

Beauty Justice: A Primer

*Moderator: Chloe Winnett**

*Panelist: Arnedra Jordan***

Chloe: I'll go ahead and introduce our next speaker, Arnedra Jordan. She flew all the way up here from Los Angeles, so we're very happy to have her here. Arnedra is the project manager at Black Women for Wellness overseeing the Beauty Justice Initiative. With over fifteen years of experience in the breast health field, Arnedra has dedicated her career to advocating for the health and well-being of Black women and girls.

Her work involves providing education on environmental health, beauty justice, and breast health education, where she focuses on addressing harmful ingredients in beauty products and promoting comprehensive breast cancer awareness and prevention strategies.

Arnedra Jordan: I am going to talk about what we do at Black Women for Wellness. I do have notes here, and I'm going to put my glasses on, because I wanted to make sure that we didn't miss anything about what we do at Black Women for Wellness. I'm going to talk to you about beauty justice, what it means, why it matters, and how it impacts our health.

Beauty Justice is a movement that exposes and challenges the harmful chemicals and racist beauty standards that affect Black women and girls every day. This isn't just about products. It's about our right to live healthy, whole, and dignified lives free from environmental harm.

Who is Black Women for Wellness? We are a nonprofit committed to the health and well-being of Black women and girls, and we were founded by women dedicated to systematic change through education, advocacy, and empowerment. There were six Black women who founded Black Women for Wellness in 1997. Our programs are reproductive justice—and this is for the beauty justice department—breast health, environmental justice. We do some civic engagement, youth wellness, and, once again, beauty justice.

What is our mission at Black Women for Wellness? It is to enhance the health and well-being of Black women and girls through education, empowerment, and advocacy. What is beauty justice? How many people have heard of beauty justice before? A few. All right. Beauty justice addresses toxic

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15779/Z38M03Z085>

Copyright © 2025 Regents of the University of California.

* Symposium Director, 2024–2025, *Ecology Law Quarterly*.

** Project Manager, Black Women for Wellness.

chemicals and discriminatory practices in the beauty industry. The reason why we focus on that is because Black women tend to have to be protected, and it has to be written into the Constitution.

Has anyone heard of the Crown Act? The Crown Act is one reason that Black women can wear their hair the way they want to work or to school. It had to be a law passed that says that: "We are protecting the way you want to wear your hair." Why do you think that happens? Why do you think that Black women have to be protected with their hair? Anybody know? Because of the fact that they are European standards, and you should look a certain way and dress a certain way, and your skin should be a certain color.

Because of those European standards and practices, Black women had to be protected, because when they were wearing their hair natural, they were saying they were unkempt. When they were wearing braids, it was referred to as ghetto. Just because someone has braids in their hair does not mean that they are still not educated and don't know how to conduct themselves that day for business. We focus on product safety, ingredient transparency, and culturally competent education, and we uplift the voices of health and of Black women and girls.

I wanted to tell you the difference between beauty justice and reproductive justice. Beauty justice versus reproductive justice. Black Women for Wellness is a reproductive justice organization. We are not a beauty justice organization. I just happen to run the beauty justice department. We are a reproductive justice organization. I want to tell you how the two correlate.

Beauty justice focuses on how beauty standards, products, industries, and practices, affect the health and well-being of Black women and girls. It exposes the harmful chemicals in hair, skin, and cosmetic products, and how they are disproportionately marketed to communities of color. Meaning that even though the products may be the same price, Black women and girls will have more toxic products and chemicals in their products than cosmetics that are marketed to white women. Advocates for safe products, transparent labeling, and corporate accountability are tied to identity, cultural expression, and health equity. Beauty shouldn't come at the cost of our health.

Reproductive justice is a human rights framework that links reproductive rights with social justice. It was founded by Black women in 1994, twelve Black women, and it centers the right to have children, not have children, and to parent in safe, sustainable environments. It addresses systematic barriers like racism, poverty, and gender-based violence. It's not about choice, it's about access and justice.

How is this an intersection? It's because both movements center bodily autonomy, community health, and freedom from systematic harm. Beauty justice is a natural extension of reproductive justice, is how we care for our bodies, and it is part of how we exercise our rights.

