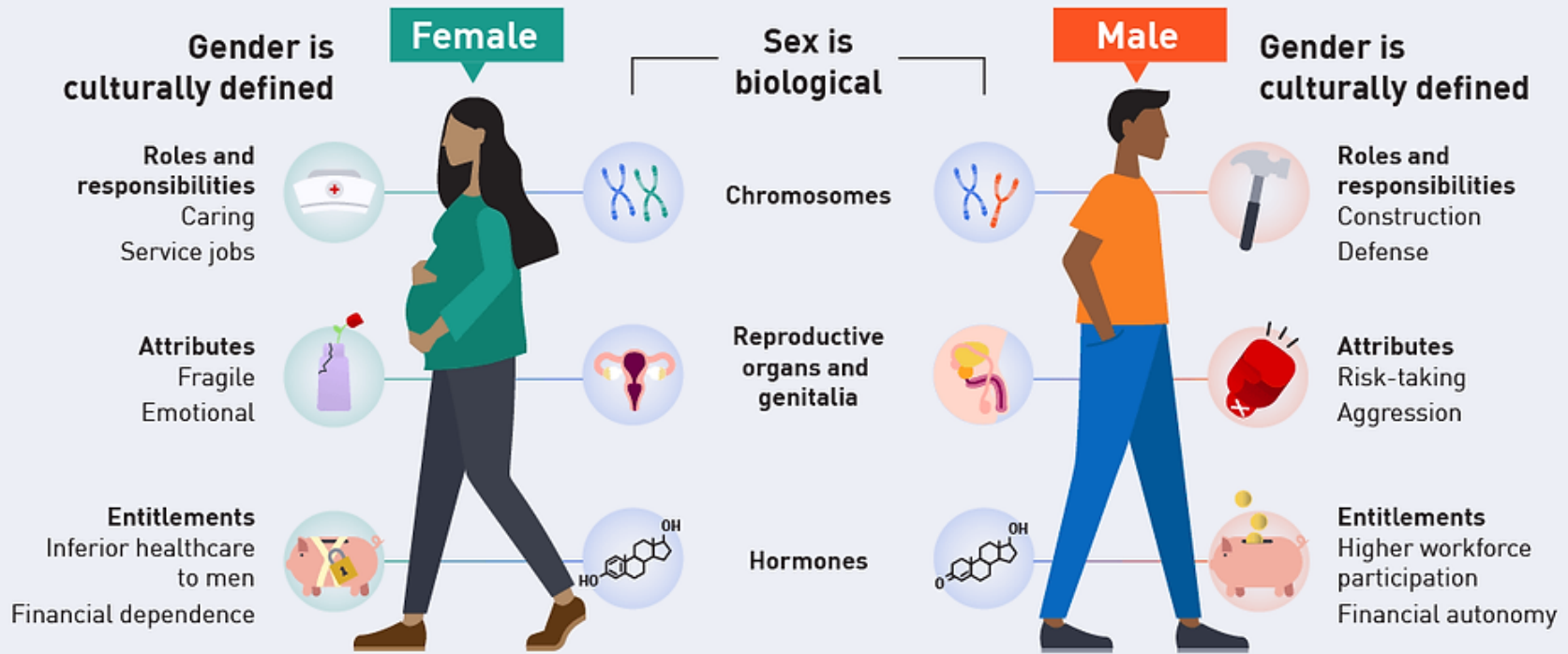
**Gender** is hierarchical and produces inequalities that intersect with other social and economic inequalities. Gender-based discrimination intersects with other factors of discrimination, such as ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, age, geographic location, gender identity and sexual orientation, among others. This is referred to as intersectionality.

**World Health Organization**



In the study of human subjects, the term **sex** should be used as a classification, generally as male or female, according to the reproductive organs and functions that derive from the chromosomal complement [generally XX for female and XY for male].  
**Yale University School of Medicine**

# Sex vs Gender

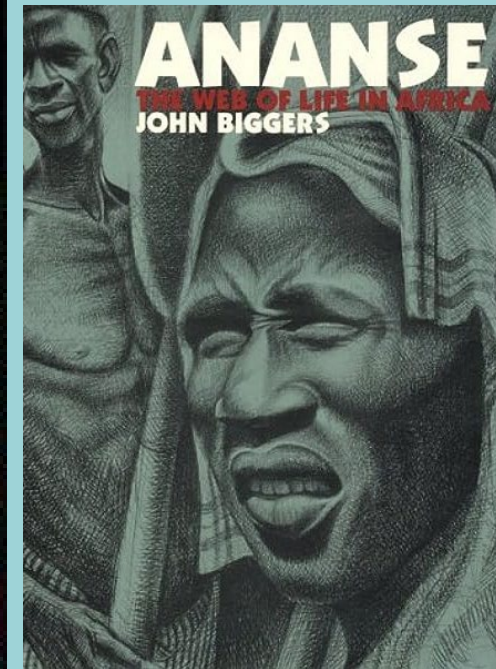
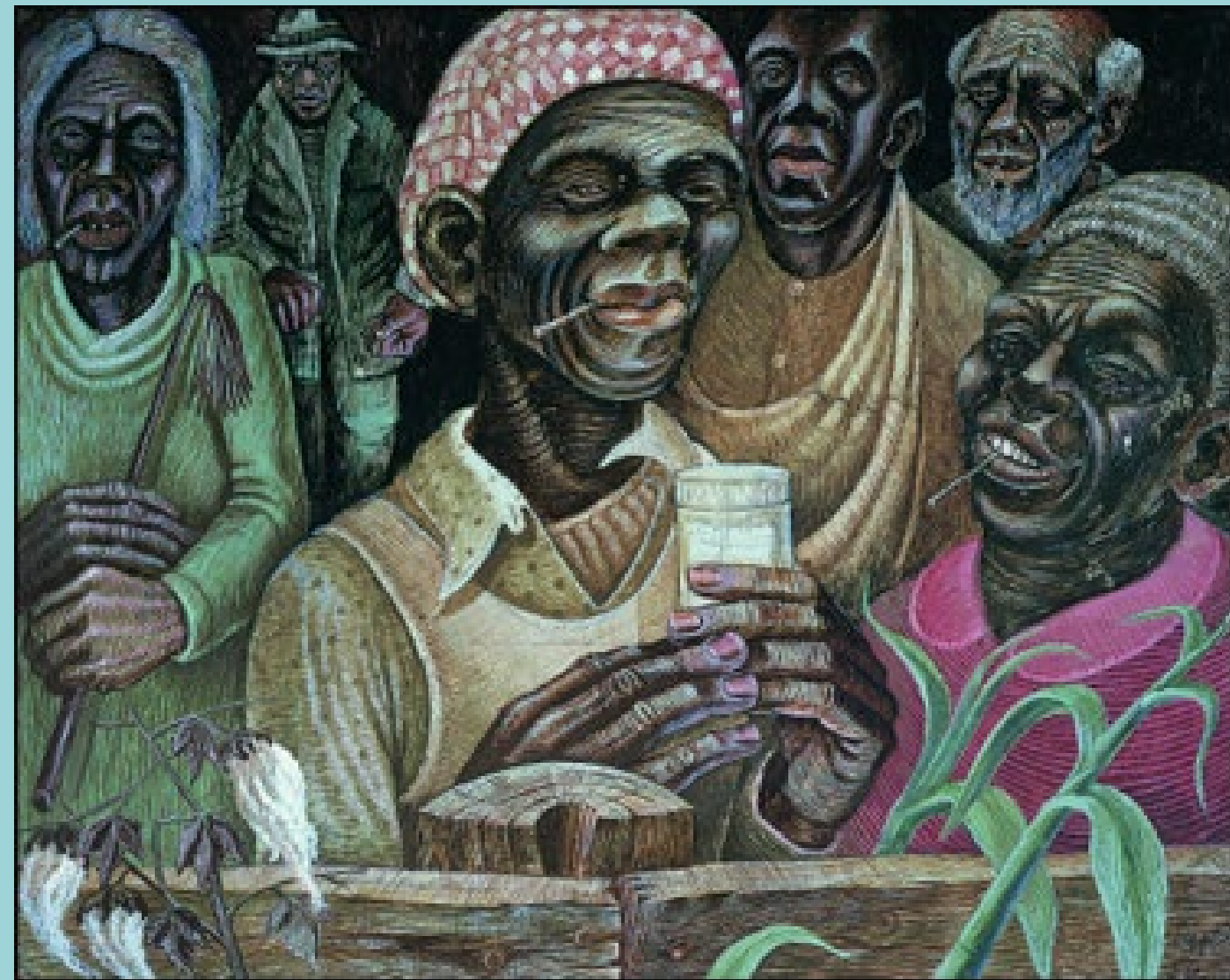


