

## BUILDING JUSTICE PODCAST



### **CRISJ Building Justice Podcast**

**Season 2, Episode 14 : “Women and LGBTQ+ Rights: Where do we go from here?”**

**Moderator: Mackenzie Norton**

**Guests: Jodi Hicks, Trahn Pham**

**Please note:** This transcript may be imperfect. Please contact **Mackenzie Norton** directly should you have questions.

### **Music lyrics:**

Company under construction, the function, justice for the human family we demand it. Justice, true freedom, equality is a must. Thus, decolonization of the planet. So bust this. People be the power now we're Building Justice. Pulling out divinations, now we're Building Justice. Welcome the planet to the Podcast, "Building Justice," "Building Justice," "Building Justice." Building is to add on, or to do away with.

Welcome to Building Justice, a podcast by Sacramento State's Center on Race, Immigration and Social Justice (CRISJ). We explore critical issues affecting our communities with the hopes of creating a healthier and more just world. I'm Mackenzie Norton, a Political Science-Journalism student at Sacramento State University and I have interviewed people like Jodi

Hicks, the CEO of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California and the Sacramento State's own PRIDE Center staff as well as LGBTQ+ student activists, to get a better understanding of our vastly changing world surrounding reproductive healthcare.

What sparked my need to share this subject was when Professor Khiara Bridges from UC Berkeley and Senator John Hawley of Missouri were trending after Bridges called out the senator for transphobic questioning.

Let me give you a little background before we jump right in!

When Roe vs. Wade, a 1973 Supreme Court ruling that had given people with the capacity for pregnancy the federal right to an abortion, was repealed in 2022, many people were left wondering what comes next? In 2022, the Supreme Court decided that abortion was no longer a federal right and put the issue in the hands of state governments. Abortion is now illegal in 13 states. However, as Roe had given women the right to an abortion, it had also opened doors for the LGBTQ+ community and people who do not fit the a-typical 'woman' category. Nonbinary people and trans men who have the capacity for pregnancy were also put at risk of not being able to receive access to reproductive healthcare.

And then the 2022 midterm elections arrived and propositions to protect abortion rights and cement them into state constitutions began to appear. California had Proposition 1 which passed with a massive margin ensuring all California residents had the state constitutional right to receive an abortion.

When asked about how the fight for abortion rights will continue Hicks said this.

"We continue on the same track, which is, we had joined with the future of abortion Council, who also were the executive and steering committee for prop one. And continue the work that we started, which is looking at any kind of barriers for abortion for people in California or people that need to travel to the state. And there's still work to be done, especially as we continue to learn from what's happening around the country. And we'll continue to do that work. There's still things left to be done still about furthering privacy protections for patients furthering protections for providers, you know, more and more states are getting more aggressive and the way that they're writing their laws, and criminalizing patients and providers. And so making sure that we're doing everything we can to ensure people have access to care in California, we're just continuing that work."

Hicks emphasized the need for people to vote and how their voice matters in representing issues that are important to them and to the communities around them.

"And so, you know, we talked about the election a lot, the house has gone to the Republican Party, which is notoriously against abortion access. So do we think that will add or that lesson to the fight for reproductive choice? Or do you think that'll cause an extension until the next election? Do you think that'll affect it, you know, the chain.

I mean, the only federal protection we can have right now is for our Congress and Senate to pass a federal protection. So the Women's Health Protection Act that was in and did pass, Congress did not pass the Senate. That is our only avenue to having federal protections right now. And when we don't have control of the Congress, we don't have the votes to do that. And so this is a further extension of knowing that until the next election cycle, we likely don't have

the opportunity of voting in that federal protection for people and rolling back what states are doing right now. And they're instituting their extremist bans against abortion. And so, you know, it's unfortunate, and it's disheartening that we know we have a couple more years of dealing with right now in 17 states, that number can grow. And always was looking at about 26 states. I think they're still looking at the fallout from the selection on what that number will be now, but it's too many, no state, no one should have to travel outside of the state they live in in order to get reproductive health care. They are just fundamentally wrong. And so we need to elect congress and senate and a president that will then enact federal protections, because we don't have them with our Supreme Court any longer."

California has become a sanctuary state meaning that if people come to California from a different state to receive an abortion and the state tries to prosecute this person for receiving one, California will not give any information to the prosecutors on the person's decision.

There is also work being done from Hicks and other human rights groups to improve upon privacy protections for people.

"So what can activists do you know, you're talking about ensuring or looking into making, you know, more laws for access to privacy? What can activists be doing to help with that?"

