



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

NCJW stands in solidarity with the people of Israel. May our collective hopes and efforts pave the way for a brighter future where Israelis, Palestinians and all in the region can live in peace.

Urge MOLEG to Pass Annual Birth Control Legislation



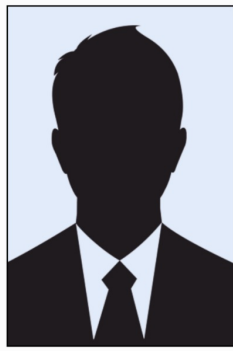
On December 1st, pre-filing began for the 2024 Missouri legislative session. As bills pour in, we know there's one that will increase access to contraception for Missourians: **annual-supply birth control legislation.**

This bill would allow people with private health insurance to access a yearlong supply of birth control at one time, putting Missouri in alignment with 25 other states, public health recommendations and Missouri Medicaid policy. The measure should have passed last session, but legislators didn't get it across the finish line.

The majority of Missourians want our state legislature to increase access to birth control.

Please [click here](#) to tell lawmakers this is the year – pass annual-supply birth control legislation!

January Lunch & Learn: Combatting Human Trafficking with FBI Special Agent Daniel Root



Thursday, January 18, 2024
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

Daniel Root

When: Thursday, January 18 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

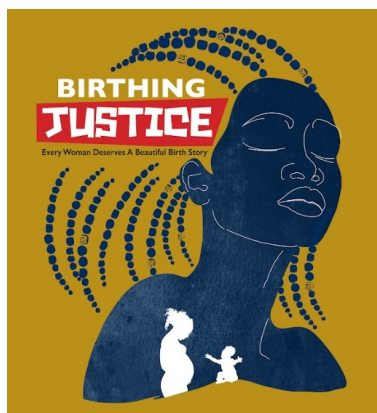
January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Every year since 2010, the President has dedicated the month to raise awareness about human trafficking and to educate the public about how to identify and prevent this crime. Because combatting human trafficking is one of NCJWSTL's priority issues, we dedicate each January's Lunch & Learn to educating our membership and raising awareness on this topic.

For January's Lunch & Learn, we are thrilled to welcome FBI Special Agent Daniel Root. Because he often works undercover, **we will not be showing his photo before his presentation.**

Daniel Root is assigned to the Violent Crimes Against Children/Human Trafficking task force. Prior to the FBI, Daniel worked as a linguist, high school teacher, and with a refugee resettlement agency and immigration clinic. He was a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer before joining the FBI. In his current assignment, he investigates child exploitation and trafficking crimes, as well as serving as an FBI Crisis Negotiator.

Please [click here](#) to register for the January Lunch & Learn. Questions? Email Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org or call 314.993.5181.

Birthing Justice Screening and Panel Discussion



When: Thursday, January 25 | 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Where: Temple Israel | 1 Rabbi Alvan D. Rubin Drive, St. Louis, 63141

[RSVP Here](#)

Global maternal mortality is decreasing, but the US ratio of deaths to live births has doubled since 1987. Missouri's ratio is now double the national average, and getting worse -- higher than 42 other states, and in fact eight times higher than the lowest state. And the rate for Black Missourians is three times higher than for white women.

Policies can change that trajectory. California, for example, has reduced maternal deaths by 65% over the last 15 years. Join us to learn Missouri's scope of the problem, underlying causes and potential solutions at a screening and panel discussion of the award-winning documentary, *Birthing Justice*, which tells the story of the crisis faced by Black mothers and their children and the solutions needed to transform the maternal care system.

Birthing Justice explores the issues fueling the maternal health crisis within the Black community and advocates for the best practices to enhance birthing equity for all women. By revealing the lived experiences of Black women and their advocates working to fix a broken system, *Birthing Justice* flips the victim-blaming narrative of this national epidemic.

Our important panel discussion will be moderated by Darcy Scharff, PhD and include Dr. Melissa Tepe, Melissa Betts-Sanders (a woman with lived experience) and Lora Gulley of Generate Health, who will issue a call to action for attendees.

The Birthing Justice screening and panel discussion is sponsored by NCJWSTL, Generate Health, Temple Israel and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. The event is free of charge, but registration is required. Please [click here](#) to register and for more information, please [click here](#).



ADD YOUR NAME and Help Us Oppose Censorship of Our Public Libraries

For those who have already joined, thank you!