# Biology vs Sociology

(Sex)

(Gender)

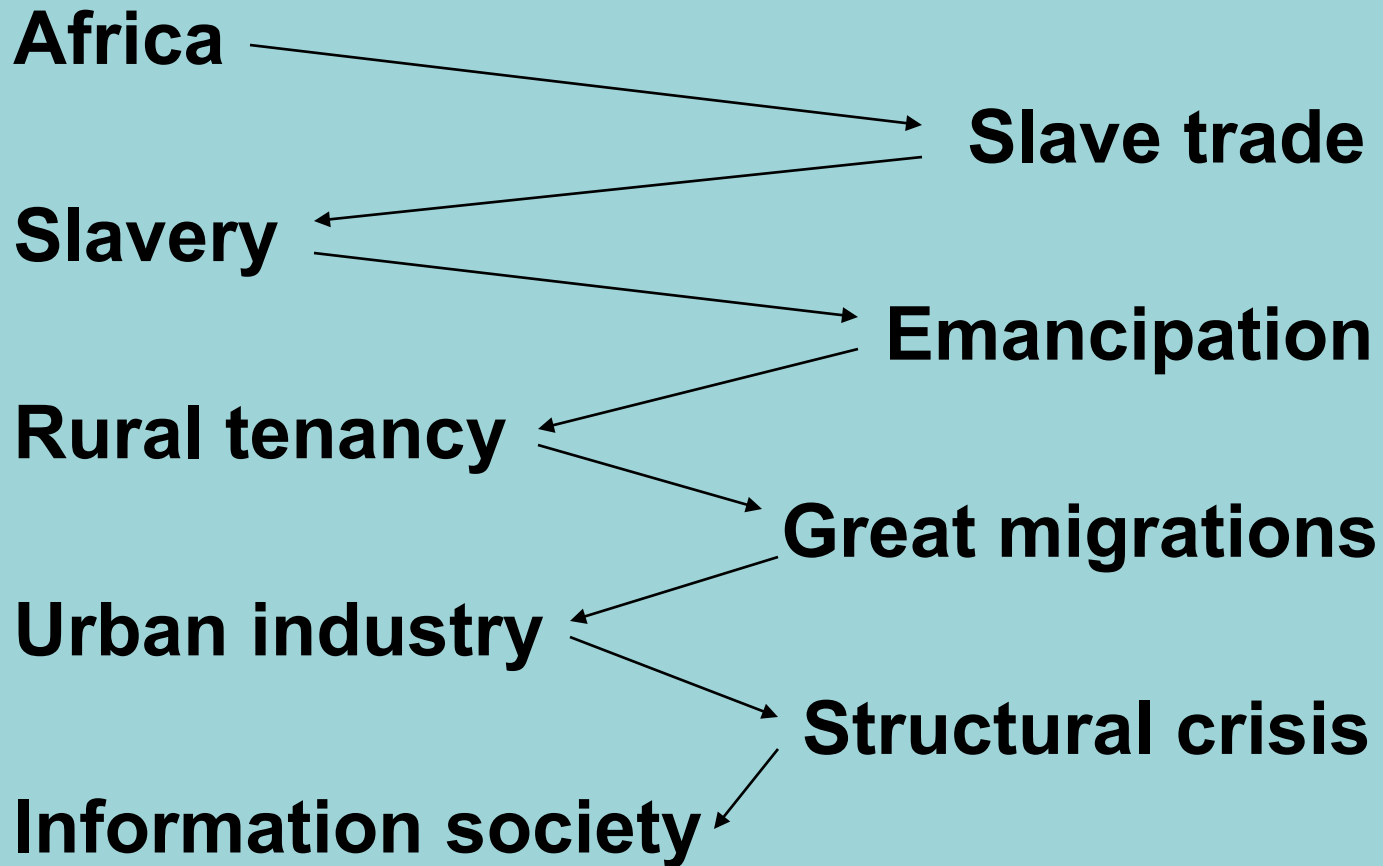




**Women have been the foundation of community social and institutional life. They lead in production and the social reproduction. This amounts to two fulltime jobs. However, within the community male supremacy is a major problem today.**

