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Bread and Roses Progress Report: Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest

The project is to create a reproductive justice certification tool in San Diego working with Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest. I will be creating criteria for local businesses to see if they are complying with the reproductive justice model and if so what level they are on and what they can do to achieve a higher level. The goal of this project is not for businesses just to learn about reproductive justice, but how they can implement certain policies such as a bilingual aspect that helps their employees and the community. Local San Diego business will be able to fill out an online questionnaire that will ask them about what they provide for their workers and the community to allow them to see what level of the certification they fall onto. I will be creating three levels: bronze, silver, and gold. Some examples of the policies at the various levels are: child care, health care, diversity program, LGBTQ program, sick and parental paid leave and have livable wages. One of the aspects for the gold level will be a corporate social responsibility policy. Meaning that businesses should have reproductive justice projects they are involved in, so for instance even if the business is a retail shop they should have a social justice component helping their community. To make the bronze level realistic and manageable for many San Diego businesses to comply I will look at various Human Resources package plans to see what is the normal plan most companies have. It is important that the bronze level has a lot of aspects that most businesses are already doing so they are willing to join this reproductive justice network with Planned Parenthood. I will also interview various activits involved in the reproductive justice movement to ask what they think are key policies businesses should adopt to help support the overall movement. Once I have the criteria established and the questionnaire for

businesses to fill out I will run a pilot with five different businesses to see what was or wasn't successful to ensure that this project will work. I will then put up the questionnaire online and help Planned Parenthood promote this new reproductive justice certification for businesses to get involved in. I think businesses would like to get involved in this project because there are two big incentives: this acknowledgment will bring in new customers and they will receive a tax break. Also the main underlying reason businesses in San Diego will want to get involved is because the policies we are asking them to do is a human right and local companies usually want to do the right thing for their employees and the community, so this is an easy step for them to take.

The main achievement of this project so far is figuring out what is a realistic project for me to accomplish for Planned Parenthood so they can continue from my project in creating a successful reproductive justice network in San Diego. The value of this project to Planned Parenthood is that this will help them create an even stronger connection to their community and the local businesses. Planned Parenthood is not fully supported in our nation so it is essential they have local support so that even if the government takes away their money, the relationships they have formed in the local community will help them stay on track. The recent annual report for Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest shows that out of their 141,318 total patients 41% of them identify as Hispanic and overall people of color account for 56% of their patients. Also 88% of the patients identify as women and 43% are ages 18-24. This makes it clear why Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest has decided to move towards being a part of the reproductive justice movement because they are dealing with mostly young women of color who face many different oppressions that need to be acknowledged to improve their reproductive health and overall lives.

This project will have a great impact on me because I started learning about the reproductive justice movement from a research paper about the life and activism of Loretta Ross. I instantly connected to the movement and knew I wanted to learn more. I have also been working on a paper about how the reproductive justice movement is unique in that it started from the United Nations meeting in Cairo and Beijing from the influence of Global South women activists.

Therefore, a key aspect of the reproductive justice movement is its transnational and human rights component, which I will make sure is a part of the criteria in this project. This project is a great way for me to connect what I am learning and make it into something tangible for companies to partake in to help the overall reproductive justice movement. This project is also important to me because I want to go to law school after obtaining my Masters and I would like to pursue a path in civil rights or international law. This project will help me create a strong foundation for my future.