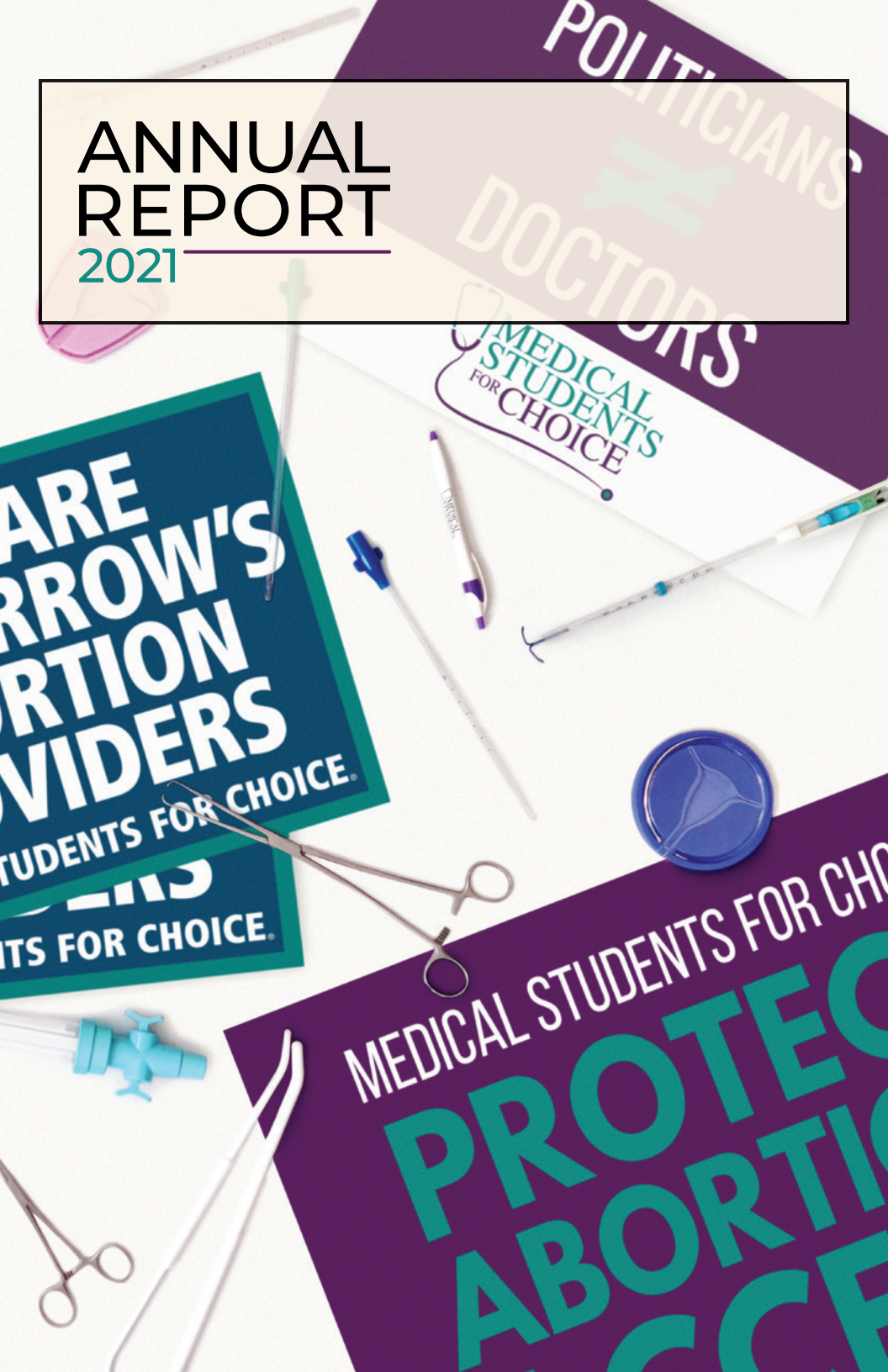


ANNUAL REPORT

2021





FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Medical Students for Choice is building a global movement of medical students co-conspiring to deliver comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services from a Reproductive Justice lens. This intention acknowledges a shift in what the “average” physician-in-training looks like in medical schools globally. It marks the reign of the “Tik-Tok social justice generation,” connecting, disrupting, and building together across time and space.