# The logic of Black history:

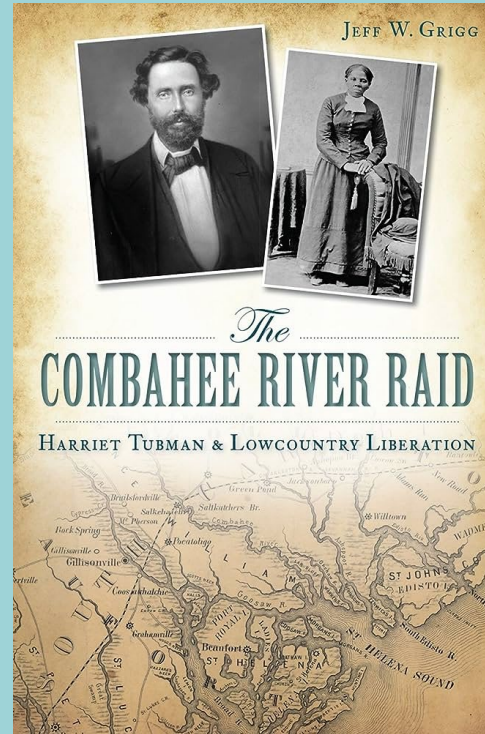
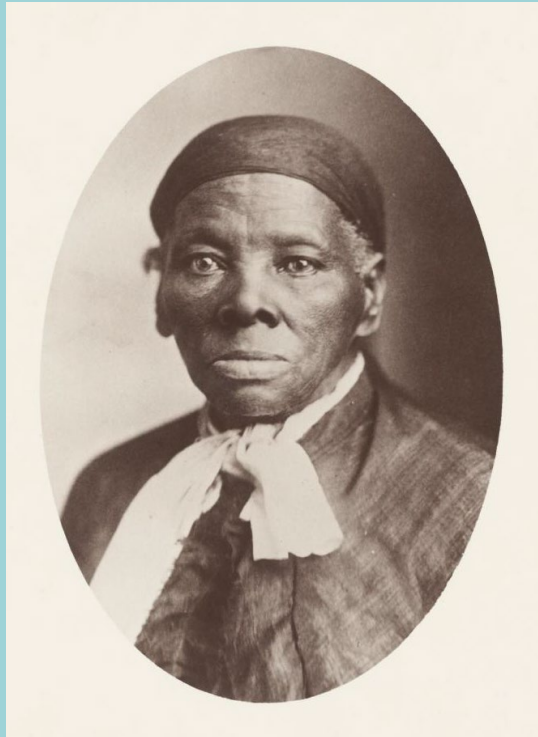
modes of social cohesion, modes of social disruption





**The slave experience of Black women**





On June 2, 1863, Harriet Tubman, under the command of Union Colonel James Montgomery, became the first woman to lead a major military operation in the United States when she and 150 African American Union soldiers rescued more than 700 slaves in the Combahee Ferry Raid during the Civil War.



**The rural tenant experience of Black women**

# Ida B. Wells Vs Lynching



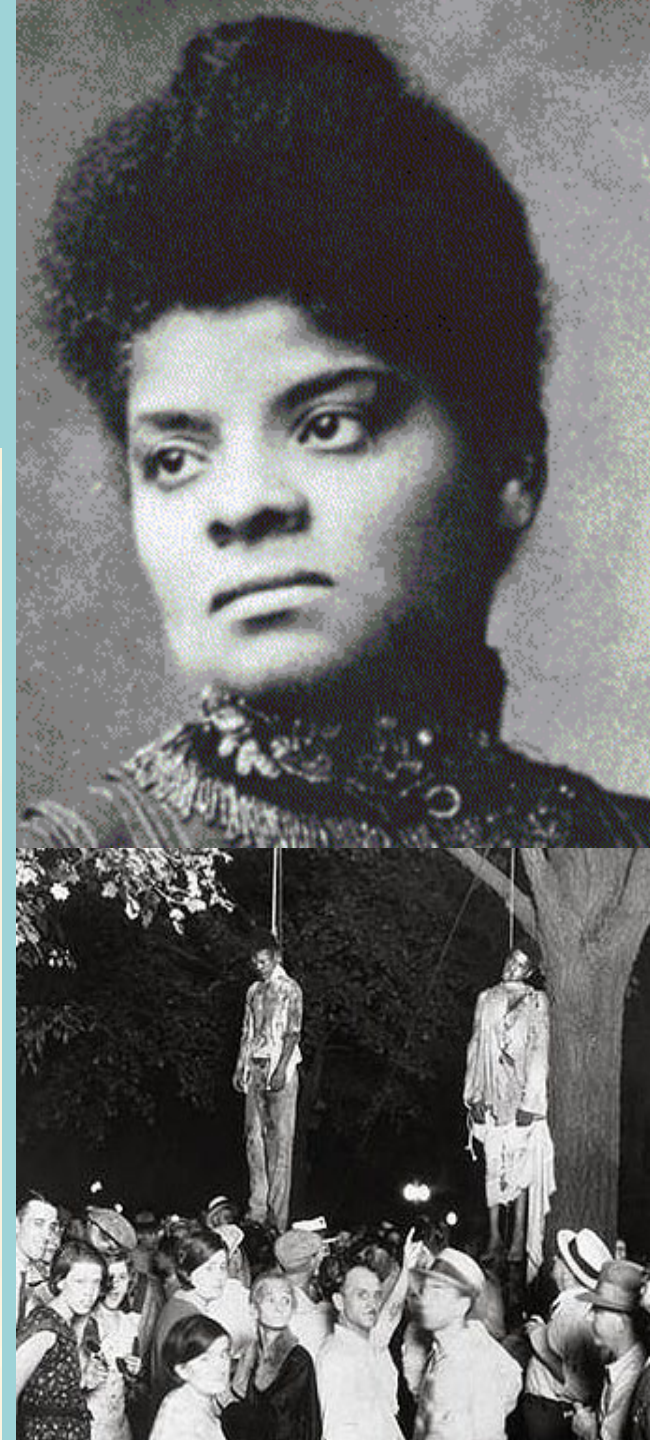
SOUTHERN HORRORS.  
LYNCH LAW  
IN ALL  
ITS PHASES



Miss IDA B. WELLS.

Price, . . . Fifteen Cents.

