



Trump Administration Lifts Onerous Obamacare Contraceptive Mandate

HHS and Department of Justice Reverse Mandate Forcing People of Faith to Violate Religious Beliefs

BY JONATHAN ABBAMONTE

In October the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reversed the deeply controversial Obama-era contraceptive mandate, which had forced religious employers to violate their religious beliefs by requiring their health care plans to include contraception, including abortifacient methods.

Following the release of new HHS guidelines, the attorneys general of California, Massachusetts and Washington, along with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), were quick to file lawsuits against the government for granting reprieve to the mandate's restrictions for persons of faith.

"Any rule that allows employers to deny contraceptive coverage to their employees is an attempt at allowing



Activists protest Obamacare outside U.S. Supreme Court, Washington/Getty Images

religion to be used as a license to discriminate," Louise Melling, deputy legal director of the ACLU, told the *Guardian*.

Neither the Affordable Care Act (ACA) under which the contraceptive mandate is based nor any U.S. law guarantees access to free contraception without co-pay. Federal courts have ruled on a number of occasions that failing to pay for a protected service is not tantamount to penalizing an individual.¹

The HHS contraceptive mandate had required all individuals and employers with non-grandfathered plans to pay for health insurance that included coverage for contraception. For persons with moral or religious objections to contraception, the mandate posed a serious threat to religious liberty and freedom of conscience rights.

In mid-October, HHS made available online the new interim guidelines

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Lessons in Hope

If you'd like to really know Pope St. John Paul II, then this gift is for you!

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Memo to the U.S. Senate: Do Something—Anything!

by Steven W. Mosher



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Population Research Institute

109 East Main St.
Front Royal VA 22630
(540)-662-5240

pri@pop.org

www.pop.org



Fr. Paul Marx, OSB, PhD
(1920-2010)

Founder

Steven W. Mosher

President

Joel Bockrath

Executive Vice President

Jonathan Abbamonte

Research Analyst

Karen Shannon

Development Manager

Carlos Polo

Director, PRI Latin

American Office

Carlos Beltramo

Director, PRI European

Office

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President Trump continues to move forward to keep his pro-life promises. After putting Neil Gorsuch on the Supreme Court and the Mexico City Policy back in place, he's now ditched Obama's contraception mandate.

But there is only so much the president can do on his own. Obama famously threatened to go around Congress by using his executive authority. ("I've got a pen and a phone!" he blustered.) He then proceeded to do exactly that by issuing unconstitutional executive orders on immigration and other issues. Trump is not willing to do this.

It is not the president's fault that Planned Parenthood hasn't been defunded, Obamacare hasn't been replaced, and the ban on abortions after 20 weeks hasn't been signed into law.

Trump has promised to sign any pro-life legislation that reaches his desk. The trouble is, none has.

I suspect that you are just as frustrated as I am by this state of affairs.

First we pro-life voters were told that progress was impossible unless we elected a pro-life majority in the House. So we did.

Then we were told by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell that we couldn't expect to advance unless we elected a pro-life majority in the Senate. So we did.

Then both McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan backtracked. "We can't do a thing unless you give us the White House as well," they whined. So we did this as well.

And still the Congress is gridlocked, largely thanks to poor leadership in the Senate. McConnell says that the holdup

is the rule requiring 60 votes to end a filibuster, but fails to mention that he could end that archaic rule with a simple majority vote. The Party of Abortion (I'll let you guess which one that is) has already promised to ditch that rule as soon as they regain power. So what is McConnell waiting for?

We pro-life voters are fed up. We have been successfully dominating the polls now for a decade with precious little to show for it—except for a bunch of broken promises from failed Congressional leaders.

But there is hope on the horizon. Judge Roy Moore's victory in the Alabama Republican primary sent shock waves through Washington. The Republican establishment spent tens of millions of dollars to elect one of their own—and failed miserably.

Moore's victory has already led Tennessee Senator Bob Corker, the head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a close McConnell ally, to announce that he will not be running for re-election.

That leaves the field open for pro-life conservative Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), who has emerged as the front runner to replace Corker in the U.S. Senate. Blackburn has been one of the foremost and fearless champions of life since she was first elected to Congress in 2002.