What is the beauty justice mission at Black Women for Wellness? We are here to eliminate environmental and systematic racism in the beauty industry, advocate for safe, accessible, and culturally relevant products, and educate and empower Black women to make informed choices.

Systematic racism in the beauty industry. Our historical groups, colorism. How many people have heard of the paper bag test? Colorism, the lighter you are, the more likely you are to be accepted into society. There's Eurocentric standards. This is a certain way you have to look. You have to be light, you have to have long hair, it has to be straight. Not embracing Black women and the way they look and what they bring to the table.

There's also a lack of regulations. When you look at the ingredients label, how many people picked up their lotion this morning and looked at the ingredients label? Oh. Not one person. Because the FDA said it was okay, we just bought it, and we took it home. We not only put it on ourselves, we shared it with our entire families, or our roommates, if you live on the college campus. There's a lack of regulation that disproportionately impacts Black women. If no one in here read it, imagine Black women going and purchasing a \$6 perm and putting it on their four-year-old child and not reading the chemicals and the ingredients.

How many of us have permed our hair? What's the smell like? Right. Then Black women spend nine times more money and are exposed to more harmful products and chemicals. I want everyone to think about how many beauty or personal care products you used this morning.

You have to name each one. If you used lipstick and lip liner, that's two. You can't count them as one. Your makeup, three. If you used primer under your makeup, four. If you used your moisturizer, five. If you used lotion, six. Then you sprayed your perfume on. Think about how many chemicals you used this morning. Anybody use under five?

Anybody use over five? Right. Think about it. How can we cut the chemicals from our everyday routine? What are you willing to give up from your everyday routine? What are you willing to give up? Think about that when you go home.

True story. I used to use over forty products a day, because we also have to think about our morning products and our night products prior to this. Our morning products and our night products. You have to just be thinking about what you're willing to give up and slowly cut it out. If you use your products twice a day, you have to count that as twice a day. You can't count it as, "Oh, I used lotion this morning, and then I'm not going to count it tonight. That's one." No, it has to be twice. Think about all the products that are being marketed to Black women.

When you put a perm in your hair and there's perm and then there's the shampoo, and then there's the conditioner that you have to use, then there's the rinse out, and then there's the spray—that's a lot of chemicals. Those chemicals cause Black women to have hormone disruptors, fibroids. We're seeing an increase in breast cancer among younger Black women. It's a more aggressive breast cancer. It's because of the products that we are using as an environmental factor.

How many people have heard of this app? It's called Clearya. Do you know what this app does? Because I saw one person raise their hand. What does this app do?

Audience member: It tells you what the ingredients are.

Arnedra: It tells you what ingredients are in your products. I put the QR code up here in case anybody wanted to scan it on their phones and wants to go home tonight and scan your products.¹ Now we're going to talk about the products. I'm going to give you what's actually in our beauty products. We do know that if you can't pronounce it, you should not purchase it, right? Everyone knows that, but how many of us actually do that? If you cannot pronounce it, you should not purchase it. Let's talk about what's actually in our beauty products. Let's talk about why it's marketed to Black women, and why Black women get the cheaper version.

First, there are parabens in our products. What are parabens? Parabens are used as a preservative so that it stays on the shelf. I always go back to the [example] of bread. Bread is not supposed to be on the shelf for two weeks. Bread should mold within three days. I'm not a chemist, but I do know that when you make fresh bread, it molds within three days. Why are we buying bread from the store where it's been shipped somewhere, and then we take it home, and it's still lasting us for three to four weeks? There's parabens in those products, and parabens are linked to breast cancer.

There are phthalates, and these are common in fragrances. How many of us look at the fragrances? We read our fragrance ingredients and look at it and say, "Oh, maybe I shouldn't use this because I can't pronounce it?" Right. These are hormone disruptors. Now we're looking at Black women having a higher rate of infertility, and this is one of the reasons why. Formaldehyde. What do they use formaldehyde for? Does anyone know? It's embalming fluid. It's found in hair straighteners, and it's a known carcinogen.

