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FOR WOMEN • FOR COMMUNITY • FOR ALL



This letter was sent in October 2023. You will see our former organizational name, SVP Cleveland, reflected in this document.

Dear Community Friend,

Since March, I have been sharing SVP Cleveland’s organizational journey to focus our work fully on women and gender justice. I’ve talked about our Advisory Committee members and their collective guidance, based on their experience and impact in Cleveland, to shape our future work.

I’ve outlined our preliminary strategic framework and asked you, as community members, where you see yourselves in our work. I’ve appreciated how many of you have been following along and sharing your feedback!

Today, I want to respond to a question I’m asked regularly:



“How does SVP Cleveland define women and gender justice?”

It’s a great question—one fundamental to our future work. Through the work with our Advisory Committee and community conversations, **we have developed the following definition of gender justice and women:**

Our understanding of gender justice is rooted in a recognition that our society’s systems, policies, and practices are structured to benefit some and deeply disadvantage others. We ground all our work in gender, racial, and economic justice to address the disproportionate impact these systems and structures have on women—especially Black Women and other women of color.*

**Our work is inclusive of all women (cis and trans) and people who identify as nonbinary and gender expansive.*

We also recognize that language around gender identity continues to evolve. We are committed to an inclusive understanding of gender expression centered on the systems that limit access to women's and nonbinary and gender-expansive people's safety, health, well-being, bodily autonomy, and opportunity. We welcome your thoughts and feedback and appreciate your continuing on this journey with us.

Thank you for your continued interest in our organizational evolution. As always, if you have any questions or insights you want to share, email us [here](#)!

With hope and a[redemption for our work ahead,

Abby Westbrook