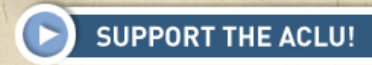




BLOG OF RIGHTS

BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T BLOG ITSELF



RSS 2.0 feed
 ATOM 1.0 feed

« [The Fight to Put Works by Picasso, Hitchcock, Stravinsky, and Others Back in the Public Domain](#)

Jun 23rd, 2011



Posted by [Chara Fisher Jackson, ACLU of Georgia](#) at

ABORTION

4:05pm

 SEARCH

- CAPITAL PUNISHMENT
- CRIMINAL LAW REFORM
- FREE SPEECH
- HIV / AIDS
- HUMAN RIGHTS
- IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS
- LGBT RIGHTS
- NATIONAL SECURITY
- PRISONERS' RIGHTS
- RACIAL JUSTICE
- RELIGION & BELIEF
- REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM
- TECHNOLOGY AND LIBERTY
- VOTING RIGHTS
- WOMEN'S RIGHTS

WORSE THAN SLAVERY? BLACK WOMEN AND FAMILIES FACE EXTREME ACCUSATIONS FROM ROADSIDE CAMPAIGN

Last weekend, on the day designated to celebrate the abolition of slavery, an anti-abortion group decided to exploit the observance of [Juneteenth](#) to spread a demeaning and insulting message to the black community. Through [billboards](#) erected throughout the Atlanta area, the group makes the outrageous assertion that a black woman's private health decision is more harmful than slavery. These billboards accuse black women who have made the difficult and personal decision to end a pregnancy of making slavery "seem overly generous."



As an organization dedicated to fighting the legacy of slavery and institutionalized racism in Georgia and throughout the country, we at the ACLU of Georgia were stunned and horrified when we learned of the campaign. *All* women facing an unintended pregnancy — regardless of race — should have the opportunity and support they need to make the best decisions for themselves and their families, whether that is continuing the pregnancy and parenting, adoption, or abortion,

No matter how you feel about abortion, we should all be able to agree that a black woman who has had an abortion should not be singled out and degraded like this as a means of advancing an ideological agenda. From forced sterilizations to the experiments at Tuskegee, there is a long and disgraceful history in this country of regulating and exploiting black women's and men's bodies and basic dignity. By suggesting that black women and families cannot be trusted, and their decisions about childbearing must be regulated and controlled for their own good, these billboards are a part of the same pattern of denigration and oppression.

This publicity stunt is distracting from the issues that truly matter. About 35 percent of black children live in poverty. That is more than double the rate for white children. The infant mortality rate for black children in Washington, D.C., for example, rivals that of some undeveloped nations. If those behind these billboards and this hateful rhetoric were truly concerned about the health and welfare of the African-American community, and the meaning of Juneteenth, they would fight to ensure that everyone has access to quality health care; to increase support for programs that build safe schools, safe communities, access to jobs, and basic necessities like food and shelter.

In Georgia, the ACLU has fought zero tolerance policies, criminalization of youth, policing of schools and school disciplinary practices that disproportionately impact

- [The Fight to Put Works by Picasso, Hitchcock, Stravinsky, and Others Back in the Public Domain](#)
- [President Obama: Restore Civil Rights Protections!](#)
- [In New York, A Rogue Wave Of Criminal Injustice](#)
- [\\$4 Billion Since 1978 — Time to Cut California's Death Penalty](#)
- [Pulitzer Prize Winner on DREAMING of a Better Future for Children of Immigrants](#)
- [Lift Children Out of the Criminal Justice System – Don't Lock Them Away](#)
- [A Glimmer of Hope in Texas' Approach to the War on Drugs](#)
- [Obama Administration Fails to Halt Runaway "Secure Communities" Train, Ignoring Complaints of Governors, Congress, and Law Enforcement Leaders](#)
- [Your Money's Good Here, It's You That's the Problem](#)
- [Sky-High Murder Rate in Puerto Rico Puts Police Under Scrutiny](#)