Hydrochome, that's in skin lighteners. Black Women for Wellness was successful in having Amazon remove skin lighteners from the California website. It's only in California, but we were successful in dealing with the Attorney General's Office in getting Amazon to remove skin lighteners from the website that sells to Black women. The reason why is because, one, you saw an increase in skin cancer, two, we don't know what's in skin lighteners, and [three,] you don't need to lighten your skin.

Then there's fragrance, which sounds innocent but contains dozens of hidden chemicals. Black women are often targeted and marketed for these products with the highest levels of these toxins, and we use them because of societal pressure to look a certain way. I want to tell you where parabens are found. They're found in shampoos, conditioners, lotions, and makeup. They are linked to hormone disruptors and breast cancer. The next time when you go home, scan your shampoo, your conditioner, your lotion, and your makeup and

1. CLEARYA, <https://www.clearya.com/> (last visited Jan. 20, 2026).

see what the ingredients is. It also acts like estrogen in the body. Sometimes when women have breast cancer and they say it's estrogen or hormonal, it causes your tumors to grow.

Phthalates are found in fragrance, nail polish, so look at your nail polish—hold your nail tech accountable to get a different kind of nail polish for you—and hairsprays. It's linked to reproductive issues, early puberty, hormone disruptors, and often hidden under the term “fragrance” or “perfume.” It's parfum, not perfume, so P-A-R, okay? Formaldehyde and formaldehyde-releasing preservatives are found in hair straighteners, keratin treatments, and it is linked to cancer, respiratory issues, and skin irritation. Names to watch for: DMDM, hydration, and emaldicide.

Then the next one that I want you, and there's seven that I want you to always look for, okay? Triclosan and it is found in antibacterial soaps. How many of us go by and put our hands because we see the free antibacterial and we figure that we need to use it? Use a non-antibacterial soap, okay? Toothpaste. How many people actually read the ingredients on their toothpaste? You should not be purchasing toothpaste from the store. You should get it from Sprouts. It should [have] charcoal or something in it.

Deodorants are linked to hormone disruption and antibiotic resistance. Imagine someone that's a mom, who's a Black woman, who's out, and she's purchasing this from the dollar store because she might not have the money to go to a store, and she doesn't know that these are the ingredients in this. That's why it's important that we all get educated so that we can continue to educate our communities about these disruptors.

Hydrochlorine is found in skin lightening products and is linked to skin irritation, skin discoloration, and cancer concerns, meaning that we're seeing more Black women have an increase in skin cancer. Everyone should wear sunscreen, and of course, that means that that's another product that we're all going to put on, so that's another layer. Everyone should be wearing sunscreen, but we also have to make sure that what we are wearing, lightening our skin, and then putting sunscreen on it is not going to make a difference. You need to skip the skin lightener and then make sure you put sunscreen on. It's banned or restricted in other countries, but guess what country is not restricted in? America.

Then there's toluene that's found in nail polish and is linked to neurological damage, reproductive harm, especially, and risk during pregnancy. Once again, going back to the reproductive justice issue, Black women tend to have their babies earlier. That's a maternal health issue. Then synthetic fragrances. That will be my last one as far as fragrances. It's found in all beauty products and can contain dozens of undisclosed chemicals, and is linked to allergies, hormone disruption, and asthma.

What I want to remind everyone about when you're looking at the chemicals is that sometimes they change the name. Maybe they'll put a T in front of it, and so we think, “Oh, this is not formaldehyde,” but it says T-formaldehyde. Because now we are calling these companies out, what they're doing is changing the name. If you can't pronounce it, don't buy it.

What do we do at Black Women for Wellness in our beauty justice program? We have a “Taking Stock Program,” and Madison back there runs our Taking Stock Program. With Taking Stock, we are trying to get more Black women to transition to natural hair. We do this by buying them products that have chemicals in them, but products that have less chemicals. We also monitor them and we try to see if they reduce their products, they’re less likely to get breast cancer. If they have breast cancer, they’re more likely to survive their breast cancer if they are diagnosed.