Other establishment Republican senators may find their careers cut short as well, as pro-life voters replace them with those who will actually keep their campaign promises to protect and defend innocent human life.

Bishops Praise Italian Edition of Mosher's Book

PRI Executive Director Steven Mosher's groundbreaking 2008 book *Population Control: Real Costs, Illusory Benefits* has been translated into Italian, and copies of the book were given to bishops and other leaders by Don Francesco Giordano, president of *Vita Umana Internazionale*, the Italian branch of Human Life International. Here are a few responses (translations courtesy of Carlos Beltramo, Director of PRI's European Office):

PAOLO DE NICOLO, Bishop of Mariana, Regent Emeritus of the Prefecture of the Papal Household:

Receive my most sincere gratitude for the meeting that accompanied the delivery of this significant book. I anticipate that it will be studied extensively due to the importance of its subject.

MARCO GRILLI, Secretary of the Prefecture:

With appreciation, we have sent Steven W. Mosher's book *Population Control: Real Costs, Illusory Benefits* to the Vatican Secret Archives.

In thanking you for this welcomed gift, his Most Reverend Excellency, Mgr. Prefect asked me to inform you that this publication will be made available to researchers who visit this archive and who may draw useful information for their work.

AUGUSTO PAOLO LOJUDICE, Bishop of Alba Marittima, Auxiliary Bishop of Rome, Vicar General of Ostia:

I have received with pleasure and interest the book *Population Control: Real Costs, Illusory Benefits*.

I am glad of your research and I am sure it sheds light on a topic that is, as you say, important and sensitive.

Best wishes and I will pray for your good work.

GIORGIO CORBELLINI, Titular Bishop of Abula, President of the Labour Office of the Apostolic See:

I beg you to thank Mr. Mosher not only for sending me his book, but for his resolute and courageous effort to foster this important issue, crucial to the welfare of mankind, in the current context in which there are many organizations fighting against life.

TOMMASO GHIRELLI, Bishop of Imola:

Thank you very much for the book *Population Control*. I expect that it will help overcome the new Malthusianism.

PIER GIORGIO MICCHIARDI, Bishop of Acqui:

Thank you for the gift of the book *Population Control: Real Costs, Illusory Benefits*. I am sure that the reading of this book will produce many good fruits. Thanks to the author on my behalf.

IVO MUSER, Bishop of Bolzano-Bressanone:

I would like to thank you for sending me the book by Steven W. Mosher. The publication helps us to understand the signs of the times and, with a careful reading, we can really "review the settings at the foundation of our civil life." (Mgr. G. Crepaldi).

We hope that his efforts may bear good pastoral fruit.

STEFANO ZAMAGNI, Professor of Economics University of Bologna:

I have no words to thank you for the Steven Mosher's book that you sent me ...

The demographic issue is really a ticking time bomb: Mr. Mosher's contribution on the subject is notable.

LUCIANO PACOMIO, Bishop of Mondovì:

Thank you very much for the valuable book of Steven W. Mosher. I will spread it among our priest and deacons.

ANTONIO NAPOLIONI, Bishop of Cremona:

I have received with so much pleasure the book *Population Control: Real Costs, Illusory Benefits* by Steve Mosher, that you so kindly sent me. Thank you very much.

I would like to congratulate him very much, first of all for his timely initiative that takes the right approach to the demographic issue.

DANIELE GIANOTTI, Bishop of Crema:

I would like to thank you for sending me Steven Mosher's book *Population Control*.

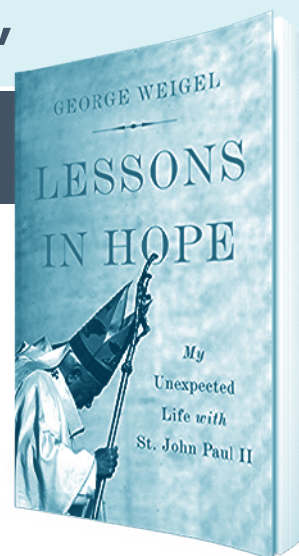
Let me also wish the best to Vita Umana Internazionale and its work on the very important matters of Life and Family...

CLAUDIO MANIAGO, Bishop of Castelleneta, Italy:

Thank you kindly for your delivery of your book *Population Control*, a topic that is increasingly urgent and important to reflect upon.