THE NEW YORK AGE PRINT.  
1892.





A NEGRO FAMILY JUST ARRIVED IN CHICAGO FROM THE RURAL SOUTH

# Women forced to work as domestics





**The urban Industrial experience of Black women.**



**Fannie Lou Hamer 1917 - 1977**



**Addie Wyatt (1924 – 2012)**





**Johnnie Tillmon  
(1926 – 1995)**

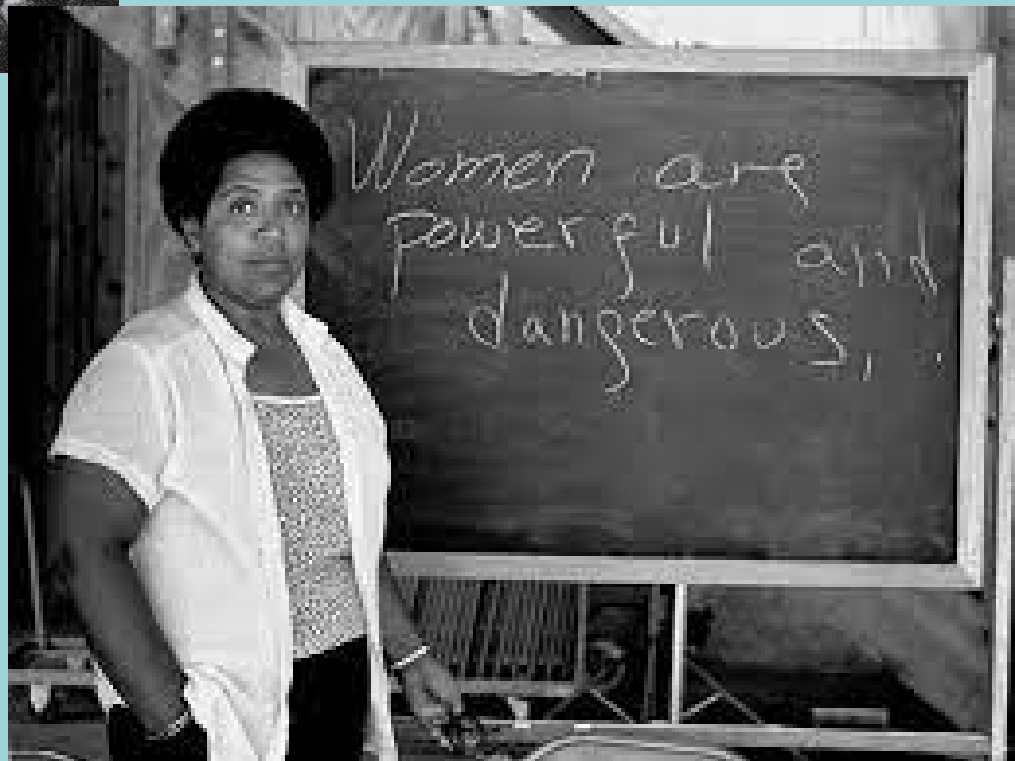




**Shirley Chisholm**  
**(1924 – 2005)**



***The most disrespected person in America is the Black woman, the most unprotected person in America is the Black woman, the most neglected person in America is the Black woman. Malcolm X***



# Black Women Face Triple Oppression

## Class, Color, Gender

Triple oppression, also called double jeopardy, Jane Crow, or triple exploitation, is a theory developed by Black socialists in the United States, such as Claudia Jones. The theory states that a connection exists between various types of oppression, specifically classism, racism, and sexism. It hypothesizes that all three types of oppression need to be struggled against at the same time.



# **Educational attainment of at least college**

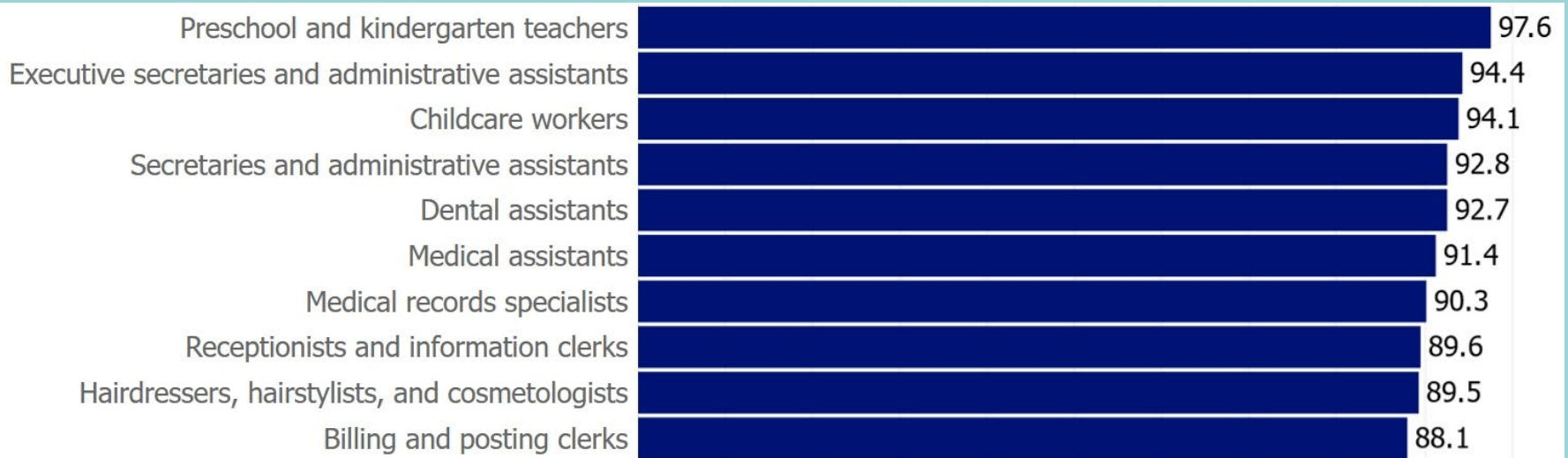
	<b>Non-Hispanic White alone, over 25 years old</b>	<b>Black alone or in combination, over 25 years old</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>28%</b>

# **Median annual earnings**

## **Ages 20-59**

### **2019-2020**

	<b>White Non-Hispanic</b>	<b>Black Non-Hispanic</b>
<b>Men</b>	<b>\$54,100</b>	<b>\$35,300</b>
<b>Women</b>	<b>\$39,500</b>	<b>\$31,500</b>

