

by BMSG a year ago

It's time to #LeaveStigmaOut of conversations about abortion

Feb. 16, 2017 tweet chat with Sea Change Program and Berkeley Media Studies Group, featuring new research on how abortion stigma shows up in mainstream news -- and what we can do about it

It's time to #LeaveStigmaOut

- How does the news shape the way we talk and think about abortion?
- How can we hold media accountable in our new administration?

Join the Sea Change Program and Berkeley Media Studies Group for a **TWEETCHAT** on **2/16, 2pm ET/11am PT** to learn how abortion stigma is showing up in mainstream news, and how we can shape the stories presented to us.

Join the conversation using #LeaveStigmaOut

Starting now: tweet chat with [@BMSG](#) & [@SeaChangeProg](#) on [#abortion](#) stigma and the media [#leavestigmaout](#) [pic.twitter.com/PKEUkCSZCC](#)

PP GLOBAL @PPGLOBE · A YEAR AGO

Sea Change Program
[@SeaChangeProg](#)

Welcome to the Leave Stigma Out Tweetchat! We'll get started in a minute. Join us using [#leavestigmaout](#)

A YEAR AGO



Sea Change Program
@SeaChangeProg

The inspiration for this chat comes from our media research with @BMSG. Learn more at bit.ly/2jQSx5i #leavestigmaout

A YEAR AGO



Sea Change Program
@SeaChangeProg

Our research revealed #abortionstigma seeps into mainstream news in many ways. Today we'll share how & what we can do to #leavestigmaout.

A YEAR AGO



Sea Change Program
@SeaChangeProg

We welcome our co-host, @BMSG, to the chat who will be here for all your research questions! #leavestigmaout

A YEAR AGO



Sea Change Program
@SeaChangeProg

.@BMSG can you share why we decided to look at the news for this report? #leavestigmaout

A YEAR AGO



BMSG
@BMSG

Studying the news provides insight into how the public and policymakers understand an issue. #LeaveStigmaOut

A YEAR AGO



Sharon Kann
@sharonkann


Media shape public opinion. Talking about abortion in stigmatizing ways promotes misinformation #leavestigmaout mm4a.org/1REJKid

A YEAR AGO


 **BMSG**
@BMSG


News coverage not only shapes public opinion, it also sets policy agendas. #LeaveStigmaOut

 A YEAR AGO


 **Sea Change Program**
@SeaChangeProg

Learn more about our report with @BMSG and why we focused on mainstream news here:
bit.ly/2jQsx5i #leavestigmaout