We have our Keep in Touch program, and that’s our breast cancer program at Black Women for Wellness. It’s about educating Black women about their breast health. We make sure that we always advertise the Clearya app, but there’s other apps. You can use Yuka. You don’t have to just use Clearya. I’m asking you just to make sure that you scan your products, and that you also remind your friends to scan their products. We do community outreach. Community outreach meaning that we educate the community about the toxins in their products.

We have youth programs. Our communications director went out and talked to young girls about the products, because now I’m seeing TikToks. I didn’t even know you could buy makeup at eight, because when I was little, that was absolutely no. TikToks where girls are going to Ulta and preserving their skin. I was like, “I want your skin. What are you talking about at eight years old?” They have TikToks and 60,000 followers. Youth programs, right? Reminding you not to go to Ulta and give them your hard-earned allowance money.

We do policy advocacy. I’m going to tell you about some of our policies that we’re working on through our Black Women for Wellness Action Project. We do hairstylist education. It doesn’t matter if we educate us if we don’t educate hairstylists, because hairstylists are in the salons twelve and thirteen hours a day using these chemicals. We educate them. We have a UCLA EPA grant where we work with not just hairstylists, but we work with nail salon techs to tell them what chemicals are in their products.

These are the policies we are working on. We already know that AB 2775 passed. It’s in California, and it’s the “right to know.” You have to label what is in the products. We have some federal and state grants that we’re working on, and I wrote them out, and I’m going to tell you what we’re doing, but they hadn’t passed, and so they will be back in Congress in mid-May. These are federal bills. One of them is the toxic-free bill, and it is going to ban eleven chemicals from the United States because, in Europe, they only use eleven chemicals, right? We’re only banning eleven the bill passes.

We also have our Cosmetic Safety for Communities of Color. This one would give protection to workers who are communities of color. Not just Black women, but Asian women who do nails and Latina women who do bazillion blowouts. [Manufacturers] would have to: one, provide education at centers so that [workers] would know what’s in the products; two, they would have to label out every single product that’s in there. Then it would also help them transition to green. Meaning that they could buy products at a cheaper price that have less chemicals in them.

There's the Cosmetic Fragrance-Free Act that says you have the right to know what is disclosed. Think about cigarettes, vaping. They would put chemicals and fragrances in it like grape, so it tastes a certain way. The reason a lot of times we pick up things and buy them is because of how they smell. And you have the right to know what kind of chemicals: That's not grapes that we're really purchasing, that is some chemical, but it smells good, it smells like grapes. [The Act] would give you the right to know what that chemical is, because it's not grapes, it's something else.

Then the fourth one is the Supply Chain Act, and that's transparency. How can I purchase, because maybe some of the companies who are starting off in our middle management don't know what those chemicals mean. How can I actually work with the supply chain to purchase or put ingredients into the items that I'm selling, and have access to that supply chain? Because it's also about access. That's why I wrote "Ingredient Transparency in Salon Products and Support for Black-Owned Businesses," because not everyone has the money. There is like seven years, and most Black businesses fail, so Black beauty salons fail. Making sure that they have policies in place where they can go, and so that they can succeed over seven years.

Our impact: We have reached 95,000 people through our programming, and 292,000 on social media. We have partnerships with the EPA, breast cancer prevention partners, and salons. We have events, we have a bra party. This bra party is where you bring your bra and you paint your bra, and then we parade down the golf course. This is important, not just for the golf course men, but this is important because we are teaching women to embrace their bodies.

We want to also not just tell women, "Oh, don't use that. Don't do that." We want to make sure that we also teach them how to embrace their bodies, because that's a reproductive justice issue, when you look at the thin model on the box, and you say, "I want to be thin," or when you look at in the magazine. A lot of young Black girls, that's what they're looking at. They're looking at the videos. They want to be the eight-year-old, that I'm still shocked that her mom let her be on TikTok, using Ulta products. I was like, "Those products are going to dry your skin out. You're going to look old by the time you're eighteen." That's an issue.

We have our cuffing season. That's for our older, 50-year-old women, and we have pole dancing parties. We had a menopause conference because also when you're going through menopause, now your hair is changing, your body is changing, people don't want to listen to you anymore. We want to make sure that we address, across the spectrum, every age group.