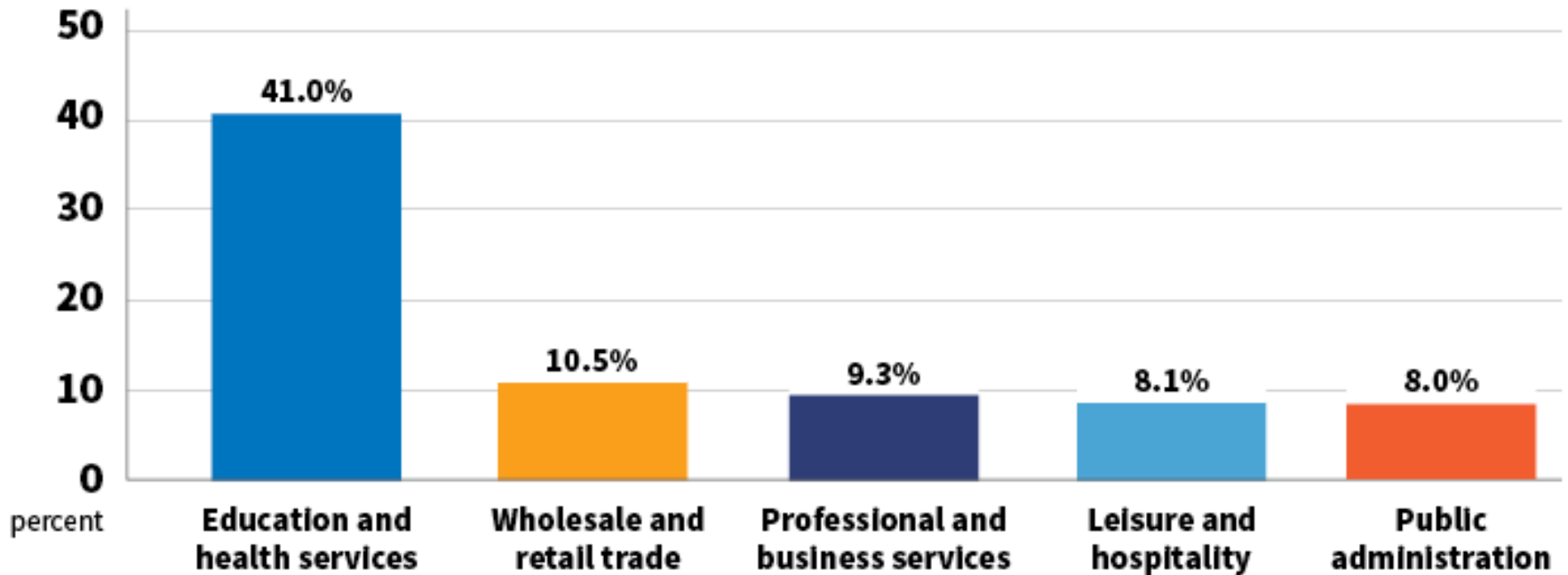


# 20 gendered occupations



# Where do Black women work?

SHARE OF EMPLOYED BLACK WOMEN BY INDUSTRY



**Note:** Industries with less than 8% share of employed Black women not shown

**Source:** BLS Current Population Survey, 2020 annual averages

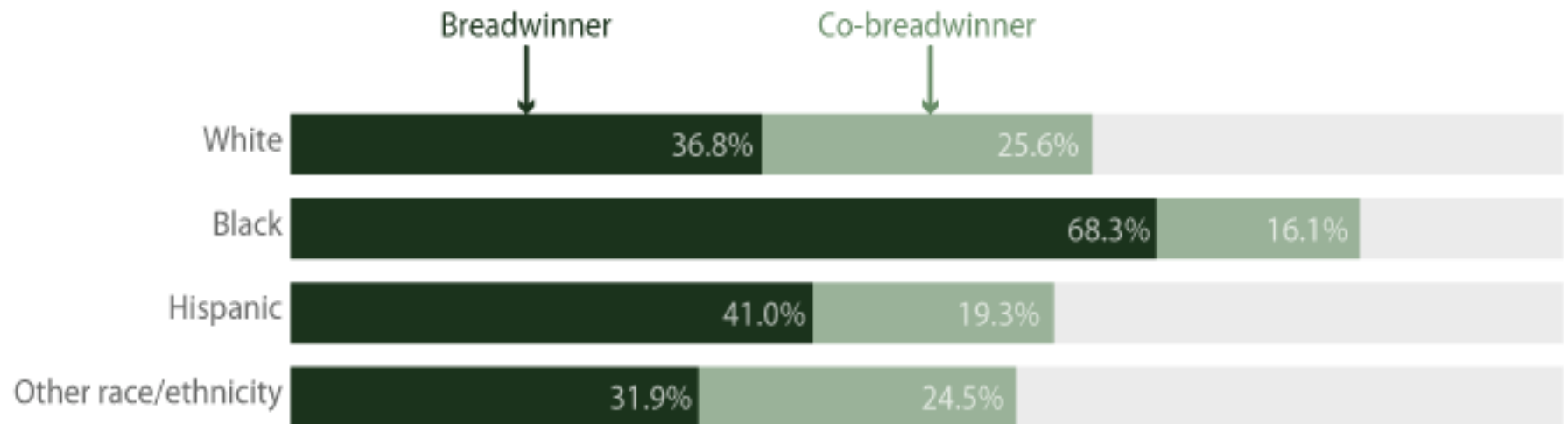


# Black Mothers

FIGURE 5

## Black mothers are more likely than any other racial or ethnic group to be their families' breadwinner

Share of all mothers who are breadwinners or co-breadwinners by race and ethnicity, 2017



