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Tuesday, March 1, 2011

## Keynote: Loretta Ross

We are honored to welcome Loretta Ross to Feminist Action Project this year as our featured keynote speaker. Her work has been very influential across activist movements and aligns with our priorities of intersectionality and bodily experience. We will feature more from her on this blog before the conference, but in the meantime learn more about her and her work below (with permission from [Soapbox Inc.](#)):

Loretta Ross is the National Coordinator of the SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective, a network founded in 1997 of 80 women of color and allied organizations that work on reproductive justice issues. In 2004, Ms. Ross was National Co-Director of the April 25, 2004 March for Women's Lives in Washington D.C., the largest protest march in U.S. history with more than one million participants. Between 1996-2004, she was the Founder and Executive Director of the National Center for Human Rights Education (NCHRE) in Atlanta, Georgia. She lectures frequently on human rights, women's rights and hate groups and right wing organizations.



Black-and-white portrait photograph of Loretta Ross

Ms. Ross was one of the first African American women to direct the first rape crisis center in the United States in the 1970s. From 1985 to 1989, she served as the Director of Women of Color Programs for the National Organization for Women, organizing the first national conference on Women of Color and Reproductive Rights in 1987. Prior to developing NCHRE in 1996, she served as the national program research director for the Atlanta-based Center for Democratic Renewal (CDR) (formerly the National Anti-Klan Network) from 1990 to 1995 and program director of the National Black Women's Health Project from 1989-1990. She is a political commentator for *Pacifica News Service*, and has appeared as a political commentator on *Good Morning America*, *The Donahue Show*, *The Charlie Rose Show*, *CNN*, and *BET*. Ross has also been a keynote speaker at numerous statewide and national conferences focusing on sexual and domestic violence.

Publications include "African American Women and Abortion After Roe," in *Abortion Wars: A Half Century of Struggle: 1950-2000* (Beacon Press) edited by Rickie Solinger and *Undivided Rights: Women of Color Organize for Reproductive Justice* (South End Press), co-authored with Jael Silliman, Marlene Fried, and Elena Gutierrez, published in 2004 (awarded the Myers Outstanding Book Award by the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights). She is also the author of "The Color of Choice" chapter in *The Color of Violence: The Incite! Anthology*, published in 2006. She is a graduate of Agnes Scott College and holds an honorary Doctorate of Civil Law degree awarded in 2003 from Arcadia University. Ms. Ross is presently writing a book on reproductive rights entitled *Black Abortion*.

If you are interested in the organizations and events mentioned above, please check out these links:

- [SisterSong](#)
- [Center for Democratic Renewal](#)
- [March for Women's Lives 2004](#)
- [National Center for Human Rights Education](#)

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### About the Feminist Action Project

The Feminist Action Project is a student group at the University of Texas at Austin which organizes activist programs, conversations and events for gender justice with the collaboration of the Gender and Sexuality Center.

Questions? Interested? E-mail us at [feministactionproject@gmail.com](mailto:feministactionproject@gmail.com)

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