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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **CLRJ RESPONDS TO RECENT ICE STERILIZATIONS AND THE CONTINUED USE OF EUGENICS ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

At [California Latinas for Reproductive Justice](#) we have been uplifting the connection between the continued use of eugenics in this country, in all its forms, and the continued use of sterilization as a means to control populations. The latest news on the forced sterilizations in Georgia at ICE detention centers is enraging, heartbreaking, and absolutely in line with our country's violent and shameful policies.

WE WANT TO BE CLEAR, EUGENICS AND FORCED STERILIZATIONS HAVE NEVER STOPPED IN THIS COUNTRY. Black and Indigenous people; the women of Puerto Rico; women of Mexican descent in Los Angeles County USC Hospital; folks in state institutions around the country, including the 20,000 people sterilized under California's Eugenics law between 1909 to 1979; the hundreds of incarcerated folks that continue to be sterilized, including the 250 confirmed cases who were coercively sterilized in California women prisons without informed consent; and now immigrants in detention.

Regardless of the year the violent and unconscionable act of forced sterilization was committed - all have one thing in common - they have taken place in institutions where the lives of Black, Indigenous, POC, and people with disabilities were deemed less worthy of reproduction and family formation. Let us repeat, our country and state eugenics policies have not ended.

Even in the perceived most progressive state, our leadership has failed to pass legislation to compensate survivors of state violence. The California State Legislature once again failed to acknowledge the state's shameful leadership in the country's eugenics program, where one-third of all national forced sterilizations occurred. California's failure to act by not passing #AB3052 or adding our budget request for compensation, shows the uphill battle survivors continue to face as they fight for some justice. It also shines a light on the continued belief that eugenics policies and sterilizations are a thing of the past. They are not. We have been screaming the pain of our communities for years onto deaf ears. IT IS TIME FOR OUR LEGISLATORS TO LISTEN AND ACT!



Let us be clear, monetary compensation could never adequately address the harms suffered by sterilization survivors, but it would serve as a vital first step to materially acknowledge these horrific human rights abuses and prevent them from happening again in the future. The right to decide when, if, and how to parent is fundamental to our humanity and we must uphold and defend all of our rights to control our own reproductive capacity, without state or other interference. ALL people must be treated with respect and dignity regarding their lives and reproduction, including those who have been historically disenfranchised: people with disabilities, women, people of color, LGBTQI+ people, people in carceral settings and poor people.

IT IS TIME TO DEMAND MORE. IT IS TIME TO ABOLISH ICE AND ALL PRISONS. WE ARE CALLING ON ALL STATES, INCLUDING CALIFORNIA, TO OWN UP TO THEIR COMPLICITY AND MATERIALLY ACKNOWLEDGE THESE HORRIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES!

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California Latinas for Reproductive Justice is a statewide organization committed to honoring the experiences of Latinas/xs to uphold our dignity, our bodies, sexuality and families. We build Latinas'/xs' power and cultivate leadership through community education, policy advocacy, and community informed research to achieve Reproductive Justice. Learn more about California Latinas for Reproductive Justice at [www.californialatinas.org](http://www.californialatinas.org).

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