If you'd like to really know Pope St. John Paul II,

then this gift is for you!



It's *Lessons in Hope: My Unexpected Life With St. Pope John Paul II* and it's by George Weigel.

George Weigel, of course, is among America's leading authorities on the Vatican and the Church. He is also a prolific author, having written over a dozen books, including the international best-seller, *Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II*.

At 355 pages, *Lessons in Hope* is truly an in-depth, up-close and personal look at this great Pope Saint, based on the George Weigel's personal friendship with John Paul II. Here's a quick look at all the insights that await you in this "can't put it down" book . . .

- » How the attempt on John Paul's life altered the Pope's understanding of his own purpose in life . . . the Pope's certainty that Satan was behind the assassination attempt . . . the upheavals resulting from Vatican II. . . his thoughts on the greatest question facing the third millennium . . .
- » John Paul's musings about the three biggest surprises in his life . . . his views on Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher and Mikhail Gorbachev . . . the Pope's hopes for the U.S. and what he viewed as his "great consolation" about America (hint: It's an event that you'll remember) . . .

And there's more . . .

- » John Paul's battles with Vatican bureaucrats . . . the sorrow he felt as he learned of Ronald Reagan's advancing Alzheimer's . . . the Pope's own "night of suffering" from the combined effects of Parkinson's and severe arthritis in his knees . . .

And that's just a sample—a very *small* sample—of the insights you gain when you read George Weigel's *Lessons In Hope: My Unexpected Life With St. Pope John Paul II*.

Church and lay leaders around the country are showering praise on this fascinating book. Here, for example, is what Los Angeles **Bishop Robert Barron** has to say . . .

"This book recalls a particularly splendid moment in the recent history of Catholicism, a time when a saintly Pope exerted a decisive influence on both the Church and the wider society...Briskly written, intelligent, funny, filled with good stories, *Lessons in Hope* will be a joy to anyone who reads it."

Let me add this: At a time when many faithful Catholics are disheartened over some comments, documents and actions coming out of the Vatican, *Lessons In Hope* is a genuine breath of fresh air. You're certain to love this book as much as I did! It belongs in your home library.

With my sincere thanks for your much-needed support of \$40 or more, you'll be enjoying George Weigel's *Lessons In Hope* in just a matter of days. Shall I send you a copy?

Please use the enclosed Gift Reply to request your copy of
Lessons In Hope — My Unexpected Life With St. John Paul II . . .

HHS Mandate Lifted, *continued*

for the contraceptive mandate, which grant significant relief to individuals and employers with moral or religious objections to contraception in their health care plans.

At the same time, Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued a memorandum to all federal departments and agencies to provide interpretative guidance on their obligations under federal law to respect religious liberty rights. Sessions further instructed all federal attorneys in the Department of Justice to adopt the interpretative guidance and essentially asked them to drop all pending cases against petitioners seeking injunctive relief from the contraceptive mandate.

In April 2011, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency within the HHS, introduced the contraceptive mandate. While the ACA does not require health care plans to include contraceptive coverage, the HRSA interpreted the ACA's provision on essential health benefits for women's preventative care to require non-grandfathered insurance plans to provide free female contraception without cost-sharing, co-pay or deductible.

The mandate's narrowly crafted exemptions only applied to churches and houses of worship. All other employers, including religious organizations, Christian and Catholic universities, Catholic dioceses, and pro-life organizations were compelled to violate their sincerely held beliefs or risk paying steep fines.

While the government took no issue with granting exemptions to the ACA's individual mandate under a variety of circumstances—including persons who opposed having health insurance on religious grounds—no exemption was ever granted for individuals or employers who conscientiously object to paying for health care plans that include contraception.

Not even the Little Sisters of the Poor were exempt from the mandate's onerous requirements. The mandate would have forced the religious order to choose between violating Catholic doctrine or paying crushing fines amounting to \$2.5 million per year.

Since the mandate began, more than 100 lawsuits were filed against the government, making the HHS mandate the most litigated religious liberty crisis in U.S. history.