What are some of our calls to action? We want you to be informed and read the labels. Use the Clearya app and join the campaigns at Black Women for Wellness. Support Black-led initiatives and share knowledge.

I also have a couple more things that I want to go into. One is, I want to talk about menstrual products. The issue doesn't just stop at hair or makeup. Many menstrual products contain dangerous chemicals, too. On the tampon box, [we]

were successful in getting that it may cause toxic syndrome, but yet we're still marketing pads to young women.

Tampons and pads can cause dioxins from bleaching, pesticides residues, and artificial fragrance. These products come in direct contact with one of the most absorbent parts of the body, vaginal tissue, which means toxins enter the bloodstream quickly. We need transparency in ingredients and access to safe menstrual products. That means pushing for policy changes and promoting organic or reusable options like menstrual cups and cloth pads. We constantly talk about, "Oh, don't put the chemicals in your hair," and then we hand kids pads. "Oh, don't put the makeup on," but then we hand them pads.

Then I want to explain to you what hair relaxers and perms can do over the years, because it's not using a perm one time that's going to give you breast cancer or disrupt your hormones. It's when your hair's been permed since you were four, and now you're still fifty and perming your hair. Hair is deeply personal, especially in the Black community. This morning we had a conversation, and that's what we were talking about, Black hair. It's also very political.

Relaxers and perms marketed to Black women often cause hormone disruption. Research shows that long-term use—so once again, this isn't something if you just permed your hair once or dyed your hair once—is linked to fibroids, breast cancer, and uterine cancer. Let's also talk about pressure. The pressure to look professional or acceptable at school, at work, or in public spaces.

These expectations lead us to use many products that harm us or to make ourselves feel safe and seen. That's why education and access to safer alternative is critical. It's why we need corporate accountability and regulation and not just choice. This is why I talk about making sure that we hold companies accountable through public policy. We have to make sure that we hold them accountable because it doesn't matter if we get eleven chemicals removed, if they're going to just change the name and put those eleven chemicals right back in the products.

Then let's talk about the health disparities. All of this contributes to broader health disparities. Black women experience rates of hormone-related illnesses, fibroids, early puberty in our daughters, and breast cancer mortality. Black women are less likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer, but they are more likely to die from breast cancer. That's not just about genetics, it's about exposure, access, and environmental racism.

I have a story. One of our breast cancer survivors worked at the post office. It was four of them in the same office. All four of them were diagnosed with breast cancer in the same breast. That's an environmental factor, but the post office didn't want to be sued, so they said that it was a genetic issue. Sometimes we have to think about where we work, the places we're in, and it was four Black women who all worked at the same post office. Our health is being compromised by the very industries that claim to cater to our beauty.

What do we do with all this information? First, we educate. I'm asking you to also make sure that you follow Black Women for Wellness. First, we educate. I ask that you talk to your friends, family, and communities. Second, we

advocate, and we push for policies that require safer products and transparent labeling. Third, we empower. We choose safer products when possible, and support businesses and brands doing it right.

One of the ways you can do that is you can go on the Safer Cosmetic website, and you can look at all the products that are owned by individual businesses.² Those are safer cosmetics. Purchase them.

Finally, we partner. Black Women for Wellness and others are building a movement for beauty justice, and we need you in it. I want to thank you so much for being part of this important conversation, and I hope you walk away today not with just more knowledge but with power to ask questions, to demand better, and to protect our bodies and our communities. Now I'll take any questions. If you have any questions or if you want to get involved, you can always go to our website. We have an Instagram page @bw4wla. That's our website, bwwla.org.

Chloe: I can start off for Q&A. On one of our phone calls, you talked about, specifically with salon workers and people who work in the beauty industry, as products get more expensive and rents get higher, that people have to work more hours and do more services to afford rent and afford to be able to continue having their business. I was just wondering if you could talk about, maybe over the last few years, as prices and things have changed, how that has affected the exposures.

Arnedra: There's an increase in salon owners staying longer in the salon. We all know that there is no rent control on business-owned businesses. Today, you might pay \$10,000 a month, and if your landlord wants to raise your rent the next month because it's a business, there is no law against that, and it may be \$12,000. A lot of times, either the salon owners move back to their homes and now they're exposing their children to all these chemicals because they're losing their businesses, or the salon owners, and this is how we've been talking as we're talking to salon owners, they've increased the number of hours that they work. They went from working twelve-hour days to sixteen-to-eighteen-hour days. Now we're increasing the chemicals.

