

A Capabilities Approach to the Sexual Rights & Resources of Young Women in Buffalo



# Project Framework

- Philosopher Martha Nussbaum developed the Capabilities Approach as a way to pursue social justice.
- She argued that justice is not a matter of having "rights on paper," but of ensuring that all individuals are equally able to actually access and exercise those rights (i.e., they are true capabilities).
- Using a Capabilities Approach means asking the general question:
   What are people actually able to do and to be?
- The current project specifically asks:

What are girls in Buffalo actually able to do and to be when it comes to their sexual lives?

## Project Objectives

Using the Capabilities Approach as a theoretical framework, we will:

1. Examine the sexual rights and resources to which girls in Buffalo are technically entitled;

the polices and services that exist

on paper

2. Assess the extent to which those rights and resources are actually accessible and to whom;

the policies and services that girls see on the ground —

3. Relay information to Buffalo providers and policymakers about the gap between girls' sexual rights and resources on paper and those on the ground.

## Project Phases & Timeline

- Policy maps
- Service maps
  - Interviews with providers

#### Phase 1:

Fall 2019

What sexual rights & resources do girls have **on paper**?

#### Phase 2: Summer/Fall 2020

What sexual rights & resources do girls have on the ground?

 Asynchronous Flipgrid focus groups with girls

- Sexual Capabilities summit?
- Community meetings?
- Visuals & media?

Phase 3:

Spring 2021

Information Relay

## **Project Team**



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Studies the impact of social injustice on young women's sexuality



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Experience as a sex educator for people with intellectual & developmental disabilities



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Experience advocating for reproductive justice and against gender-based violence



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Experience working at the intersection of gender, immigration, trafficking, & sex work



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