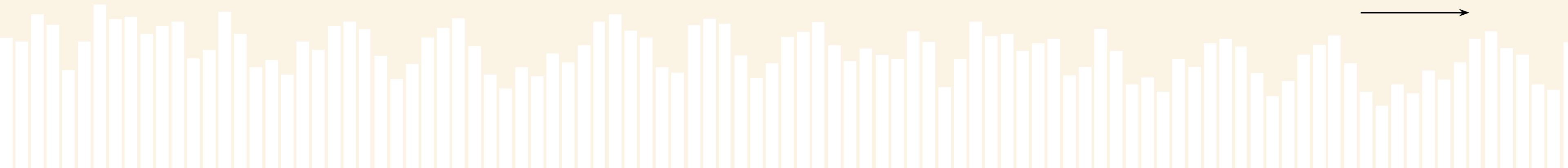
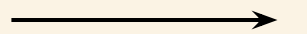


# JOURNEY STORIES

Reproductive Health & Equity



# learning GOALS

- Define journey stories
- Identify the characteristics of a good journey story
- Begin to construct our journey stories



# What is a JOURNEY STORY

- A journey story is a story that models change.
- Modeling a change journey helps audience members see how a person's mindset and opinions shift and connect their experiences to those shifts.
- Ultimately, it helps the audience begin to change their minds and positions as well.



# Parts of a **JOURNEY STORY**

- **Time before the journey** – the season of life at the onset of the journey; what you believed; humanizing detail. Faith should show up here.
- **Journey process** – experience or learning that introduced conflict, complexity and led you to question your initial view. Model thoughtfulness, introduce new information, redefine.
- **Journey's end** – Your new state; what it feels like; you're glad to be here.



# Parts of a JOURNEY STORY

It is important to include:

- Reflections on ideas or perceptions that may be flawed
- Witnessing or experiencing harm
- Seeking guidance or educating oneself
- Drawing on core values, thinking about what they would want for their own family, etc.



# Types of JOURNEY STORIES

- Your process of changing your views about abortion.
- Your “origin story” as an engaged activist for reproductive care access.
- Your story of accompanying a person through a difficult situation.
- A loved one’s journey story.



# Components

# JOURNEY STORIES

- Elevate shared values (compassion, kindness, faith, etc.) to foster empathy and connection with our audience.
- Establish the good intentions of those who are struggling.



# Components

# JOURNEY STORIES

- Situate abortion within the context of a person's faith and help to expand the definition of "pro-life.\*"





# Components

# JOURNEY STORIES

- Paint a clear picture of harm, situated within the context of faith.
- Prompt reflection and model an inner change journey, making sure to include the signposts or turning points in the journey.



# Notes on

# PRO-LIFE & PRO-CHOICE

- Both “pro-life” & “pro-choice” are coded words and they may be seen as divisive by people who are conflicted.
- Some people who are conflicted may also identify “pro-life.”
- Know your audience as much as possible.



# Notes on PRO-LIFE & PRO-CHOICE

- Avoid “pro-life” and “pro-choice” as much as possible when telling your story.
- If being “pro-life” or “pro-choice” is a part of your story or if someone you are engaging with mentions it, don’t ignore it. Name it, use pillars of reproductive justice to expand folks understanding of it, and rename it.



# tenets of REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE?

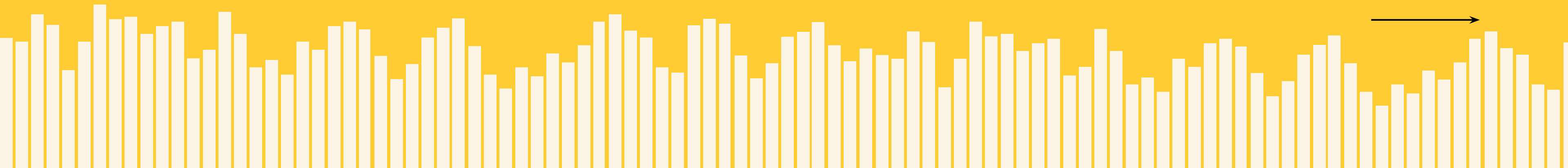
- the right to have a child
- the right not to have a child
- the right to parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities
- the right to personal bodily autonomy



“Reproductive justice provides a holistic frame to approach reproductive health care and the many issues that intersect with it. Reproductive justice considers the care and resources people need to have a healthy life from the beginning to end of the life cycle, including reproductive choice, prenatal care, childcare, safe communities and equitable economic opportunities.”



“Our values and sacred texts call us to be co-creators with God in order to build this society. One where we love one another, respect the dignity of all people and work together for the common good.”



# the conversation

# ENTRY POINTS

- Reproductive Justice
- Religious Freedom
- Maternal mortality rate + quality of healthcare available
- Criminalization of Black and brown bodies
- Compassion & love of neighbor
- Beloved community/sacred/holy



# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

- This country is founded on religious liberties. Religious liberties is not just the right to practice your own beliefs, but the right to be free of the religious beliefs of others.





