

Marcela Howell

Founder and President

In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda

marcela@blackrj.org

Marcela Howell is the founder and president/CEO of the ***In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda***, a national-state partnership with eight Black women's Reproductive Justice organizations with a goal of lifting up the voices of Black women leaders on issues that impact their lives and the lives of their families. *In Our Own Voice* is the only national Black women's Reproductive Justice organization,

An advocate and policy strategist, Marcela is recognized for her expertise in strategic communications, leadership development and policy forecasting. With over 40 years of experience advocating for women's rights, reproductive justice and women's empowerment, she is devoted to enhancing the role of Black women in national policy debates on issues that impact their lives.

Marcela was formerly the vice president of policy, communications and marketing at Advocates for Youth, a non-profit organization that works on adolescent sexual and reproductive health issues, where she was responsible for strategic planning on federal, international and state policy, as well as outreach to national and international media. She also trained over 1,000 young activists in policy advocacy and as media spokespeople.

She is the author of ***Walk in My Shoes: A Black Activist's Guide to Surviving the Women's Movement***, a collection of inspirational essays to help young Black women navigate the women's movement and empower them to become leaders in the fight for reproductive justice.