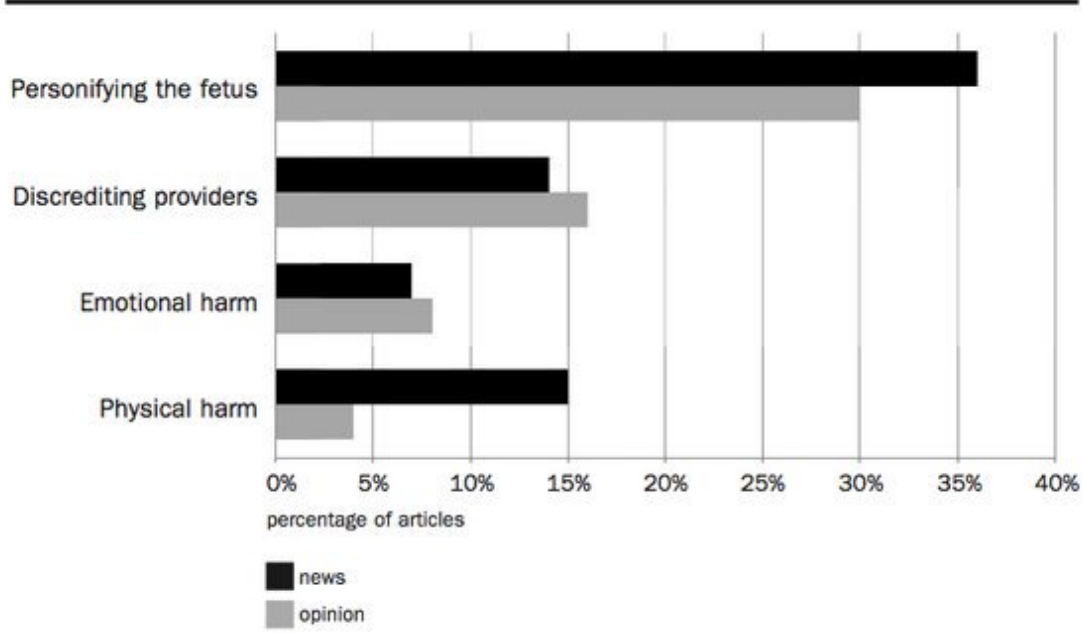
 A YEAR AGO

 **Sea Change Program**
@SeaChangeProg

Q1: What are the main ways abortion stigma is trickling into our news? #leavestigmaout


 A YEAR AGO

Stigma themes present in U.S. newspaper and online news about abortion, 2014-2015 (n=263)



Stigma Theme	news (%)	opinion (%)
Personifying the fetus	36	30
Discrediting providers	14	16
Emotional harm	7	8
Physical harm	15	4

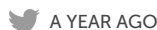
A1: Coverage contained 4 forms of stigma; half of stories had at least 1 stigmatizing theme.
[#leavestigmaout pic.twitter.com/JY9vmUccCo](https://pic.twitter.com/JY9vmUccCo)

 BMSG @BMSG · A YEAR AGO



BMSG
@BMSG

A1: Over a third of our sample personified a fetus, leading to moral judgment about abortion.
[#leavestigmaout](#)



A YEAR AGO



Sea Change Program
@SeaChangeProg

A1: The more times a news article mentioned abortion, the more likely it was to contain a stigmatizing quote or statement. [#leavestigmaout](#)



A YEAR AGO



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@BMSG

A1: Much of the stigma surfaced through quotes from officials or anti-abortion advocates, not journalists. [#leavestigmaout](#)



A YEAR AGO



Whole Woman's Health
@WholeWomans

A1: Only covering abortion situations attached to tragedy. [#Leavestigmaout](#)



A YEAR AGO



Sharon Kann
@sharonkann

Right-wing media use stigma to demonize providers. Some have even called them “nazis” & “jihadists.” [#leavestigmaout](#) mm4a.org/1ZTuAaG



A YEAR AGO



Sharon Kann
@sharonkann

WATCH: Abortion Stigma Is Ruining Good Abortion Journalism mm4a.org/1Pri5Nz
[#leavestigmaout](#)



A YEAR AGO

**CLRJ**

@Latinas4RJ

We have found that abortion stigma perpetuates misperception that Latinx folks are not supportive of abortion #LeaveStigmaOut #ThisIsRJ



A YEAR AGO

**PP Action CA**

@PPActionCA

A1: When it comes to health center attacks and violence there is a serious lack of media coverage. #leavestigmaout @SeaChangeProg



A YEAR AGO

**Steph Herold**

@StephHerold

A1 Blatant harassment: When rightwing media attacks @TeenVogue for publishing articles on abortion mediamatters.org/research/2017/... #LeaveStigmaOut [twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/...](https://twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/)



A YEAR AGO

**NAF**

@NatAbortionFed

A1: Show the full range of people seeking abortion care, not just the exceptions. #LeaveStigmaOut twitter.com/ppglobe/status...



A YEAR AGO

**CLRJ**

@Latinas4RJ

A1. There is no media coverage on how Latinx attitudes towards abortion are more nuanced, which perpetuates stereotypes #LeaveStigmaOut



A YEAR AGO

**Sea Change Program**

@SeaChangeProg

A1: Read our full report on abortion stigma in the news here: bit.ly/2jQSx5i #leavestigmaout



A YEAR AGO



Sea Change Program
@SeaChangeProg

Q2: What are the most common myths that you see in our news about abortion?
[#leavestigmaout](#)

A YEAR AGO



BMSG
@BMSG

A2: News coverage gives false impression that abortion is unsafe when it's highly safe and common. [#leavestigmaout](#)

