The mission of the Sojourner Truth Legacy Project (STLP) is to recognize women leaders making a positive difference in the lives of the communities they serve in the spirit of Sojourner Truth’s fearless, courageous, visionary spirit for freedom, justice, and equality. STLP aims to 1) spread awareness of the issues affecting African American women and the community; 2) mobilize women committed to engaging in these issues and creating positive change, and 3) build a community of women through the #SoTru network. Through a series of programs, STLP continues to build a dynamic, national, intergenerational network of African American and multicultural women committed to harnessing the power of women around issues important to their lives. The project is presently chaired by Rep. Yvette Clarke.

In 2017, Black women earned only 60.8 cents for every $1 earned by White men. This is a decrease from the 62.5 cents earned by Black women in 2016.

The number of businesses owned by Black women increased 164 percent from 2007 to 2018, approximating 541 new businesses that were created each day for the past 11 years.

Based on approximately 30 survey respondents, the preliminary results from the Sojourner Truth Legacy Project Survey, our respondents identified Health Care, Economic Development and Education as major policy issues facing Black women and girls today.

Our respondents identified Education, Health Care and Economic Development as top policy issues Congress should address.

Respondents also found Criminal Justice Reform, Voting, and Housing as important policy issues facing Black women and girls.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Black women. Black women are 40 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than White women.

56.1% of Black women aged 20 and older are obese.

Black women are three to four times more likely to experience a pregnancy-related death than White women.

Source: Susan G. Komen, CDC, National Partnership for Women & Families

Percentage of Bachelor’s Degrees or Higher attained by Black and White Women from 2007-2017

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Source: National Center for Education Statistics

In 2017, Black women earned only 60.8 cents for every $1 earned by White men. This is a decrease from the 62.5 cents earned by Black women in 2016.

The number of businesses owned by Black women increased 164 percent from 2007 to 2018, approximating 541 new businesses that were created each day for the past 11 years.

The number of businesses owned by Black women increased faster than other businesses from 2002-12, making Black women the fastest-growing business owners in the nation during this period.

Source: AAUW, 2018 State of Women-Owned Businesses Report, Commissioned By American Express, Forbes
According to the FBI, 57.5% of all juvenile prostitution arrests involve African Americans. California is ranked as having the highest number of reported cases of human trafficking in the U.S. The largest county in California, Los Angeles County, reported 92% of girls in the juvenile justice system identified as victims of sex trafficking and are Black.

In an interview with the Urban Institute, traffickers admittedly believe if caught, trafficking Black women would land them less jail time than trafficking White women.

90% of Black women voted for Democrats in the 2018 midterm election.

In 2016, Black women comprised 6.1% of the general population & 6.6% of the voting age population.

Black women played a significant role in the 2008 and 2012 general elections, accounting for 68% of the vote in 2008 and 70% in 2012.

In 2016, Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman, Rep. Robin Kelly, and Rep. Yvette D. Clarke founded the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls. The caucus serves as a champion for public policies that will improve the lives of Black women and girls across the nation. The five pillars of the organization’s focus are:

**Safety**

**Opportunities**

**Criminal Justice**

**Health Concerns**

**Growing Electorate**