Unfortunately, I’m writing this letter shortly after the fall of Roe. It is hard to look at the years before and ahead without sitting in this present, painful reality. The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States to take away abortion rights has deeply disturbed us but, also reignited the fire to continually invest in this important work. It has been a soothing balm in this moment to see medical students across the United States and the world come together and resist. I’m extremely grateful to the staff of MSFC for being proactive and intentional in this moment, holding space and supporting student’s organic organising.

In South Africa—where I live—we have progressive constitutional provisions for abortion but access to safe abortion in a formal setting remains abysmal. Patriarchy and stigma are still the biggest barriers to these important health services. Training for abortion and other sexual and reproductive health services, even in a country with such progressive



laws, is unintentional and is largely left to non-governmental organisations, such as MSFC.

I chose to be on this board because being part of MSFC as a student organiser changed my life and continues to be my masterclass in social justice education. I'm honoured to serve as the first president of this organisation that doesn't live and learn in the United States and to help usher in the new phase of MSFC, particularly during this time.

A luta continua.

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, looped initial 'T' followed by a period and the letter 'M'.

Temwa-Dango Mwambene (she/her)
President 2022-2023, Board of Directors
University of Cape Town, South Africa



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My rallying call is “when they go low, we organize,” and it has been put to good use since I joined Medical Students for Choice in 2021. MSFC engages the post-Roe world fueled by the organizing power of medical students and physicians in training, and is committed to our growing community of chapters in 32 countries across the globe.

In this crucial year for transformative activism, MSFC’s Board of Directors and staff have engaged in both anti-racism training and a strategic planning process to equitably support our global community and encourage collaboration beyond borders so that chapters can learn from and support each other. We joined the US-based *Liberate Abortion* campaign to better collaborate with organizations engaged in post-Roe planning. We partnered with lawyers from the Center for Reproductive Rights to represent us in state challenges to abortion bans, and we have also engaged The Lawyering Project to understand the new legal environment and ensure that MSFC’s mission to advance abortion and family planning education is protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

In our ongoing commitment to utilizing an intersectional approach to our global work, MSFC has partnered with our alumni and faculty to host a series of virtual Reproductive Justice sessions geared towards working with underserved populations. In 2021, MSFC hosted 12 Reproductive Justice virtual sessions and hopes to grow this number in years to come.



When the Supreme Court of the United States struck down *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* on June 24, 2022, MSFC student leaders flooded the listserv with organizing ideas, opportunities to sign onto letters, and offers of support from across the world. By the time MSFC HQ launched the official organizing toolkit on June 27, hundreds of student leaders were already organizing their campuses. Our organizing toolkit supports chapters' organic collaborative work through messaging guidance, open letter templates to deans of medical schools located in both abortion rights and reproductive oppression states, MSFC's joint petition with AMSA to the LCME asking that abortion and family planning education and training be added as requirements for accreditation, and a comprehensive list of resources to help our student leaders navigate the evolving reproductive health and rights landscape.

They went low, and we are organizing. MSFC chapters will continue advocacy and grassroots organizing to demand global medical education communities offer abortion and family planning education and training.

Onward!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Pamela Merritt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pamela" and last name "Merritt" clearly distinguishable.

Pamela Merritt
Executive Director

2021 by the numbers



77 chapters engaged in curriculum reform efforts and 123 in advocacy work



51 students attended Virtual Abortion Training Institutes to safely learn about abortion



MSFC provided chapters with supplies for 175 training workshops on vacuum aspiration abortion, IUD insertion, and No-Scalpel Vasectomy



68 chapters in 32 countries held 1,941 virtual education events for their classmates and communities



372 attendees joined us at our first fully virtual Conference on Family Planning



54 medical students and residents received funding to get training in clinical settings through the Reproductive Health Externship

PROGRAMS UPDATE

— Conference on Family Planning

In December 2021, MSFC hosted the first-ever virtual Conference on Family Planning. 372 attendees, including 270 medical students and residents, convened in a fully virtual setting to attend sessions lead by 58 MSFC alumni, faculty and Experienced Student Leaders (ESLs).

The theme of the conference was *Fostering Resiliency Through Community* and featured pre-conference workshops on advocacy and curriculum reform, aspiration abortion and IUD placement hands-on training sessions. The session content focused on issues including wellness and self-care, sexual and reproductive health, advocacy, Reproductive Justice, abortion care and family planning.



Acclaimed scholar of race, gender and law, Dorothy Roberts.