Cases arising from the contraceptive mandate twice reached the U.S. Supreme Court, *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* in 2014 and *Zubick v. Burwell* in 2016. In both cases the court sided against the government and in favor of religious liberty rights.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA) states that government policies cannot place a substantial burden on the exercise of religious liberty unless the policy "furthers a compelling government interest" that is advanced in the least restrictive manner possible.²

“ Since the mandate began, more than 100 lawsuits were filed against the government, making the HHS mandate the most litigated religious liberty crisis in U.S. history.

The new interim HHS guidelines would completely exempt all non-profit, private, higher educational, and non-governmental employers, as well as health insurance issuers, with religious or moral objections to contraception, from having to comply with the mandate.

The new guidelines will not require exempt entities to notify the government that they oppose funding health care plans that include contraception. In addition they will allow employers to provide their employees with health insurance plans that do not include coverage for contraceptive services.

Furthermore, under the new guidelines employees may no longer be required to choose between forfeiting coverage and violating their religious beliefs. Employees may now be provided, with the permission of their employer and the employer's health insurance issuer, the option for separate coverage for contraceptive services or separate insurance policies that do not include contraceptive services.

¹ See *Rust v. Sullivan*, Nos. 89-1391 & 89-1392, 500 U.S. 173 (1991): "A refusal to fund protected activity...cannot be equated with the imposition of a 'penalty' on that activity." See also *Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. v. Agency for International Development*, No. 1524, 915 F.2d 59 (1990): "the government's "decision not to subsidize the exercise of a fundamental right does not infringe the right, and thus is not subject to strict scrutiny."

² *Religious Freedom Restoration Act* (RFRA), §3, Pub. L. No. 103-141, 107 Stat. 1488 (1993) (codified at 42 U.S.C. Ch. 21B).



LATIN AMERICA

Soros Tweets on ‘Threat’ to Latin America: Truth about Gender Is Gaining Ground

by Carlos Polo, Director of PRI’s Latin American Office

George Soros has admitted that the recent actions of conservative groups fighting against gender ideology are a growing threat—a threat, that is, to the pro-abortion and pro-LGBTI initiatives that Soros funds throughout the world. He is worried about the resounding success of mass demonstrations in both Latin America and in Europe. And with good reason.

A tweet on Soros’ personal Twitter account cites an article by Michelle Gallo on the website of Soros’ Open Society Foundation.¹ Soros’s gesture reveals many interesting things.

First, Soros openly admits that he is committed to fighting for the LGBTI lobby around the world, countering conservative groups, the Catholic Church and evangelicals. It is a culture war where he has taken sides.

Second, Soros refers to “gender ideology” as a false narrative. He affirms that it is an invented concept, a fiction. Thus, it is easy to understand why all the LGBTI groups and their political allies repeat the narrative that “gender ideology does not exist.” The same bizarre argument in different countries arises from a single source. Soros finances, everyone receives and repeats.

Third, by the tone of the article that Soros cites on Twitter, it is easy to realize that the tactic of saying “gender ideology does not exist” isn’t working for him. Just the opposite. The list of

social movements which he enumerates in both Europe and Latin America is very precise.

This shows that he is bothered and hurt by them. Each one of these successes have been no small matter: the failed peace referendum in Columbia, the civil movements in Spain and France, in Mexico, Peru, Brazil and Panama and so on.

Fourth, the culmination of his concern is HazteOir’s bus tour. The cover image for the article in plain sight on the Open Society Foundation’s website and in Soros’s own tweet is no coincidence. Soros must be having orange nightmares.

Fifth, the Open Society Foundations article says that the gender ideology narrative has “the power to rapidly mobilize voters and give new energy to the socially conservative agenda.” It also portrays the narrative as a dangerous concept — dangerous because it is winning out over the one promoted by Soros that “gender ideology does not exist.”

It doesn’t? Perhaps they choose to ignore all the news stories about



“It is becoming obvious to the whole world that the concept of gender is a neo-Marxist battleground. It is the soul of cultural Marxism.

parents jailed for not allowing the indoctrination of their children in the schools, LGBTI groups accosting or attacking all those who think differently, numerous bakers jailed for not catering to homosexual couples,

transsexual men demanding entry into the bathrooms used by little girls.

