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Suffolk University Becomes Global Hub of the Iconic Feminist Resource “Our Bodies, Ourselves”

BOSTON—Suffolk University is now the global hub of the transformative work of “Our Bodies, Ourselves,” under a new agreement with the Boston Women’s Health Book Collective that will support access to this essential resource on gender, health inequalities and reproductive access during a time of rampant mis- and disinformation.

Our Bodies Ourselves has shaped and inspired the women's health movement since 1970. The beloved book is often named one of the most influential texts of the twentieth century. It changed the way individuals think about their bodies, sexuality, and health – as well as the way that professionalized medicine, the pharmaceutical industry, and healthcare workers treat women. The print version of "Our Bodies, Ourselves," was revised or updated nine times over forty years, with editions in 34 languages. It has sold over 4 million copies to date. The last print edition was published in 2011. It remains an essential resource across generations for clear and accessible information about gender, health inequalities, sexuality, and reproductive choices.

Under a new agreement with the Boston Women’s Health Book Collective, the non-profit that created Our Bodies Ourselves, Suffolk University has taken over the Our Bodies Ourselves copyrights and trademarks and will support the continued operations and activities of Our Bodies Ourselves within the University’s Center for Women’s Health and Human Rights.

The agreement builds on the earlier partnership between Our Bodies Ourselves and Suffolk University to create the online platform, “Our Bodies Ourselves Today,” led by executive director and Sociology professor, Amy Agigian. First launched in 2022, this website features the best of the “Our Bodies, Ourselves” books and perspective, as well as extensive new content. “OurBodiesOurselves.org” provides evidence-based information, compelling personal stories, and intersectional feminist analysis about the health and sexuality of women and gender-expansive people.

Now fully a project of Suffolk’s Center for Women’s Health and Human Rights, an integrated Our Bodies Ourselves will advance multiple aspects of its powerful legacy. This work includes offering women around the world, their allies, and health care providers access to trustworthy, up to date health and sexuality information presented from a feminist perspective, and free from political and corporate influence. It will also continue its longstanding participation in intersectional feminist activism focusing on reproductive, health, and sexual justice.

With this agreement, Our Bodies Ourselves is beginning a new chapter, meeting the current moment of crisis with renewed commitment to ensuring that all women and gender-expansive people have the power to make their own decisions regarding health, reproduction, sexuality, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

There will be a signing ceremony at Suffolk University on February 11, 2025, and a celebration on March 8, International Women’s Day.

“As an institution committed to the power of education and inclusion, we are excited that OBOS will now advance its mission as part of the Suffolk community,” said Suffolk University President Marisa Kelly.

Judy Norsigian, Our Bodies Ourselves co-founder, added, “It is a truly historic moment for Our Bodies Ourselves – as well as for many of our global partners. This work is so important now, and Suffolk is an ideal home for the educational and advocacy projects that Our Bodies Ourselves started more than 55 years ago. I am so grateful that OBOS’s legacy will live on in Suffolk’s vibrant academic setting, with its strong community roots.”

“It is wonderful to be finally, fully integrating Our Bodies Ourselves into the Center for Women’s Health & Human Rights at Suffolk,” stated Amy Agigian, sociology professor and executive director of the newly formed Our Bodies Ourselves at Suffolk University. This has been our dream since we started our official collaboration almost five years ago. It will enable Our Bodies Ourselves to reach its highest potential to educate and empower diverse women and gender-expansive people in Boston and all over the world. In this historical moment, it’s needed more than ever.”

“For more than 50 years, Our Bodies Ourselves has been a trusted source of feminist health information and advocacy, empowering individuals to make informed decisions about their bodies and lives. This new chapter with Suffolk University ensures that our vital work continues, reaching new generations with evidence-based resources and a commitment to reproductive justice, health equity, and bodily autonomy. At a time when misinformation threatens fundamental rights, this partnership strengthens our ability to champion reproductive justice, bodily autonomy, and intersectional activism worldwide for generations to come,” said Diana Namumbejja Abwoye, who signed the agreement with Suffolk President Marisa Kelly. Abwoye was formerly chair of the Our Bodies Ourselves Board of Directors and now joins the Our Bodies Ourselves Leadership Council.

Learn more and sign up for the newsletter at <http://ourbodiesourselves.org>. Please see our Press Kit, <https://ourbodiesourselves.org/press-kit>, and contact us at contact@ourbodiesourselvestoday.org

Suffolk University, located in historic downtown Boston, provides students with experiential and transformational learning opportunities that begin in the center of Boston, reach across the globe, and lead to extraordinary outcomes for graduates. The University is driven by the power of education, inclusion, and engagement to change lives and positively impact communities. Suffolk University offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs in its College of Arts & Sciences, Sawyer Business School, and Law School.

Our Bodies Ourselves (OBOS) is an educational, activist initiative supporting the health and sexuality of women and gender-expansive people. For over a half-century since the early publication of our landmark book, "Our Bodies, Ourselves," OBOS has grown into an intersectional and global feminist force. We carefully curate trustworthy, evidence-based resources and compelling personal stories, all framed by incisive feminist analysis on [our freely accessible website](#). Alongside this trove of information, we advocate for sexual and health equity and reproductive justice. We are located at the Center for Women's Health & Human Rights, Suffolk University, Boston.