A YEAR AGO



Sea Change Program
@SeaChangeProg

A2: The news often portrays abortion seekers as young & single when 59% are mothers.
bit.ly/2lxY2WM @Guttmacher [#leavestigmaout](#)

A YEAR AGO



Steph Herold
@StephHerold

A2 People who've had abortions are rarely driving news coverage of abortion - rarely quoted, especially Women of Color. [#LeaveStigmaOut](#)

A YEAR AGO



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@BMSG

A2: 15% of our sample suggest abortion providers are greedy, yet providers are up against [#TRAP](#) laws & harassment. [#leavestigmaout](#)

A YEAR AGO



CLRJ
@Latinas4RJ

A2. Latinx are erroneously perceived as an anti-abortion group, yet like everyone else, our beliefs are not homogeneous! [#LeaveStigmaOut](#)

A YEAR AGO



Nicole
@hobocode

@BMSG @SeaChangeProg That no "normal" or "responsible" women have abortions
[#MayCauseLove](#) [#LeaveStigmaOut](#)

A YEAR AGO



Whole Woman's Health
@WholeWomans

Q2: That abortion is an easy decision, or that the reasons behind it are flippant.
[#Leavestigmaout](#)

A YEAR AGO



Steph Herold
@StephHerold

A2 Abortion is often discussed as a cultural lightning rod, rarely covered as a personal experience or economic issue [#LeaveStigmaOut](#)

A YEAR AGO



CLRJ
@Latinas4RJ

A2. Latinx agree that people have the right to decide for themselves the number and spacing of our children. [#LeaveStigmaOut](#) [#ReproJustice](#)

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NAF
@NatAbortionFed

A2: We often see the myth that people seeking abortion care aren't already parents-- most already have 1 or more kids. [#LeaveStigmaOut](#) [twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/...](https://twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/)

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Steph Herold
@StephHerold

A2 Journalists who write about abortion often get harassed by anti-abortion trolls or by right wing media. [#LeaveStigmaOut](#)

A YEAR AGO



PP Action CA
@PPActionCA

A2: The media often covers the political drama, but fails to include patient stories from those who have had abortions [#leavestigmaout](#)

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Steph Herold
@StephHerold

A2 News often covers abortion as sensational or exceptional instead of the normal, common experience that it is. [#LeaveStigmaOut](#)

A YEAR AGO



Sharon Kann
@sharonkann

Networks using misleading b-roll footage of babies during abortion segments is a frequent problem [#leavestigmaout](#) mm4a.org/1QeokK4

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Rewire
@Rewire_News

A2: That people who have abortions and people who have children are different sets of people. bit.ly/2b3Qc7S [#LeaveStigmaOut](#) twitter.com/BMSG/status/83...

A YEAR AGO



Candice Russell
@MonPetitTX

That you cannot be a person of faith and also support access/that anti-choice rhetoric speaks for anyone who believes in God. [#leavestigmaout](#) twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/...

A YEAR AGO



Cara Harshman
@CaraHarshman

A2 That after abortion you should feel either "relief" or "shame" [#leavestigmaout](#) twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/...

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@SeaChangeProg

A2: Read our full report on abortion stigma in the news here: bit.ly/2jQSx5i #leavestigmaout

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Sea Change Program
@SeaChangeProg

Q3: What is missing in current coverage of abortion in the news? #leavestigmaout

A YEAR AGO



Whole Woman's Health
@WholeWomans

A3: True medical facts about the procedure & how safe it is #Leavestigmaout

A YEAR AGO



NC Women United
@ncwu

Q3: the voices of those impacted by restrictive laws. #leavestigmaout
<http://twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/status/832309938168926208>

A YEAR AGO



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@BMSG

A3: Stories from women who have had abortions were rare, leaving more room for myths to take hold. #leavestigmaout

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Sea Change Program
@SeaChangeProg

A3: Personal narratives from Women of Color were completely absent from the news.
#leavestigmaout

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Steph Herold
@StephHerold

A3 Missing in news coverage of abortion: Connecting attacks on abortion to systemic racism, classism [#LeaveStigmaOut](#)

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CLRJ
@Latinas4RJ

A3. That Latinx, like other people, overwhelmingly view abortion as an essential component of women's healthcare [#LeaveStigmaOut](#) [#ThisIsRJ](#)

