

Discussion Guide

Fired Up About Reproductive Rights by Jane Kirby

Discussion Questions

1. Second wave feminists famously declared that the *personal is political*. What are some ways that issues of reproduction demonstrate the importance of this slogan?
2. What is patriarchy/heteropatriarchy? Why is understanding this concept central to understanding reproductive issues?
3. What are the key differences between the reproductive rights, reproductive health, and reproductive justice approaches to discussing reproductive issues? What are the benefits and drawbacks of each approach?
4. What are some ways white supremacy, racism, and colonialism affects who is encouraged or discouraged from having and parenting children?
5. What are some barriers you might face in accessing an abortion in your community? Would these barriers be the same for everyone? In what ways might different people face different barriers?
6. Why must consent be central to our understanding of reproductive issues?
7. In what ways is the experience of accessing an abortion in your country today similar to the experience of someone accessing one 50 years ago? In what ways might the experience be different?
8. What are some of the legal barriers that exist to limit abortion access? What else might affect someone's ability to obtain an abortion?
9. What communities were targeted for coercive sterilization under eugenics laws? How are these communities similar/different from those targeted by more recent population control activities?
10. Why were eugenics laws put into place? How were eugenics laws justified? Are the justifications and motivations for eugenics laws and more recent population control initiatives the same? Why or why not?
11. What are some reasons someone from the LGBTQ community might care about reproductive issues?
12. How might the experiences of Indigenous and racialized people differ from the experiences of white people when it comes to reproductive issues?
13. What are the reproductive issues of most concern to people in your community? How might you take action on these issues?

Suggested Activities

1. Take a look through a recent newspaper or magazine. Find an article that relates in some way to a reproductive issue. Remember that reproduction is not just about abortion or contraception (to not have children), but also about the right to have children and raise families in safe and healthy communities.
 - How does the article you chose relate to reproduction?
 - Is the issue discussed from a reproductive rights, reproductive health, or reproductive justice angle in the article? If so, explain. If not, how might using

these approaches enhance our understanding of the issue? How might approaching the issue from a different angle change what was included in the article?

-Are questions of consent, access, or justice discussed in the article? If so, how? If not, how might these questions apply to the issue discussed?

-If you were the journalist or writer approaching this issue, what additional questions would you ask?

2. Research an organization working on reproductive issues in your community. What are their major activities? Do they primarily use the reproductive rights, reproductive health, or reproductive justice approach? Why?

3. Choose a historical figure or organization that was prominent in the movement surrounding reproductive issues. You can choose one included in the book or research other people or organizations. What role did the person play in affecting change? Were their actions successful? Did their actions reflect a reproductive rights, reproductive health, or reproductive justice approach? What were the limitations of their activities? Did their actions have any negative consequences?