- [2011](#)
- [2010](#)
- [2009](#)
- [2008](#)
- [2007](#)
- [2006](#)
- [2005](#)
- [2004](#)
- [Full archive...](#)

- [ACLU of Illinois](#)
- [ACLU of Maine](#)
- [ACLU of Massachusetts](#)
- [ACLU of Michigan](#)
- [ACLU of Nevada](#)
- [ACLU of North Carolina](#)
- [ACLU of Northern California](#)
- [ACLU of Pennsylvania](#)
- [ACLU of Texas](#)
- [ACLU of Virginia](#)
- [ACLU of Wisconsin](#)
- [ACLU of Washington](#)

- [Military Commissions Act](#)
- [ACLU v. NSA: The Challenge to Illegal Spying](#)
- [Torture: Seeking Truth & Accountability](#)
- [Women's Health and Reproductive Freedom](#)
- [Latest Supreme Court News](#)

Join Us At:





our children and feed the [School-to-Prison Pipeline](#). These policies, and others like them that push black children out of school, have to be challenged. The failure to educate black children, the increasing achievement gap, and the increasing poverty rates and isolation of black children are signs of how we value these children after they are born. It sends a message to the child and to the community, and it is devastating.

Where's the billboard about that?

Learn more about reproductive freedom: [Sign up for breaking news alerts, follow us on Twitter, and like us on Facebook.](#)



[PERMALINK](#) |

[ABORTION](#)

Tags: [abortion](#), [Atlanta](#), [Education](#), [Georgia](#), [Juneteenth](#), [pregnancy](#), [racism](#), [slavery](#), [stpp](#), [zero-tolerance](#)

We intend the comments portion of this blog to be a forum where you can freely express your views on blog postings and on comments made by other people. Given that, please understand that you are responsible for the material you post on the comments portion of this blog. The only postings that we ask that you refrain from posting and that we cannot permit on our website are requests for legal assistance and postings that could cause ACLU to incur legal liability.

One important law in that regard is the prohibition on politically partisan activity. Given our nonprofit status, we may not endorse or oppose candidates for elective office. That means we cannot host comments on our site that show a preference for one candidate or party. Although we in no way wish to discourage you from that activity elsewhere, we ask that you not engage in that activity on our website (or include links to other websites that do so). Additionally, given that we are subject to very specific rules concerning the collection of personally identifying information through our website (names, email addresses, home address, financial information, etc.), we ask that you not use the comments portion of this blog to solicit this information from users of our website. We also ask that you not use the comments portion for advertising or requests for legal assistance, and do not add to your comment links to other websites, as we cannot be responsible for the content on other websites.

We are not able to respond to unsolicited inquiries, complaints or requests for assistance sent to this blog. Please direct your complaint or request for assistance to the [ACLU affiliate in your state](#). Requests for legal assistance left in the blog comments will not receive a response or be published.

Finally, the ACLU cannot guarantee the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any information in the comment section and expressly disclaims any liability for any information in this section.

1 RESPONSE TO "WORSE THAN SLAVERY? BLACK WOMEN AND FAMILIES FACE EXTREME ACCUSATIONS FROM ROADSIDE CAMPAIGN"

1. *Cwallis21* Says:

Jun 23rd, 2011 at 5:04pm

Correct me if I'm wrong, but aren't abortions more common amongst whites than non-whites?

COMMENT

Name

- Allowed HTML tags: <a> <cite> <code> <dl> <dt> <dd>
- Lines and paragraphs break automatically.

[More information about formatting options](#)

CAPTCHA

This question is for testing whether you are a human visitor and to prevent automated spam submissions.



What code is in the image? *

Enter the characters shown in the image.

Save

[Blog Home](#) | [ACLU.org](#) | [About the ACLU](#) | [Take Action](#) | [Join the ACLU](#) | [Your Local ACLU](#) | [Contact](#)

© ACLU, 125 Broad Street, 18th Floor New York, NY 10004
This is the Web site of the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU Foundation.
[Learn more](#) about the distinction between these two components of the ACLU.

[User Agreement](#) | [Privacy Statement](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Site Map](#)