# MATERNAL MORTALITY

Black women and birthing people are three times more likely to die during pregnancy or postpartum than white women and have the highest maternal mortality rate of any racial or ethnic group.



# EXAMPLE

**Opinion: We support reproductive freedom because of, not despite, our faith traditions**



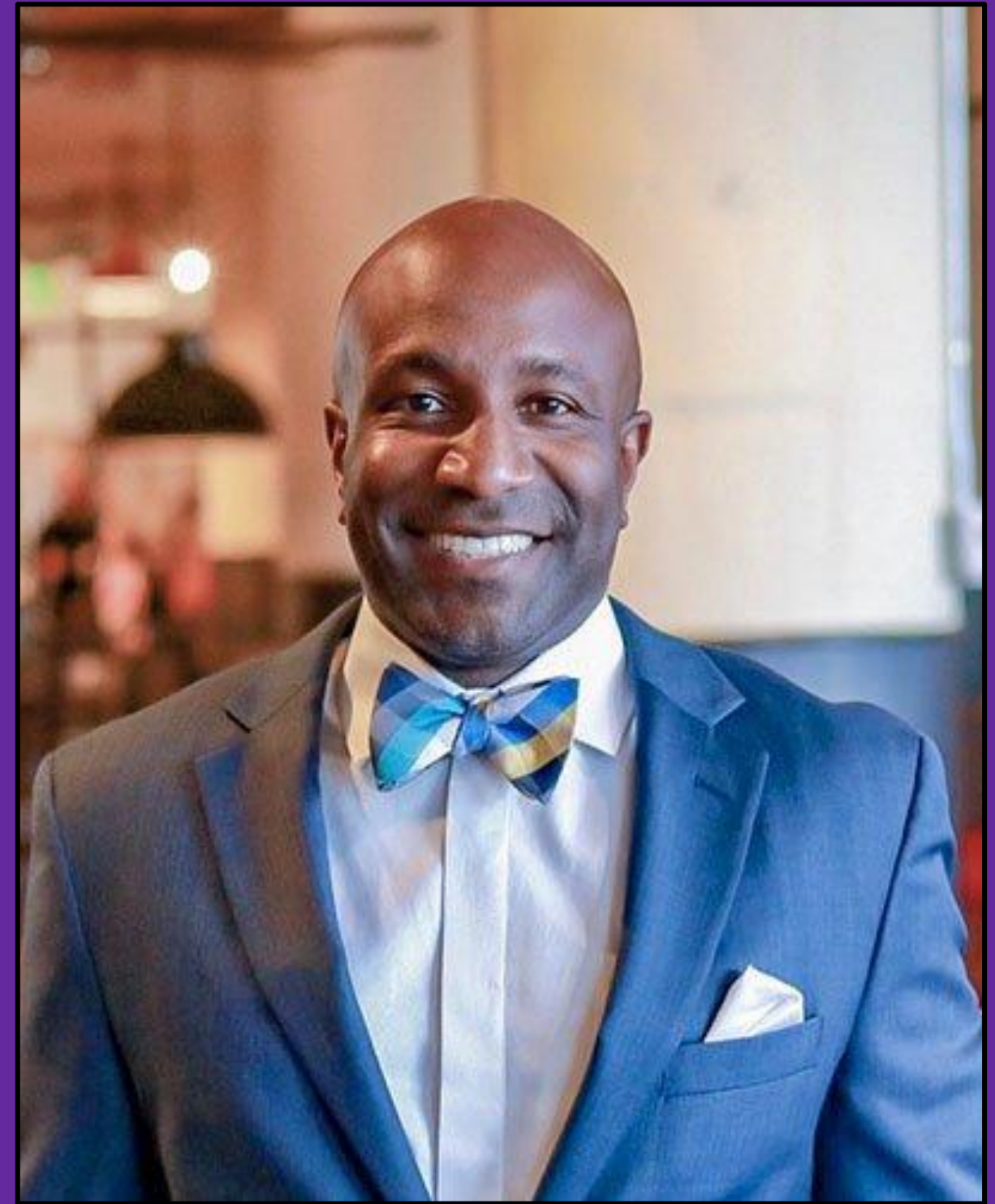
“People of faith overwhelmingly believe that people can be trusted to make their own moral decisions about their bodies...that reproductive health decisions should be made by individuals and the medical providers they trust, not politicians who wear their faith on their sleeve but fail to support the life-giving economic, childcare, education and healthcare policies we need to live with the dignity God desires.”



“As Jewish, Muslim and Christian faith leaders we support access to abortion care because of our faith, not in spite of it. Our shared values of love, compassion and dignity and the core tenets of our faiths ground us in this belief.”



“Since God has entrusted us to care for and offer deep hospitality to each other, people of faith can work together to create a Georgia... where the care we need is fully available regardless of where we live, how much money we make or whether or not we have health insurance... where abortion care is free from social, political and religious shame and stigma.”



“From gun violence to abortion, those who are legislating from a white Christian nationalist framework are making life less safe for all communities. As a man of faith, I am called to proclaim that everyone is deserving of dignity, personal autonomy and the moral agency to decide what choices are best for themselves and their families.”