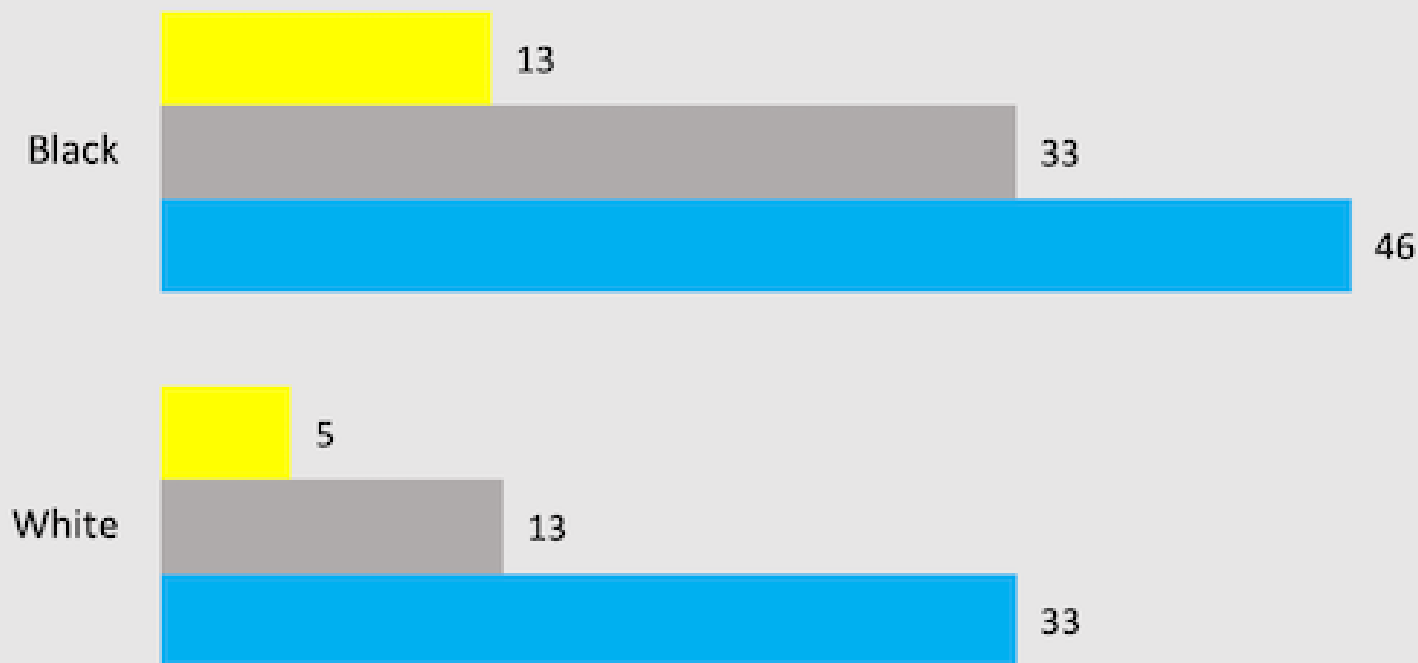
Note: The "Other race/ethnicity" category includes any other racial or ethnic group listed as an option in the Current Population Survey. Breadwinning mothers are either unmarried working mothers or married mothers who outearn their partners. Co-breadwinning mothers are married mothers who bring home at least 25 percent of their household's income through their wages.

Source: Author and Jeff Chapman's analysis of Steven Ruggles and others, "Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Current Population Survey Data for Social, Economic, and Health Research: Version 6.0 [dataset]" (Minneapolis: Minnesota Population Center, 2018), available at <https://cps.ipums.org/cps/>.

# Higher poverty for all kinds of Black families

% shown

- Living with two parents in first marriage
- Living in likely step-parent family
- Living with single parent



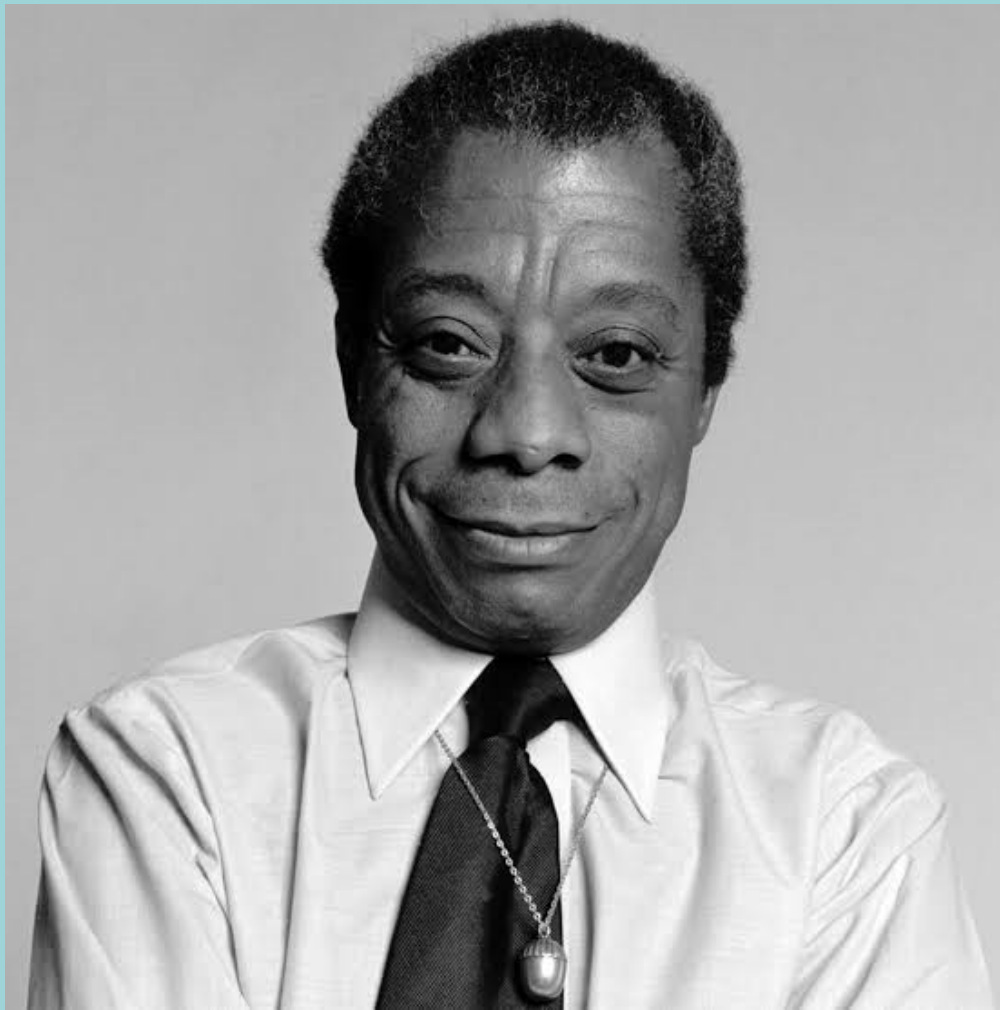
*Notes: Based on children under age 18. ACS identifies "social" parental relationship and not necessarily biological parents. Children with widowed parents are excluded from analyses.*