What our EPA program does is we provide fans in the salons and we have someone that goes out and monitors the air quality so that we can teach salon owners, and this happens at Black hair salons and Asian nail shops, so that they can make sure that they have the proper ventilation because we're seeing a higher rate of cancer among salon workers. It's because of the fact that they have to now stay longer because everything is expensive. There is nothing that is not expensive. Any other questions?

Audience member: I was wondering, from your view, is there a distinction between products where there are reasonably healthy alternatives like the toothpaste that you mentioned, instead of going to your big box store, you can go to a local charcoal-based producer? Do you see distinction between that

2. *How to Find Safer Cosmetic Products*, CAMPAIGN FOR SAFE COSMETICS, <https://www.safecosmetics.org/resources/safe-cosmetics-tips/safer-cosmetic-products/> [https://perma.cc/382C-9E77] (last visited Apr. 1, 2026).

category where there are feasible alternatives versus a category of products where we just don't have the science yet to find reasonable, healthy alternatives, and therefore the best answer is really just to stop using the product entirely, like perm chemicals, for example, or my mom box dyes her hair. Are there even feasible alternatives, or is the best solution just to let go until the science gets there?

Arnedra: For perms, I would say the best science is to let it go. For boxed hair products, there is two I know at Whole Foods, so everyone would have the same hair color, but it does work. They're at Whole Foods. I've tried them and they do work. Also, it's about access. When you go to lower-income communities, there is not a Whole Foods or a Trader Joe's. Trader Joe's, I also want you to be very careful. You can look at the retailer card. It's called the Retailer Report Card.³ Sometimes, Trader Joe's does get an F in certain things.

If you don't have a Trader Joe's, if you don't have access to Sprouts, and you don't have a car, you're going to go to, if it's a Food 4 Less in your neighborhood. They may not offer the same products that a store that is all about health would. That's also one of the factors that stop people from purchasing. Then, it's the price cost, right? We can go to the dollar store and get Colgate for a dollar, but if you go to Sprouts, charcoal toothpaste [costs] \$12. It's also a cost issue. Beauty costs, and it costs a lot. For good beauty products, it really costs. Did I answer your question?

Audience member: Are there other categories where you feel like you wish the science were getting there, and it's just not?

Arnedra: Perfume, I wish the science was getting there, because I love perfume. Perfume is not something you should wear. I wish the science would give good perfume that lasts all day, but it's not there.

Deja Chambers: Hi. My name is Deja Chambers. Thank you for speaking. I just wanted to ask if you could talk a little bit more about the outreach programs you have, and community education, because I know a lot of times there is just, I think, a gap in how people receive information. In a lot of the conversations I'm seeing, people hit a wall with feeling overwhelmed by how many things can potentially be carcinogenic or unhealthy in other ways. Because some of these things are so deeply personal and tied to culture, there's also a wall in terms of people viewing it as an attack on culture. Have you encountered these things? Are there ways that you address them as you're doing community outreach?

Arnedra: Yes, we encounter it every day. Madison actually brought materials. We have materials for you if you wanted to join a program or see an educational program. One of the ways we do that is by continuing to provide education, because we have to continue to have the conversations. A lot of times, they're uncomfortable conversations, and we have to learn to get uncomfortable with having uncomfortable conversations, right? We have to be comfortable with having uncomfortable conversations.

3. *Retailer Report Card*, TOXIC-FREE FUTURE, <https://toxicfreefuture.org/retailer-report-card/> [<https://perma.cc/Q4WR-B3UK>] (last visited Apr. 1, 2026).

Of course, we're going to get pushback because we are messing with people's money. We are messing with their pocketbooks, so they are mad, and they will continue to be mad. We also have to look at why is it that Black women are putting \$9 billion into an industry that does not care about them. Either we're going to have to make our own products. I've tried my hand, so just so y'all know, at making some products. They did not work. I am not a chemist. It was not a good idea. We make our own products, or what we do is that we call them out and say, "We will not purchase any of these products."