The Keynote Speaker was Dorothy E. Roberts, acclaimed scholar of race, gender and law and author of *Killing the Black Body*. The closing plenary was an interdisciplinary panel discussion on self-managed abortion in the US and internationally.

“

I felt so energized by attending this conference. I have known for years that Reproductive Justice is my passion in life, and having the opportunity to be in this space as a medical student was so special.

2021 Conference Attendee

In 2021, four regional meetings were hosted by our student chapters in Canada and Africa.

The second edition of the Canadian Symposium on Family Planning was held on April, as a virtual event, with an agenda including sessions such as the impact of COVID-19 on abortion provision and trauma-informed care and indigenous peoples. Over 50 students attended the event.

Later in the year, all our chapters in Africa gathered together at three different regional meetings in Burundi, Uganda, and Nigeria.

The Burundi regional meeting was held in July and hosted the chapters from the University of Burundi, the Hope Africa University, and the University of Ngozi. The theme of the meeting was *The Well-trained*

Doctor, An Essential Pillar for Better Reproductive Health and Good Family Planning in Burundi and had a total participation of 52 in-person attendees.



The East African regional meeting was held in September, in Uganda, and brought together 18 chapters from Rwanda, Malawi, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The theme of the meeting was *Changing the Dynamics of Sexual Reproductive Health Services and Rights in East Africa*, and hosted a total of 48 participants both in-person and virtually.



Medical students at the Burundi (top) and the East African (bottom) regional meetings.

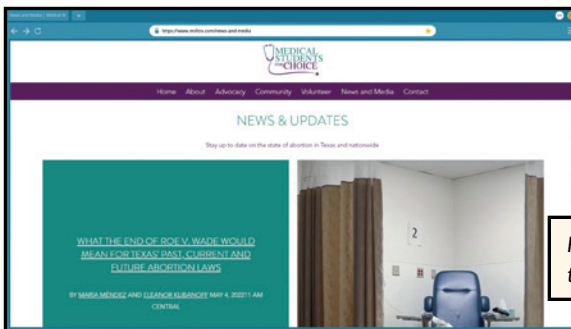
The West African regional meeting took place in November, in Nigeria, with the theme: *Domestic Violence and Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights*. It gathered over 100 in-person and virtual participants coming from five student chapters from Benin and Nigeria.

__ Abortion Restrictions on the Rise

2021 broke the record for the most abortion restrictions enacted in a single year since 1973. One of the most terrifying restrictions out of the 108 enacted was the Texas Heartbeat Act, or Senate Bill 8 (SB8). This six-week ban includes a bounty system with a financial incentive for civilians to sue anyone they allege has helped someone access abortion.

Our Texas chapters launched their response well before the bill went into effect. They hosted talks with legal experts and abortion providers about the potential impact of SB8. They built partnerships with other chapters in the state, allied on-campus groups, and local reproductive rights/access/healthcare/justice organizations. Members attended Women's Marches, contacted their representatives, wrote an article (published in Rewire in April 2022), and created a website to serve as a hub for medical students looking for a place to plug into the fight.

As prison abolitionist Mariame Kaba once said, "Let this radicalize you rather than lead you to despair." Our members in Texas fully embody this quote as they work toward a future where Reproductive Justice exists for all.



Hub website created by the MSFC Texas chapters.



Scan this code or visit this page msfc.org/texas22 to read the article written by our Texas members about the impact of SB8 in their communities.



— Ensuring Abortion Education Has a Place in Curriculum

Beyond providing education through extracurricular events, MSFC chapters work to change their schools' curricula on abortion and family planning. In 2021, nearly a quarter of MSFC chapters globally made efforts to change their curriculum by adding lectures, establishing electives, removing harmful and inaccurate information, and more.

At the end of the year, the Touro University California completed what is for many, the first stage of curriculum reform: surveying the student body. They then submitted their findings for a poster presentation. In the Central region of the US, one chapter was inspired by the curriculum reform success another on-campus group had achieved and followed their model—create a pilot program and present the results to the administration. The University of Arizona Tucson chapter worked with their physician advisor to set up an elective clerkship rotation at their local Planned Parenthood, since abortion is not performed at the school's hospital and abortion cannot be taught on school property.



— Beyond Roe

The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* is devastating and jeopardizes our dignity, humanity, and freedom. MSFC's values include that all reproductive health choices should be freely accessible to all regardless of who they are, where they live, or how much money they have. We seek to train our members to be compassionate and competent healthcare providers with a complete understanding of the reproductive healthcare options their patients may choose or need.