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Steph Herold
@StephHerold

A3 Missing in news coverage of abortion: Perspectives of trans & gender-non-conforming folks who've had abortions [#LeaveStigmaOut](#)

A YEAR AGO



NARAL Pro-Choice NC
@NARALNC

Q3: the real impact of restrictions being passed, including fact that patients will still seek our methods [#leavestigmaout](#) [@SeaChangeProg](#)

A YEAR AGO



PP Action CA
@PPActionCA

A3: Diverse patient voices, provider stories, the devastating impact of local anti-choice legislation. [#leavestigmaout](#) [@SeaChangeProg](#)

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“The most effective, most powerful lobbying technique is to tell a story of a real person, eyeball to eyeball with some legislator, and just say, ‘If there was a 20-week ban on abortion, this is what would have happened to me.’”

REP. TIM RYAN (D-OHIO)

Rewire


Abortion storytelling helps break down abortion stigma. Can it sway anti-choice legislators?
rewire.link/2dD8jwv #LeaveStigmaOut pic.twitter.com/KhBIV76llq

 REWIRE @REWIRE_NEWS · A YEAR AGO



Alissa
@_a_l_man


A3: The violent and criminal history of those pushing these anti-abortion laws. They celebrate those who murder providers. #LeaveStigmaOut [twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/...](https://twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/)

 A YEAR AGO



Candice Russell
@MonPetitTX


Stories from women of color that aren't about tokenizing tragedy but reflect how diverse our communities are. #leavestigmaout [twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/...](https://twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/)

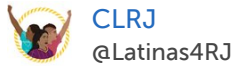
 A YEAR AGO



Our Bodies Ourselves
@oboshealth

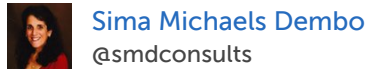
A3. Missing in news coverage: it's people + families w/ least resources who are hurt the most by restrictive abortion laws. #LeaveStigmaOut

 A YEAR AGO



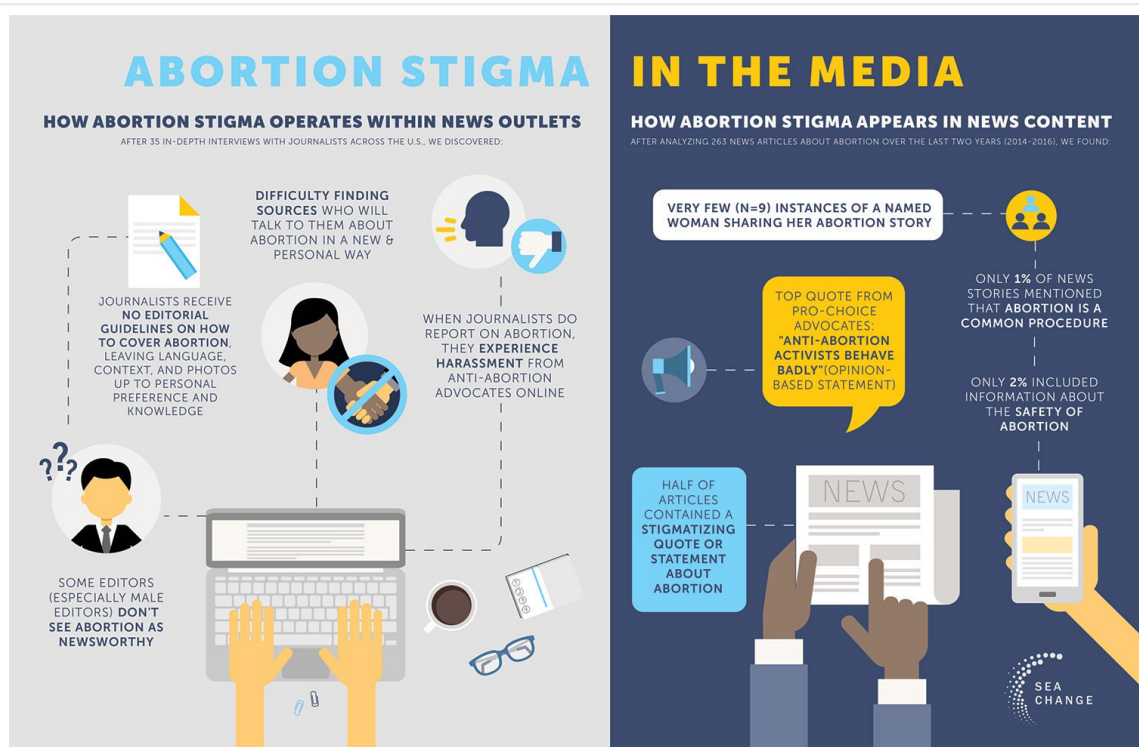
A3. Missing from media coverage is the nuances in our communities when it comes to abortion. californialatinas.org/wp-content/upl... #LeaveStigmaOut

