Abortion can be a very charged and personal topic for a lot of people, so here is some of what's understood to be best practices for language use, so that everyone in your community can feel as included and cared for as possible.

Instead of:
"Safe, Legal, and Rare"

Say:
"Support abortion access"

Why? Demanding that abortion be "rare" stigmatizes those who do have abortions.

Instead of:
"Women"

Say:
"Women and other people who might need abortion access"

Why? Some trans men and some non-binary people also need access to abortion care. And some women do not need this access. "People" or "patients" is more accurate and inclusive.

Instead of:
"Pro-Choice"

Say:
"Abortion access," "Reproductive freedom," "Reproductive health care," or "Abortion justice"

Why? Not everyone has the same choices when it comes to abortion; "pro-choice" flattens issues of access, and how immigration, poverty, racism, incarceration, and other issues impact people's reproductive lives.

Instead of:
"Vulnerable"

Say:
"Impacted"

Why? "Vulnerable" connotes a savior attitude, rather than focusing on the agency of those in need of abortion access — and all people need abortion access.

Instead of:
Evoking the imagery of coat hangers and botched back alley abortions to connote the dangers of Roe falling

Acknowledge that we live in a different era than pre-1973.

Self-managed abortion is safe and effective—that is, self-administered medication abortion works up to 10 weeks and can provide many with an alternative to a surgical abortion. In fact, more than 50% of abortions in the U.S. are now done by medication abortion. The criminalization of reproductive decisions is the newer danger.

Instead of:		Say:
"Devastating decision" or "no one wants an abortion"	→	**"Deeply personal decision" and "We don't know the circumstances."**

Why? This conveys seriousness without assuming anything about someone else's feelings.

Some other useful terms

Abortion justice is a framework for achieving reproductive freedom that centers the experience of — and focuses attention on removing roadblocks from — those most affected by restrictions on abortion care, most commonly Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) , people with disabilities/disabled people, immigrants, people struggling financially, transgender and non-binary people, and young people.

The phrase **"Reproductive Justice"** refers to a specific movement founded and led by Black women and nonbinary people, though some other people of color-led Reproductive Justice organizations have joined the movement as well. As such, the phrase "Reproductive Justice" should only be used to describe this specific movement.   To learn more about Reproductive Justice, visit https://blackrj.org.

Jewish leaders can pave the way for culture change in Jewish spaces.

- Model to community members how to talk about abortion without fear or stigma, using inclusive language: Talk about abortion as health care, as something that people need and deserve, that is a matter of autonomy, dignity, social and economic justice.

- Remind people early and often that abortion justice and abortion access are Jewish values–the weight of our tradition supports autonomy, dignity, and access to care.

- Make spaces where people can be welcomed and comfortable talking about their experiences around abortion and every other kind of issue related to their reproductive lives.

- Create spaces where people can listen empathetically and respond thoughtfully, and make sure to center the voices of people who have had abortions.

- Don't make assumptions about how a person might feel about their abortion or other reproductive experience, or what kinds of words they might use to describe it.

- Understand that given how strong the wider cultural forces are, culture change towards inclusivity might not happen overnight —but it can happen.

- Get your community involved in the work of learning about and advocacy for reproductive freedom. JewsForAbortionAccess.org is a great starting place.