I read an article, so I don't know if it's true, but they said that Target lost \$9 billion in a week. We call people out. We say, "Until you give us products that are safe for us to use, and so that we can have a long lifespan, then we won't purchase them." Those are two things. Yes, we get plenty of pushback. We got pushback from Amazon. We got pushback from other companies. We're going to get pushback. Got pushback from Johnson & Johnson when we were one of the leads on suing Johnson & Johnson for a baby powder use.

What we have to remember is that the Civil Rights Movement also got pushback. We can continue to get pushback, but we have to continue to keep on speaking, and we have to continue to know to do what's right. We know that Black women should not be spending \$9 billion and dying from an industry that's not taking care of them. \$9 billion is a lot of money. That would last three hundred or four hundred generations if they knew how to budget their money right.

We do have materials. We have all kinds of programs. We don't just have beauty justice programs. We have reproductive justice programs. We have public policy programs. We have voter engagement programs. We do a lot. We have maternal health programs. There is something for everyone, even for people who don't want to get into the beauty justice industry. Are there any more questions?

Audience member: I was actually hoping that you could talk a little bit more about your work at the Attorney General's Office, because you mentioned that.

Arnedra: Let's go back. Occidental College wrote a paper about skin lighteners, and then they decided to sue Amazon. I didn't come in but to the last part of how it goes. Amazon was sued. What we're doing is we got some money from Amazon to put education out about skin lighteners. We have not put the information out yet because of the fact that we're still waiting on some things. The Attorney General's Office determines who gets the money. They determined that Black Women for Wellness would get the money and do the education. We'll be doing education about skin lighteners.

Right now, I'm just doing sunscreen and skin cancers. The global economy's changing, climate change that we're all wearing sunscreen, but for right now, I'm just doing that. That's what happened with our Amazon and the Attorney General's office. We have one more question.

Audience member: Thank you so much for your time coming here. I was wondering if there are any specific materials that consumers should try to avoid.

I'm thinking about the difficulty of getting arsenic out of cotton in menstrual pads.

Arnedra: Yes. Our executive director's name is Jan Robinson Flint. One of the things that she suggested was that we make our own pads, that you learn how to sew. You cut the material, and you use that. We also have an environmental justice program that does fast fashion. Talking about like SHEIN and not purchasing from SHEIN because we know that it's not biodegradable. It just sits in a landfill somewhere. Fast fashion means that we buy thirty of the same top because it was \$6. Then we decide that next month we don't want to wear it, and it goes into the landfill, and then it doesn't biodegrade. Now twenty or even one hundred years from now, it's still in the landfill.

Just making sure that you do read, and if it's cotton, and that it is biodegradable. I always say buy good quality clothes because when you buy good quality clothes, then you can pass them on to someone else when you don't want to wear them anymore. No one wants to wear the SHEIN because you washed it and now it's all out of shape, because it was \$12. Yes, purchase good quality.

One of the things that she says is that—she actually said that we should do like a day of learning how to teach girls how to sew and having them cut their own cloths and have them make menstrual bags. That would be the bag. We'll have panties in there, the pads that they learned how to sew so that we stop using the chemicals in the clothing.

Audience member: I wanted to ask about whether or not you do any engagement with men also and how they can be supportive of women, and being able to be aware that their wives or daughters or whatever may be disproportionately exposed to these, and what role you see them playing in this.

Arnedra: We do have a reproductive justice conference coming up August 7th. You're all welcome to join us. We also have a beauty justice conference that's coming up April 21st. At our reproductive justice conference, we have five men that work at Black Women for Wellness, and I'm sure as women, we drive them crazy because it's sixty employees and five men.

Akil runs our men's track. The men's track is educating men about the hormone disruptors, educating men about advocating for maternal health rights, showing them how to get copies of birth certificates, being able to advocate for Black women when they go to the hospital and doctors aren't listening to them, how Black men can step up and speak to the doctors. We do have that.

At our reproductive justice conference, we have a whole track dedicated to men, and it's for men, and they get together and talk about how they can support Black women.