A YEAR AGO




A3 Stories about how women had improved health or increased economic prospects as a result. #leavestigmaout

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A3: Only 1% of our sample shared how common abortion is. Only 2% shared how safe it is. #leavestigmaout pic.twitter.com/EoDE4iPQM4

SEA CHANGE PROGRAM @SEACHANGEPROG · A YEAR AGO



PODCAST


CHOICE / LESS
A storytelling podcast by Rewire Radio

“I was at a bar one night hanging out with some friends and someone asked me where I worked. I said I worked at Planned Parenthood, and she wanted to beat me up after I told her that. So I immediately left the bar.”

Kelsey

R

Abortion stigma can lead to open hostility toward clinic workers, as Kelsey experienced rewire.link/1UsIVu6 [#LeaveStigmaOut](https://twitter.com/C1LzkjLtp) pic.twitter.com/C1LzkjLtp


 REWIRE @REWIRE_NEWS · A YEAR AGO



Cara Harshman
@CaraHarshman


A3: Stories of how men experience abortion [#LeaveStigmaOut](https://twitter.com/C1LzkjLtp)

 A YEAR AGO



Planned Parenthood
@PPMarMonte

A3: Missing stories of abortion: Men who are supporting and respectful of their partner's right to choose abortion. [#LeaveStigmaOut](https://twitter.com/C1LzkjLtp)

 A YEAR AGO


@SeaChangeProg the #Deaf perspective on their unique experiences are missing #MayCauseLove #LeaveStigmaOut #Ally pic.twitter.com/I9DsMSgZVP

 NICOLE @HOBOCODE · A YEAR AGO



Sea Change Program
@SeaChangeProg


Q4: Have you seen abortion stigma in the news? How did it make you feel/what did you do?
[#leavestigmaout](#)

 A YEAR AGO



Sea Change Program
@SeaChangeProg


A4: Turn to places like [@Guttmacher](#) for facts about abortion. You can also share them with a journalist. [#leavestigmaout](#)

 A YEAR AGO



Steph Herold
@StephHerold

A4 Mostly in absences - for ex, lack of data, false equivalence between quoting lies of antis & facts of pro-choice people. [#LeaveStigmaOut twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/...](#)

 A YEAR AGO



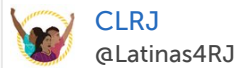
A4: Stigma can have a silencing effect. It's important to break that cycle, speak up and share stories about abortion. #leavestigmaout

A YEAR AGO



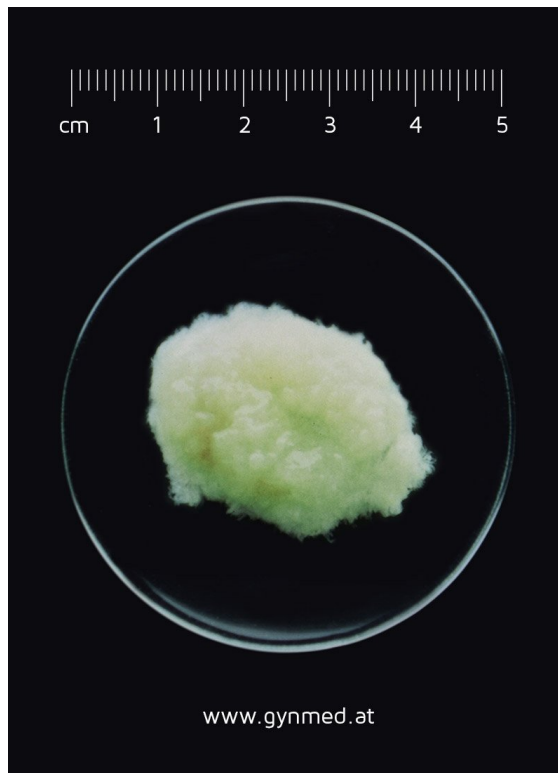
A4: Elevate patient voices and work with local media to help ensure pieces include real life stories. #leavestigmaout @SeaChangeProg

