



My Body, My Choice: An Ongoing Conversation

Description: Reconciling claims of “My Body, My Choice” with respect to vaccinations, abortion, hairstyles and fashion, tattoos and piercings, sexual behavior and contraception, circumcision and genital cutting, transgendering, etc.

- Given the degree to which this claim resonates, it may be useful to include some background on the phrase, and the reason why we use it to claim agency over ourselves?
 - This phrase originates from the 60’s and 70’s, used by women in the US to fight for gender rights. In later decades, it has been echoed throughout the world.
 - <https://www.voicesofgenz.com/post-1/the-evolution-of-my-body-my-choice>
 - <https://www.bitchmedia.org/article/the-limits-of-my-body-my-choice>
 - In 1994, a group of African American women coined the term “Reproductive Justice” which brings the conversation of gender/reproductive rights to a systemic scale, connecting the lines between the personal (My body) and the access to health and safety (my choices)
 - <https://www.bitchmedia.org/article/the-limits-of-my-body-my-choice>
 - In the midst of the pandemic, the phrase has been co-opted by another group arguing for agency: those who oppose vaccine mandates. In various rallies in 2020 across the United States, persons protested the mask mandate, stay at home orders, and vaccine mandates, utilizing this same phrase. Some see it as a “political [gotcha](#),” a trump card (some pun intended) to their liberal counterparts.
 - <https://www.statesman.com/story/opinion/2021/12/04/golddb-erg-what-my-body-my-choice-means-right/8828589002/>
 - <https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/covid-19-mask-mandates-wisconsin-elsewhere-spark-my-body-my-ncna1235535>
 - <https://rewirenewsgroup.com/article/2020/04/22/the-rights-desperate-attempts-to-hijack-my-body-my-choice/>



- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/04/20/pulling-back-curtain-not-all-that-pro-life-movement/>
- The use of this call-to-action was originally intended to claim bodily freedom and agency for womxn. As time marches on, rhetoric and word choice has shifted.
 - Amnesty International has adapted the call to “My Body, My Rights” and explains that their campaign serves to “stop the control and criminalization of sexuality and reproduction”.
 - This new phrasing expands the conversation from a choice to a right (something deemed unalienable by US Constitution), as well as the inclusivity of sexuality and reproduction rights for all (womxn, men, nonbinary and queer folk)
 - <https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/my-body-my-rights/>
 - Some feminist womxn argue too that the chant from the 70’s deserves to be revamped. In the framework of reproductive justice, there are calls to plug the individual back into the collective. This muddies the water for the larger conversation of biopolitical control as well: agency through individualism and/or agency through community.
 - <https://www.bitchmedia.org/article/the-limits-of-my-body-my-choice>