Well, I certainly, you know, they love to see the engagement for young people during this election cycle. So I think, continuing to build on that and understanding for especially young people their power and in that electorate, and it was thinking and felt across the country with this election. So hoping that that continues to build, I think, any type of that engagement and building that and movement building and building that power is important. I think, right now, young people understand more than ever, how reproductive freedom and reproductive rights are tied to their economic opportunities and their educational opportunities and their futures. And so using their voice to express that and expose that and talk about it, and certainly how we elect, the next generation of policymakers that are committed to protecting those rights is important now more than ever, so I think, you know, we obviously get the kind of donations and volunteering and that work is important right now, because providers and abortion access funds, those those types of folks are strained right now and resources. So that's important. But I think speaking specifically to young people, I think that lived experience with what it's like to have your reproductive health care at stake. And speaking out and acting accordingly with your vote with your voice, all of those things is is really, really important because it is this generation that is living through something that my generation didn't have to I grew up with those protections, you know, and so it's continuing in the work that that we already saw with this election."

She emphasized the alliance that Planned Parenthood has with all people that abortion affects and describes the plan she has to help be an ally in the fight for everyone's rights.

"What can activist organizations do to make sure that this issue isn't being overlooked for you know, marginalized groups, you know, this is probably one of Roe v. Wade Dobbs versus Jackson, that's all been very much women centered. But there's a completely you know, other area of people who have the capacity for pregnancy, like trans men non binary people, how do we make sure that these people aren't being overlooked?"

I mean, I think that that is part of it. I think people like you, and thank you for bringing that up to be talking about it, there have platforms that can talk about it, this absolutely affects all anyone who can get pregnant has a stake in ensuring that all of their decisions are made for themselves

in the best way that they can make those decisions with their families or healthcare providers or who they need to make decisions for. And that affects anyone that can get pregnant. And I think beyond that. Beyond pregnancy decisions, it really is any personal and private decision to make that affects the outcome of your future and your autonomy and the agency over your own life is important. And we'll continue to stand with our allies and fighting for all of those issues, whether that's, you know, the Marriage Equality Act, or, you know, fighting back against some of the despicable laws people are trying to do against trans kids will stand in partnership with any issue that interferes with someone's privacy, someone's right to make any decision that affects the outcome of their self and their futures.”

I sat down with Sacramento State’s PRIDE Center Program Coordinator, Trinh Pham who identifies as non-binary as well as other LGBTQ+ student activists to get a better idea of the experiences LGBT people face surrounding microaggressions and fear in the healthcare system.

“My experience has been I wish doctors or nurses or the medical practitioners really ask us who we are when we go to those. Those examinations, but it's a very intimate thing that is done, because who else do we get unclothed? To? Right? And then to have our bodies checked? It's like, wouldn't you like to know how to identify, you know, instead of being extra polite with Miss or, ma'am, or just like, it's so good. I don't know, it feels demeaning in a way to have somebody not really care about you in that context to ask enough about how you identify, yeah, well, they're performing these perfunctory functions to you. Yeah, on you. Right. Yeah. And so it makes me wonder, and I feel bad for, you know, trans folks who have to endure that just to make sure that their health is okay. Right. So that's very sensitive. And I do have a lot of compassion for, like, how they might be mistreated, just to have something to ensure that they have a healthy bill of sale.

Yeah, you're putting yourself in a vulnerable situation with someone who you don't know. And who may not necessarily respect your pronouns, even after being educated about them, or, you know, may not, you know, give you the respect you feel you need in the patient's in those situations. Do you have anything that you would like to add?

I don't go to doctors, because I don't, like, to prevent those experiences I just don't go.

Yeah, that's one way to do it.

That's hard. Yeah. What if you miss out on some, you know, something that's detectable. That is a risk. Yeah, it's a risky decision, which honestly, I think goes to show just how bad these issues are. That if people are willing to not go seek medical treatment, because they're scared of those kinds of abuses, then it's very and micro-aggressions right. Yeah, then the issues have already gone too far that if people are not, then it becomes an urgent issue where it becomes a more urgent issue.”

So what can be done to ensure that not only women but LGBTQ+ people who are non-binary and transgender men are included in this fight for abortion rights, Pham want people to keep talking about the issue.

“I'm learning that students really care about their rights, especially as they're learning more about all the rights that encompass their success here at Sac State. Because college is such a great place for folks to understand who they are, and what rights they have. Because it is the

place where not only do they learn about that, but they get to exercise their rights and affirm the rights to basic human rights.”

So using both Hicks' and Phams' advice, keep talking about the issue and the importance of abortion rights not just for women but for everybody with the capacity for pregnancy and go out and vote for issues that not only can impact you but impact your community.

Thank you for listening. We hope our ongoing conversations spark understanding, empathies, and motivation to join the struggle for a better future for all.

You just listened to the 'Building Justice' podcast. The information contained in this podcast represents the views and opinions of the hosts and guests and does not necessarily represent the views or opinions of Sacramento State or CRISJ.

### **Outro Music Lyrics**

No more penalties and no more wars. Based on the actions. Now, time for "Building Justice," "Building Justice." Time for building justice, justice.