A YEAR AGO




A4. We recently read about one of heroes "Willie J. Parker Changed His Mind About Abortion" [nytimes.com/2017/02/08/mag...](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/08/mag...) #LeaveStigmaOut

A YEAR AGO





Stock photos can contribute to abortion stigma and misinformation rewire.link/2gqKwVC [Correct image of 6-week embryo] #LeaveStigmaOut pic.twitter.com/4HB7tgRPTS

REWIRE @REWIRE_NEWS · A YEAR AGO


 **Our Bodies Ourselves**
@oboshealth

A4. Let's make sure we're countering misinformation--even when it comes from the very top.
bit.ly/2lczZQ #Trump #LeaveStigmaOut

 A YEAR AGO


 **Steph Herold**
@StephHerold


A4 Important to tell journalists that they need to challenge antiabortion ppl on their "facts." It's their job as reporters #LeaveStigmaOut

 A YEAR AGO


 **Sarika Bansal**
@sarika008


A4: @SeaChangeProg Yes, by not challenging "pro-life" people to talk about refugees' lives, climate change, etc. #leavestigmaout

 A YEAR AGO


 **Planned Parenthood**
@PPMarMonte


A4: By facilitating the process by which our patients can share their abortion stories.
#LeaveStigmaOut

 A YEAR AGO


 **Whole Woman's Health**
@WholeWomans

A4: Yes; frustration for our doctors, our patients, and for all of us who know and love someone who's had an abortion #Leavestigmaout

 A YEAR AGO

 **Our Bodies Ourselves**
@oboshealth

A4. Yes and the stigma often comes from some people not understanding how women's bodies *actually* work. #LeaveStigmaOut

 A YEAR AGO



BMSG
@BMSG

A4 Despite news stigma, 1 study found people got supportive reactions after sharing abortion stories bit.ly/2lRDIVN #LeaveStigmaOut

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A4: We launched a series with @ANSIRH to try and help people #getinformed. #EXPLAINED #LeaveStigmaOut ow.ly/sGR13094LNM pic.twitter.com/GY9kb3zA7d

INNOVATING EDUCATION @IERHATUCSF · A YEAR AGO



Sea Change Program
@SeaChangeProg

Q5: What are some ways we can all help to #leavestigmaout and ensure our news is accurate and unbiased?

A YEAR AGO



Sea Change Program
@SeaChangeProg

A5: If something newsworthy is happening, reporters need to know about that! Tweet, email, and reach out to journalists. #leavestigmaout

A YEAR AGO



BMSG
@BMSG

A5: Don't just report stats & facts! Advocates must voice shared values & link them to abortion.
[#leavestigmaout](#)

A YEAR AGO



Sea Change Program
@SeaChangeProg

A5: News needs stories from those who experience abortion! Journalists should get to know
[@wetestify](#) [@SpeakYourStory](#) etc. [#leavestigmaout](#)

A YEAR AGO



Steph Herold
@StephHerold

A5 Support people who share their abortion stories with media by leaving positive comments on articles, checking in w/them. [#LeaveStigmaOut](#) [twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/...](#)

A YEAR AGO



Whole Woman's Health
@WholeWomans

A5: Inform journalists why we can't fit their cookie-cutter story assignment [#Leavestigmaout](#)

A YEAR AGO



BMSG
@BMSG

A5: Highlight progress! When journalists do a fair, accurate job of reporting on abortion, let them know. [#leavestigmaout](#)