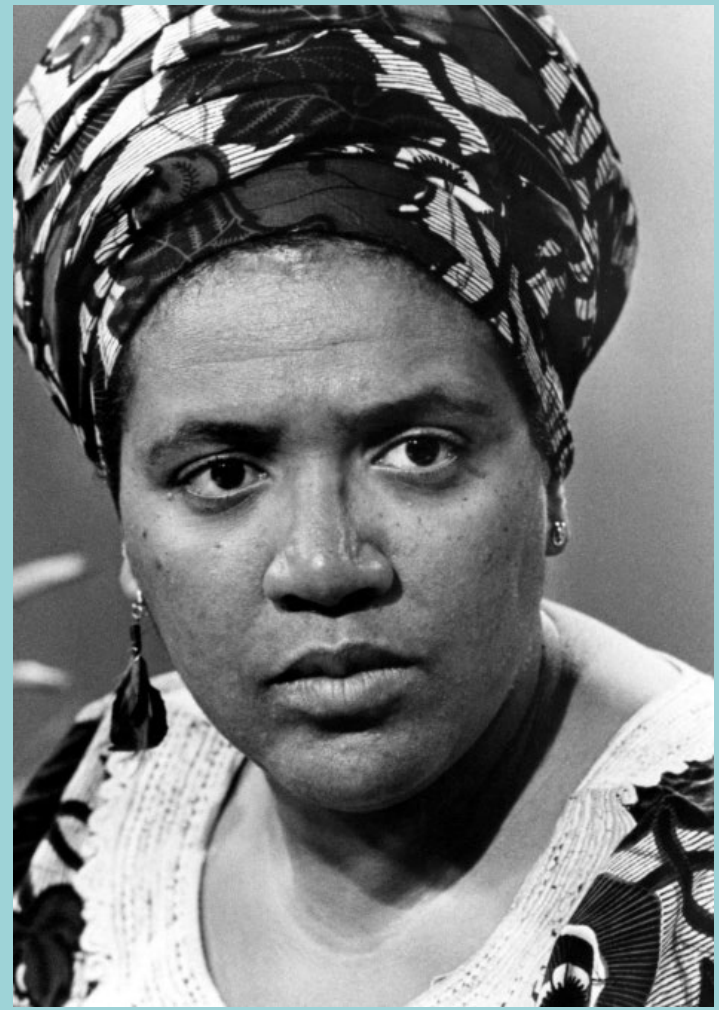
LGBTIQQA+ stands for "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning, asexual and many other terms (such as non-binary and pansexual)



From Left (top) Audre Lorde, Angela Davis, Miss Major, Lorraine Hansberry, Barbara Jordan, (bottom) Storme DeLarverie, Joan Jett Blakk, Bayard Rustin



**Love him and let him love you. Do you think anything else under heaven really matters**  
**James Baldwin**



**“But the true feminist deals out of a lesbian consciousness whether or not she ever sleeps with women.” — Audre Lorde**

