Collection Title: Heart of the Race, Oral Histories of the Black Women's Movement

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Interviewee: Dr Gail Andrea Lewis (GL)

Interviewer: Marie Bernard(MB)
Transcription: Dianna Hunt

GL [00:00:00]: As mothers we mobilise against illegal policing. In the figure of Doreen Lawrence and in the figure of all the unnamed women who've done that, as mothers we, and this isn't just, wasn't just mothers of sons mostly who've been killed but daughters, this is mothers of a community, as mothers we mobilise ourselves to think about, think about what motherhood means, it means about birthing and it means about heritage. As mothers we will ensure that some education or opportunities is happening, as mothers we will protest about state inequity, as mothers we'll make a claim, and we'll try and look after our children. So, the movement has been so important in that sense.

GL [00:01:00]: Now I think we don't, I don't think we have the infrastructure you know our capacity to build networks is very fragile [laughs] very fragile, um I think at, you know, our ability to individually sustain decade after decade of being active is very fragile too, is hard to do it, so I don't, I don't want to pretend somehow, it's, we know how to do it all, but I am saying there's something deeply felt about the ways in which we contributed to the transformation really of what it means to be Black in this country, even though it's still hard and I don't mean it's not hard, but there has been transformation in what it means to be Black in this country.