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Annual Black Girl Freedom Week Spotlights Affirmative Action, Reproductive Justice, and Voting
Week-long event features acclaimed activist Loretta Ross and scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw

NEW YORK— The #1Billion4BlackGirls campaign and [Grantmakers for Girls of Color \(G4GC\)](#)'s [Black Girl Freedom Fund](#) will host the **annual Black Girl Freedom Week** — a week-long series of events as part of a campaign to mobilize a \$1 billion investment in Black girls* in 10 years — between February 12 and 18, 2024. Under the theme “Co-Creating a Future of Justice and Democracy,” programs throughout the week will highlight the urgent issues facing young people today, including affirmative action, reproductive rights and justice, voting, and the essential role that Black girls and gender-expansive youth play in our efforts to advance justice and equity.

Featuring legendary human rights activist [Loretta Ross](#) and founder of *Me & the Bees Lemonade* Mikaila Ulmer, the week of action and celebration is a demonstration of what is possible when philanthropy and society invests abundantly in Black girls and gender-expansive youth's dreams, power, and leadership. Other notable speakers throughout the week will include [Jessica Norwood](#), financial innovator, artist, and entrepreneur, and LaTosha Brown, award-winning visionary and co-founder of [Black Voters Matter Fund](#), [Black Voters Matter Capacity Building Institute](#), and a co-founder of the #1Billion4BlackGirls campaign.

“Families, communities, institutions, and entire systems transform when we fund the health, joy, and freedom of Black girls,” said Dr. Monique Couvson, President and CEO of G4GC and co-founder of the [#1Billion4BlackGirls](#) campaign. “Black Girl Freedom Week is a time for celebration and action. Black girls are core to upholding, defending, and advancing democracy and justice. More than ever, now is the time for making significant investments in their capacity to engage directly with our institutions and to build new ways of leading and innovating. This is how ground breaks to expand opportunity, how new modalities for healing and wellbeing are discovered, and how power shifts in its most transformative way to improve conditions for everyone. Join us.”

The [#1Billion4BlackGirls](#) campaign, which was launched in 2020 by eight Black women and femme leaders in activism, academia, the arts, and philanthropy, calls on individuals and institutional funders to invest \$1 billion in Black girl-serving organizations, many of which are consistently underfunded. Research shows that [less than \\$15 million](#), about 4.2%, was specified as benefitting Black women and girls in 2017. Black women and girls received \$17,000 less in grant support compared to a median of \$35,000 for all foundation grants. Grantmakers for Girls of Color (home of the [Black Girl Freedom Fund](#)), the [Ms. Foundation for Women](#), and [Southern Black Girls' and Women's Consortium](#) are each playing a critical intermediary role, raising funds and distributing grants to Black girl-serving organizations throughout the country.

Now in its fourth year, Black Girl Freedom Week's previous headliners and luminary supporters include Rep. Ayanna Pressley; Rashida Jones, Tracee Ellis Ross, Kelly McCreary, and Eva Reign; writer and director Gina Prince-Bythewood; and New York Times bestselling novelist Leila Mottley.

By February 2024, the Black Girl Freedom Fund will have awarded more than \$9 million to more than 150 organizations around the country and U.S. territories. A unique part of the fund is its participatory grantmaking model with young people; most of the fund's grantmaking is conducted by advisory committees made up of Black girls and gender-expansive youth, ages 14-22.

The dates for Black Girl Freedom Week were chosen during Black History Month, in honor of Toni Morrison's and Audre Lorde's birthdays, and to celebrate the tremendous possibilities of philanthropic organizing for #1Billion4BlackGirls. [Register for the event](#) now, and learn more about the week-long schedule of events at [-1BillionforBlackGirls.org](https://1BillionforBlackGirls.org).

*Black girls, femmes and gender-expansive youth

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About the [#1Billion4BlackGirls](#) Campaign:

The [#1Billion4BlackGirls campaign](#) is a 10-year philanthropic initiative to mobilize a \$1 billion investment in Black girls by 2030. The campaign was co-founded by Dr. Monique Couvson, President and CEO, G4GC; LaTosha Brown, [Southern Black Girls and Women's Consortium](#); Tarana Burke, Executive Director, ['me too.'](#) International; Fatima Goss Graves, President and CEO, [National Women's Law Center](#); Joanne N. Smith, Founding President and CEO, [Girls for Gender Equity](#); Dr. Salamishah Tillet, Co-Founder, [A Long Walk Home](#); Scheherazade Tillet, Executive Director and Co-Founder, [A Long Walk Home](#); and Teresa Younger, President and CEO, [Ms. Foundation for Women](#). With guidance from co-founders, The #1Billion4BlackGirls campaign is stewarded by [Grantmakers for Girls of Color](#) (G4GC), where the Black Girl Freedom Fund acts as a grantmaking vehicle. Learn more by visiting <https://1billion4blackgirls.org>.

About [Grantmakers for Girls of Color](#):

Fiscally-sponsored by Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Grantmakers for Girls of Color (G4GC) works to cultivate and mobilize resources and amplify transformative organizing work to dismantle systems of oppression in the U.S., and territories, that are led by girls and gender-expansive youth of Color. Learn more by visiting g4gc.org.