# Homophobia:

**Discriminatory and dangerous**

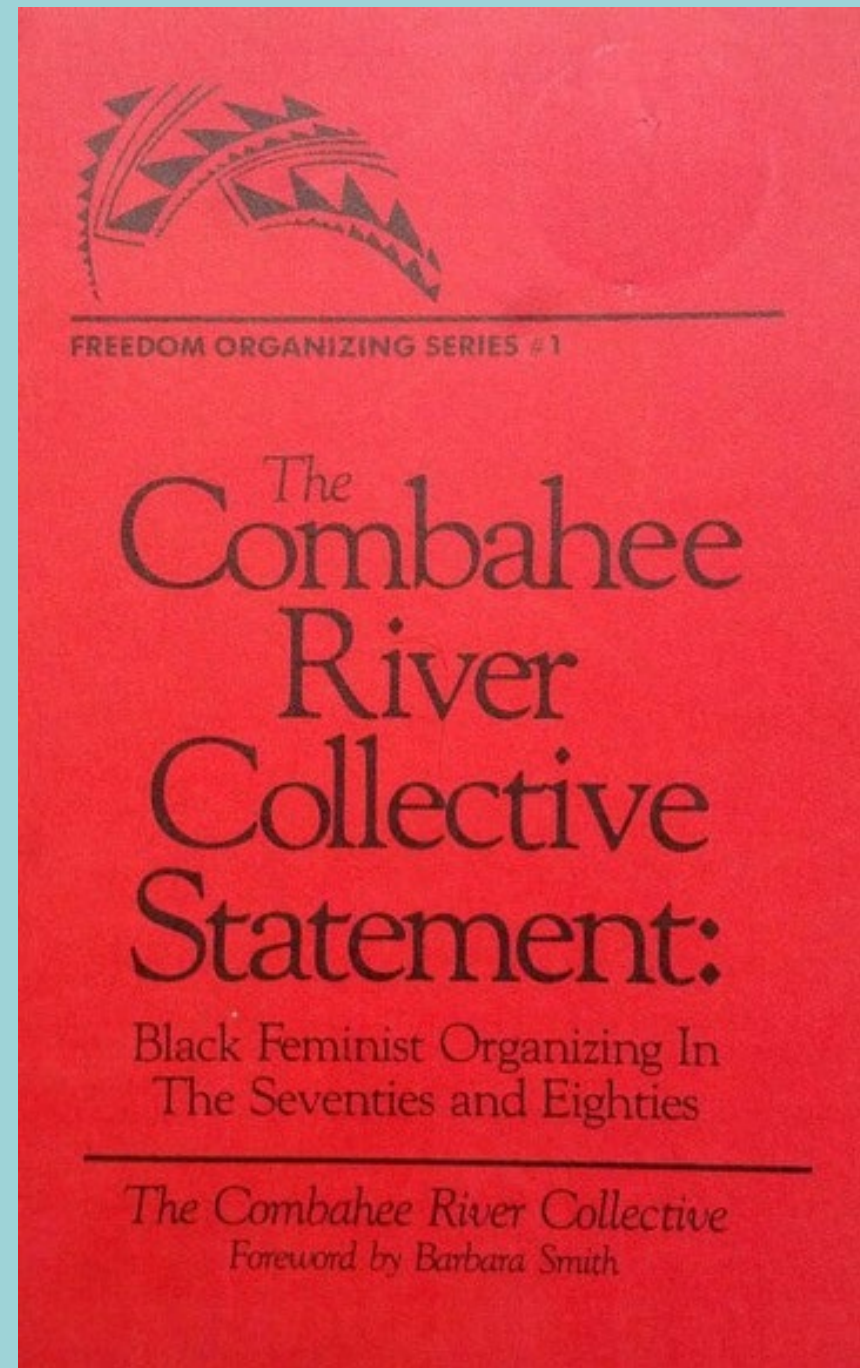


**All Brothers and Sisters must be protected**

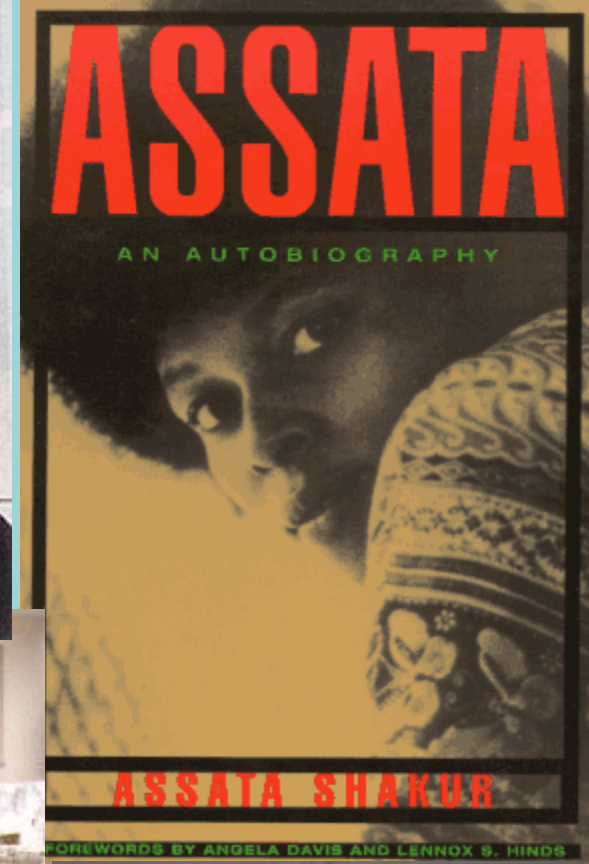


**All Brothers and Sisters must be protected**

We are a collective of Black feminists who have been meeting together since 1974. [1] During that time we have been involved in the process of defining and clarifying our politics, while at the same time doing political work within our own group and in coalition with other progressive organizations and movements. The most general statement of our politics at the present time would be that we are actively committed to struggling against racial, sexual, heterosexual, and class oppression, and see as our particular task the **development of integrated analysis and practice based upon the fact that the major systems of oppression are interlocking**. The synthesis of these oppressions creates the conditions of our lives. As Black women we see Black feminism as the logical political movement to combat the manifold and simultaneous oppressions that all women of color face. ***The Combahee River Collective Statement (1977)***







**Black women in the Black liberation movement continues**



# Views on abortion by race and ethnicity

[Chart](#)[Data](#)[Share](#)[Embed](#)

*% of U.S. adults who say abortion should be legal, by race and ethnicity (2021)*

<b>Race and ethnicity</b>	<b>Legal in all/most cases</b>	<b>Illegal in all/most cases</b>
White	57%	42%
Black	67%	31%
Hispanic	58%	40%
Asian	68%	30%

# The U.S. Maternal Mortality Crisis Affects Black Women Especially

The median maternal mortality rate in select developed countries is **4.45 out of every 100,000** women.

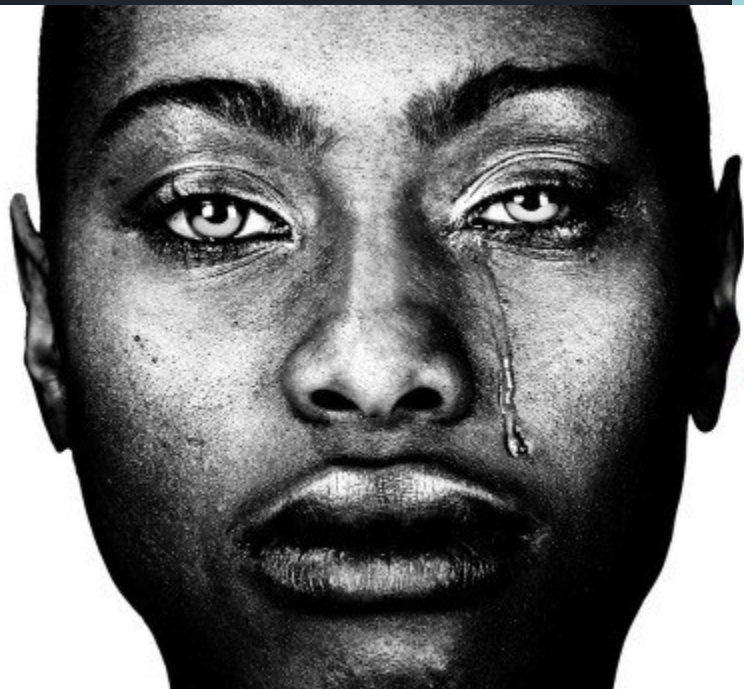
Over **four times as many** women die in the United States. **20**

Black women in the U.S. die at more than **twice** that rate. **44**

Note: Data are for live births. U.S. rate data, from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are for 2019. Data for “select developed countries,” comprising eight European nations plus New Zealand and Canada, are for 2018, except 2017 for Switzerland and the U.K., 2016 for New Zealand, 2012 for France. See Commonwealth Fund, “Maternal Mortality and Maternity Care in the United States Compared to 10 Other Developed Countries.”



Black women are **three times as likely** as white women to be fatally shot by an intimate partner.



**2.5 X  
MORE LIKELY  
TO  
EXPERIENCE  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE**



Black women in political leadership: 29 Black women – all Democrats – serve in the 118th Congress. Kamala Harris (D-CA) serves as vice-president. Ketanji Brown Jackson serves on the Supreme Court.



**Militant Black Women leaders**



## Summary

1. We must understand the difference between gender and sexuality
2. Black women have suffered in history
3. Black women have been leaders
4. Black women face triple oppression
5. We must defend the LGBTQIA community
6. We must support Black women in electoral positions and in mass social movements