To protect libraries throughout Missouri, including those at public schools, NCJWSTL has helped convene a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations called Right to Read. The coalition will oppose any legislative, state policy or other effort to restrict access to materials at public libraries; the coalition has the utmost confidence in trained, experienced librarians and educators to evaluate and select materials in the libraries' collection.



Did you know?

- As a result of a Missouri law enacted in August 2022 restricting some types of materials in public schools, **librarians fearful of criminal prosecution have removed nearly 300 titles** from school library shelves.
- Under an administrative rule imposed by Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, all public libraries must have submitted by July 31 how they will comply with the vaguely written rule. **Failure to comply could result in loss of state funding**, which comprises a significant portion of small libraries' budgets.
- Missouri is among the nation's top book banning states, **especially regarding restricting access to books about gender, sexuality and race in public schools.**

More attempts will likely be made in the 2024 Missouri legislative session to suppress First Amendment rights. Free and open access to materials at our public libraries is an essential aspect of our democracy.

Please [click here](#) to add your name as an individual member of the coalition. For more information, please e-mail the coalition at righttoreadcoalition@gmail.com.

Partner Abortion Clinic Needs Donations

For the past year, NCJWSTL has partnered with local abortion clinics across the river in Illinois to provide direct support services to patients.

One of our partner clinics is in need of a few specific items:

- Gas cards
- Snack bags (pretzels, cookies, granola bars, etc.)
- Diapers (sizes 1-5)
- Travel shampoo
- Baby formula



This is an opportunity to make a "hands-on" difference in someone's life. Please drop off or mail any donations to the NCJWSTL office at 295 N. Lindbergh, St. Louis, MO, 63141. For more information, please contact Renee Sigel-Hearst at rsigel-hearst@ncjwstl.org.

Get FREE Emergency Contraception at NCJWSTL!



NCJWSTL is thrilled to announce that we have partnered with the [Missouri Family Health Council](#) (MFHC) to distribute **FREE emergency contraception kits!** This effort is vitally important in the wake of last year's Supreme Court decision overturning Roe vs. Wade, especially in states like Missouri where abortion is illegal. Everyone should have the right to determine when and if they wish to start a family, and emergency contraception is vital in preventing unwanted pregnancies.

Also known as the morning-after pill, or by the brand name Plan B, the emergency contraception pill is an over-the-counter form of birth control that can be taken up to five days after unprotected sex to avoid pregnancy. The goal of this effort is to reduce geographic and financial barriers Missourians face in accessing emergency contraception pills.

While supplies last, MFHC, NCJWSTL and other partner organizations are offering free EC kits to anyone of any age. **Feel free to stop by the NCJWSTL office to pick up your kit - for you or a loved one.**

If you have any questions, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org. You can also order an emergency contraception kit by mail by [clicking here](#).

Take Action & Join the A-List

Now more than ever you will want to make sure that your name is on NCJWSTL's A-List for 2023! Join us as we stand together and speak out about the issues that matter most.

Together we can make a difference!

A-List sponsorship ads sustain our collaborative efforts to educate the community and elected officials about issues integral to our mission, such as birth control access and voting rights. The full-page ads will run in the St. Louis Jewish Light during 2023.

- **\$18** includes your name in the ad.
- **\$54** makes you an Advocate Plus with your name in bold.
- **\$72** makes you a sponsor with your name distinguished in color

[Click here](#) to see the A-List flyer.
[Click here](#) to see the latest A-List Ad.
Join the A-list [here](#).



Interesting Reading



During the attacks of October 7, in a matter of hours, hundreds of Israeli women were brutally attacked, raped and murdered. And 84 women, including girls, were kidnapped and taken into Gaza.

We know much of this because the terrorists used Go-Pro cameras and phones to broadcast their sexual crimes to the world. However even after more documentation has emerged, UN Women, the United Nations'


organization that allegedly fights to end sexual violence, has still refused to condemn Hamas' horrific sexual crimes or recognize that they even happened.

[Click here](#) to read Dianna Bletter's article from Lilith Magazine, "The Silence Surrounding the Sexual Violence of October 7th."

Not yet a member of NCJWSTL? [Click here](#) to become part of a growing network of courageous and compassionate individuals who improve the lives of women, children, and families every day. You don't have to be a woman or Jewish to join!

Donate to Support NCJWSTL & Transform Our Community

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NCJWSTL

National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis

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NCJWSTL | 295 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141

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