

Let's Talk About Sex Call for Proposals **RESIST. RECLAIM. REDEFINE.**

SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective invites you to submit your workshop and artistic submission/component proposals to participate in *Let's Talk About Sex 2017*. This year, the conference's theme is **Resist. Reclaim. Redefine**. We must **resist the systems of oppressions that plague our daily lives, reclaim our human right to bodily autonomy, and redefine our futures**. **SisterSong** is looking for exciting workshop proposals that highlight cutting edge visions that address issues on sex, sexuality, and sexual pleasure.

Who is SisterSong?

SisterSong is a Southern-based national coalition founded in 1997 of 80 women of color and allied organizations that protect the human rights of every person to: 1) Have a child; 2) Not have a child; and 3) Raise their children in safe and healthy environments. SisterSong's organizational goals are to 1) support the expansion of Reproductive Justice into other social justice movements, 2) train the next generation of feminists/activists on the evolution of the RJ framework, centering on The International Declaration of Human Rights, 3) create spaces for our movement leaders and organizations to engage in continual professional and organizational development toward the sustainability and longevity of RJ work, and 4) provide a platform for our movement to work together collaboratively on shared policy and advocacy goals for the advancement of RJ.

Workshop proposal information

What is a workshop? A workshop is 1-1 ½ hour session offered by one or more presenters designed to convey specific information on a topic, provide an opportunity for skills-building, or engage participants in a shared learning or shared exercise on a given topic. Workshops will be smaller breakout sessions held throughout the conference, which will allow workshop leaders the opportunity to do more interactive presentations that go more into depth on their chosen topics. Workshops will have only from 40 - 100 participants. We will also be having pre-conference institutes (on Thursday October 5th) that will provide more general knowledge and intro level subjects to give folks the opportunity to come into more advanced workshops the following day with an understanding of reproductive justice. These pre-conference institutes have already been selected. But keep this in mind when submitting your proposal (an RJ 101 may already be covered).

Conference workshops should come from a wide variety of people, backgrounds, abilities, orientations, ages, and perspectives and will fall into the eight following tracks:

- **YOUTH**
An example: "Teaching Sexual Consent Across Ages"
- **FAITH/SPRITUALITY/HEALING**
An example: "Self-Care as a Resistance Tactic"
- **QUEER & TRANS LIBERATION**
An example: "Queer Theory, Politics, and Reproductive Justice"
- **PLEASURE/SEX GUIDING PRINCIPLES**
An example: "Body Positivity and Sexual Freedom: Decolonizing What Pleasure Looks Like"
- **POLICY**
An example: "Sex Policy: Advancing Bodily Autonomy through Legislation"
- **CULTURE SHIFT**
An example: "Art is Love Made Public: Examining Visual Art with an RJ Analysis"

- **RESOURCING/FUNDING**

An example: "Funding Sexual Education: Wins and Advances in Securing a More Informed World"

- **SEXUAL HEALTH:**

An example: "HIV/AIDS Advocacy and Information Session"

Artistic presentations/performances are welcomed! We are also seeking arts-based workshops and workshops that think outside the conventional "box" of conferences. If you have artistic talents you would like to share in the form of a workshop or throughout the conference please let us know! ***Limited performance slots available.

These are just a few examples for you to think about. Your workshop proposals should align with these themes accordingly. We invite you to think broadly about these concepts and submit your proposals for workshops and discussions that will define for people of color our views on sex and sexuality from a human rights perspective. We also remind you to choose titles that invite interest, curiosity, and fun! We look forward to proposals that uplift the values of Reproductive Justice, including intersections of justice issues and sex positive approaches.

SisterSong believes that sex, sexuality, and sexual pleasure is a human right, and this conference seeks to continue creating a sex positive culture that includes all peoples, races, ages, genders, abilities and orientations. The Reproductive Justice movement works to challenge sexual prohibitions promoted not only by moral conservatives but often also by prevention and reproductive rights advocates who fail to promote a sex-positive culture. We ask you to think about your own perspectives on these issues and we hope you will join us in exploring them further.

Proposal Deadline

You and/or your organization are invited to submit an abstract proposal for this exciting conference! Instructions for submitting an abstract are found below.