In 2021, MSFC relaunched our Beyond Roe program (formerly known as the Post-Roe Initiative) to equip our members with the tools to build a world where the precedent *Roe* once set is the floor, not the ceiling. We created three new event guides—Abortion Advocacy, Medication Abortion, and Combatting Patient Criminalization (in partnership with If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice)—for chapters to use to plan events. We hosted 3 community calls, where chapters strategized, shared success stories, and grew relationships across campuses and state lines.

MSFC is familiar with working in places where abortion is severely restricted or illegal. Our mission and values remain the same despite the legal status of abortion in any country where we operate. We will continue to fight for a future Beyond Roe.



voices of our student leaders

Medical College of Wisconsin

A student at the Medical College of Wisconsin shared, "Our school is developing a completely new M1/M2 curriculum, so we are trying to get involved and support more abortion and reproductive health education in the early parts of this new curriculum. Our first step was to send out a survey to medical students to tell us if they think they are receiving adequate repro/sex/abortion health education. Once we obtain that data, we will go to our larger campus curriculum reform team and present to them why we should increase education surrounding these topics."

Brown University

At Brown University, some chapter members are working on a Reproductive Justice lecture for clinical clerkship students. There will be a pre-and post-lecture survey for students to fill out. It is intended for 3rd-year students to start their OB/GYN rotations.

The Ohio State University

A student at The Ohio State University says that "Our chapter is working to establish an Advanced Competency in Family Planning and Reproductive Health course that will include 120 hours of didactic and clinical training in Family Planning and Reproductive Health for fourth-year medical students."

University of Cincinnati

At the University of Cincinnati “Last semester, MSFC teamed up with other organizations to send out a school-wide survey gauging interest in a new curricular thread that would focus on topics including reproductive justice and the medicine of abortion. We have since analyzed the data and are in the process of sharing it with the administration.”

University of Colorado

A chapter leader at the University of Colorado is reforming their school’s curricular inclusion of Black maternal health issues and Reproductive Justice. Another chapter leader is helping with that effort and reforming LGBTQ+ inclusion in University of Colorado education.

Medical School in Texas

Current and former MSFC leaders are actively working with the director of the Reproduction module to incorporate comprehensive reproductive justice into the curriculum. One student leader remark “Our school didn’t teach anything about abortion until the last couple of years. This past year, there were efforts to discuss abortion, but they were muddled by a lack of representation and an overrepresentation of anti-choice bias.”

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Thank you to every individual donor who has supported MSFC during this past year. We could not continue this work without your generosity and support.

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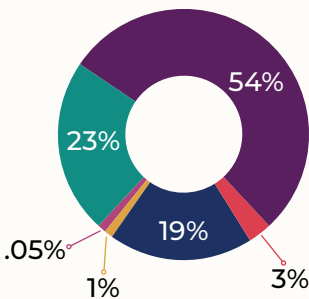
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Tulane University School of Medicine

Ian Peake
*Oklahoma University- TU School
of Community Medicine*

Melissa Torres-Montoya, JD, MPH
If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice

Allison Whitney, MPH

income

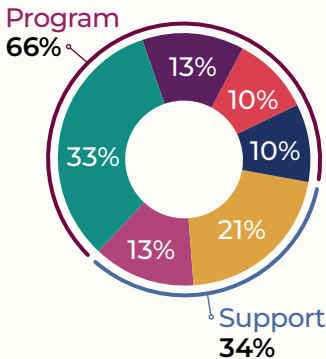


Individual and Trust Contributions	\$	445,181
Foundation Grants	\$	1,029,842
Investment Income	\$	49,595
Net Gain/(Loss) on Investments	\$	370,994
Meetings Registrations	\$	14,350
Other Income	\$	861

Total Income: \$ 1,910,823

Total Net Assets: \$ 6,213,793

expenses



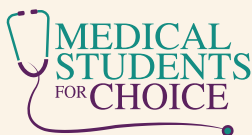
Student Organizing	\$	421,729
Conferences and Meetings	\$	166,563
Externship Program	\$	127,662
Outreach and Communication	\$	121,252
Management and General	\$	259,317
Fund Development	\$	166,279

Total Expenses: \$ 1,262,802

Thank you!


We thank our partners, supporters, and medical students for your ongoing support, activism and energy.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to our longtime Associate Executive Director of Programs, [Bridget Bohannon](#), and the fifteen years she dedicated at MSFC as a champion of reproductive freedom.




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