A woman who is forced to bear a child against her will, under any circumstances, is a woman enslaved. This is what the battle around abortion rights, and now even birth control, is about.

The forces of dark-ages morality and extreme oppression demand that women be put “in their place,” as defined by “traditional” (oppressive) values. All around the world abortion is banned or under attack.

Today, on the 40th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade, abortion in the U.S. is stigmatized throughout society and increasingly out of reach. Abortion providers are under siege by a combination of violent attacks, including assassinations of doctors and assaults on clinics. Vicious laws make abortion impossible to get for millions of women and subject women to humiliating procedures like invasive vaginal ultrasounds.

The battle for abortion rights is critical to breaking all the chains that oppress women. It is essential to the process of Fight the Power, and Transform the People, for Revolution.

You cannot break all the chains, except one. You cannot say you want to be free of exploitation and oppression, except you want to keep the oppression of women by men. You can’t say you want to liberate humanity yet keep one half of the people enslaved to the other half. The oppression of women is completely bound up with the division of society into masters and slaves, exploiters and exploited, and the ending of all such conditions is impossible without the complete liberation of women. All this is why women have a tremendous role to play not only in making revolution but in making sure there is all-the-way revolution. The fury of women can and must be fully unleashed as a mighty force for proletarian revolution.

Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA, BAsics 3:22