- **Abstracts are limited to 500 words in length and must be presented on a single page by June 15, 2017.**
- The conference will be organized over a three-day period to include plenaries, workshops, and roundtables.
- The conference will be conducted in English, with some workshops and limited interpretation to be provided in Spanish, more details to be provided. Workshop proposals may be submitted in either language. **SisterSong offers free technical assistance to anyone who is not experienced in submitting proposals for a conference presentation or in submitting proposals electronically. Please contact us at if you need assistance of any kind at justina@sistersong.net.**
- **SisterSong also strongly supports creating an accessible environment and supporting different learning styles. If you have a request for any form of accessibility (i.e. ASL--American Sign Language--interpretation, wheelchair access) please contact us at ltas@sistersong.net.**
- We prioritize people of color as plenary speakers but all people are eligible to be selected as workshop leaders and speakers.
- **In order to ensure a wide representation of voices and perspectives, SisterSong will limit workshops to one per person and two per organization. We thank you for your understanding.**

Please consider submitting an abstract to this very important national conference. SisterSong encourages responses to this invitation to present from all people working on a range of reproductive justice issues that affect reproductive health and sexual rights. While proposals addressing other topics not included in this document are welcome, presentations must not promote commercial products or services. While we welcome frank and honest dialogue, we are not accepting presentations that harm or humiliate women, children and individuals.

What to Include In Your Workshop Proposal

The workshop proposal must make clear its direct significance to the reproductive health and sexual rights needs of people of color through a Reproductive Justice lens.

Please keep in mind that the target audiences for this conference are grassroots community activists, health care providers, advocates, and students who work on a wide range of issues. A key review priority for SisterSong is conceptual and language clarity and accessibility across many intersections, such as age, gender, sexuality, race, etc. Some workshops may be simultaneously translated into Spanish, so please keep this in mind when you are preparing your proposal. Your abstract must include:

- **title**
- **speaker(s)/facilitator(s), contact information, ethnic background, age, and sexual preference**
- **500-word summary of your topic**
- **audio-visual needs such as overhead projectors, laptops, or video equipment**
- **who your workshop is open to (age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc.)**
- **Indicate knowledge level: BEGINNER, INTERMEDIATE, ADVANCED *this will be key when creating the program book so participants can know where to go based on what they already know.**

An example template would look like:

TITLE OF WORKSHOP:

SPEAKERS/FACILITATORS: Names, Bios, Age, etc

ABSTRACT: What is the purpose of this workshop? What information are you presenting? Is it interactive? Who is your intended audience? Why should it be presented at Let's Talk About Sex? Include goals and what you would like participants to gain out of attending your workshop. (500 Words)

PREASSIGNED TRACK: Does it fall under youth, faith/spirituality, queer liberation, pleasure/sex guiding principles, culture shift, resourcing/funding or sexual health? Which track would you assign your workshop to?

AV NEEDS:

KNOWLEDGE LEVEL:

Timely submission will allow the Conference Planning Committee to make an early decision regarding your proposal. If this is your first time presenting an abstract to a conference for consideration, please do not hesitate to contact SisterSong for help in mentoring in preparing your abstract proposal. For assistance with the abstract submission process, please contact us at 404-756-2680.

SisterSong will do our best to have audio/visual equipment available but we cannot guarantee that it will be available. We encourage people to bring their own laptops and projectors if they have them or to share.

Submitting Your Proposal

You can submit your proposal in the following ways:

- e-mail your proposal to ltas@sistersong.net. **You must put track and workshop title in the subject line.**
- fax your proposal to 404-756-2684
- mail your proposal to SisterSong/LTAS, 1237 Ralph David Abernathy SW, Atlanta, GA 30310

Again--The deadline for all proposals is **June 15, 2017**. Authors will be notified of acceptance or rejection by **July 15, 2017**. **Don't forget to register! Limited scholarships are also available for young people, Indigenous people, people with disabilities, and others. Please see SisterSong's website for details or register directly here:**

<https://letstalkaboutsex2017.regfox.com/lets-talk-about-sex-conference-2017>

If your workshop is selected you may be asked to fill out a speaker registration form and additional paperwork. Thank you in advance for your abstract!