A YEAR AGO



Candice Russell
@MonPetitTX

We need more focus on how abortion intersects w/ race/class/etc. bc we aren't single issue people living single issue lives. [#leavestigmaout](#) [twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/...](#)

A YEAR AGO

**CLRJ**

@Latinas4RJ

A5. CLRJ created a fact sheet series that provides what Latinx really think about abortion californialatinas.org/resources/fact... #LeaveStigmaOut



A YEAR AGO

**Innovating Education**

@IERHatUCSF

A5: We can continue to support each other and point people to comprehensive research. [#LeaveStigmaOut twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/...](https://twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/)



A YEAR AGO

**Our Bodies Ourselves**

@oboshealth

A5. Support voices of most marginalized + amplify their stories/voices. [#LeaveStigmaOut twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/...](https://twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/)



A YEAR AGO

**Candice Russell**

@MonPetitTX

Talk to real people about their stories/the work they do on the ground & not just "experts" [#leavestigmaout twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/...](https://twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/)



A YEAR AGO

**Planned Parenthood**

@PPMarMonte

Q5: Talk about abortion openly and honestly. [#LeaveStigmaOut](https://twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/)



A YEAR AGO

**BMSG**

@BMSG

A5: Avoid repeating abortion myths, even to rebut them. Doing so risks reinforcing them. [#leavestigmaout](https://twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/)



A YEAR AGO



BMSG
@BMSG

A5: Why repeating your opposition's arguments -- even to rebut them -- can be problematic:
ow.ly/g2sR3094N5e #LeaveStigmaOut

A YEAR AGO



Randy Weaver
SonofaBourbon

My grandma almost died from a botched illegal abortion in the 40s. Let's not revert to the back alley days. #LeaveStigmaOut

A YEAR AGO



PsalmsThirtySeven
@JamilHemphill

I work PR, & I'm telling you first hand, the media only will tell 1 side of the story the bias is real
#LeaveStigmaOut

A YEAR AGO



CLRJ
@Latinas4RJ

A5. Abortion stigma won't lessen until we are ALL able to share our stories openly without fear or shame #LeaveStigmaOut

A YEAR AGO



Sea Change Program
@SeaChangeProg

A5: The news must talk about abortion as the part of normal healthcare it is and the variety of reasons ppl have abortions. #leavestigmaout

A YEAR AGO



Steph Herold
@StephHerold

A5 So many factors contribute to how an article ends up turning out. Offer to be a resource for new/better info. #LeaveStigmaOut

A YEAR AGO



ReproDocs
@reprodocs

A5: We're working to #LeaveStigmaOut by sharing stories about all kinds of repro health care, including abortion youareavoiceofcourage.tumblr.com [twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/...](https://twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/)

A YEAR AGO



Candice Russell
@MonPetitTX

Share personal stories while acknowledging that our ability to safely talk about abortion is a privilege not everyone has. #LeaveStigmaOut [twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/...](https://twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/)

A YEAR AGO



Sea Change Program
@SeaChangeProg

Thanks to all who participated in the #leavestigmaout chat! Learn more about our research and what you can do at bit.ly/2jQSx5i

A YEAR AGO



Sea Change Program
@SeaChangeProg

A huge thank you to our co-host @BMSG for partnering with us in this original research! #leavestigmaout

A YEAR AGO



BMSG
@BMSG

Of course -- and thank you for partnering with us in this work! It's been a pleasure! #LeaveStigmaOut [twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/...](https://twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/)

A YEAR AGO



Sea Change Program
@SeaChangeProg


Thanks to the journalists, advocates & storytellers working to #leavestigmaout & ensure the news reflects the lived experience of abortion!

A YEAR AGO



Steph Herold
@StephHerold


Read our report to know more about abortion stigma in the news, & what you can do about it:
seachangeprogram.org/wp-content/upl... #LeaveStigmaOut [twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/...](https://twitter.com/SeaChangeProg/)

 A YEAR AGO



Our Bodies Ourselves
@oboshealth

.@SeaChangeProg @BMSG Thank you for hosting and bringing everyone together!
#LeaveStigmaOut

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