It is becoming obvious to the whole world that the concept of gender is a neo-Marxist battleground. It is the soul of cultural Marxism, the dictatorship of a single mindset that a radical group is seeking to impose upon the rest of us. The upcoming debate on the so-called “LGBTI Gag Law” in the Spanish congress is an explicit case in point of their attempt to impose their radical ideology on everyone.

Sixth, Soros and company warn that in the near future they may suffer great defeats. They signal that the gender ideology narrative “has proven so successful at mobilizing socially conservative voters, it’s likely that the phrase will play a significant role during next year’s presidential elections in Colombia and Mexico.”²

The social conservative movement is evolving. Not only is it growing in the number of people who participate and publicly demonstrate, it is also improving greatly in its use of political tools and in its political and media impact. A good and effective narrative is not the product of chance.

Indeed, Soros has every reason to be worried.

*Translated from Spanish by PRI
Research Analyst Jonathan
Abbamonte*

^{1, 2} Michelle Gallo, ““Gender Ideology” Is a Fiction That Could Do Real Harm,” *Open Society Foundations*, August 29, 2017, <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/gender-ideology-fiction-could-do-real-harm>.

PRI Provides Mobile Ultrasound Machines To Save Lives in Nigerian Family Centers

BY JOEL BOCKRATH

There is no better way to persuade a woman in a crisis pregnancy to keep her baby than to let her hear her child’s beating heart or, better yet, actually show her a picture of her growing baby. Nine out of ten times, she will choose life.

That’s why PRI has started sending mobile ultrasound machines to pro-life centers in poor countries. In September, our latest ultrasound arrived at the Family Care Center in Enugu, Nigeria. The center also assists in ensuring the health of the baby and the mother throughout pregnancy, and teach the mother to care for her baby after birth.

Dr. Theresa Okafor, the director of the Foundation for African Cultural Heritage and a longtime friend of PRI, delivered the ultrasound to the center for us, and reported that it was greeted with “much joy.” The volunteers running the center immediately put it to good use, promising us that in the days to come they would be sending us pictures of the babies that they had saved through its use.

You may have seen Dr. Okafor, who also serves as an expert for the Holy See Mission to the United Nations, on EWTN discussing life and family issues from an African perspective. PRI has formed a partnership with her to help set up and equip other family care centers in other parts of Nigeria.

There is a critical need for such centers here, in the most populous



PRI’s Steve Mosher and Joel Bockrath present Dr. Theresa Okafor with ultrasound machine for Nigerian pregnancy center

African nation. Abortion has been illegal in Nigeria since 1916, with the sole exception being the life of the mother. You and I both know that it is never necessary to sacrifice an unborn child to save the life of the mother, yet in 2012 alone this excuse was used to justify an estimated 1.25 million¹ abortions.

Many women are simply ignorant of the scientific fact that, as Trump’s Health and Human Services department has now declared, that “Life begins at conception.” Nor are they aware how quickly their babies grow within their wombs. Shining the light of truth on the fact that they are already mothers — in the form of an actual image of their moving, kicking, waving unborn child — will mean that most of these children will be saved. And the lives of their mothers and their families will be enriched forever.

If you would like to help us equip more family care centers with ultrasound machines, please contact Joel Bockrath at joel@pop.org.



HUMANAE VITAE COALITION

Is America Still a Christian Nation?

by Dr. Christopher Manion

In 1892, the Supreme Court unanimously declared the United States to be a “Christian nation.” Justice David Brewer’s opinion in *The Church of the Holy Trinity vs. U.S.* (143 U.S. 457) recounts a long list of precedents for this conclusion, beginning with “the Commission to Christopher Columbus, prior to his sail westward. [It] is from Ferdinand and Isabella, by the grace of God, King and Queen of Castile.”

He then courses through the Christian invocations in the Mayflower Compact (1620), the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut (1639), and William Penn’s Charter of Privileges of 1701. The opinion cites at length the Declaration of Independence and its reliance on “the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God” — the Natural Law invoked by Blessed Paul VI in *Humanae Vitae*, as well as the perfect law of the Gospel.

Mr. Brewer noted that the constitutions of every state in the union commence with profound gratitude to God. For instance, Population Research Institute’s home state of Virginia incorporated the following passage from the Virginia Bill of Rights (1776) into our Commonwealth’s constitution in 1902:

That religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and, therefore,

all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love and charity towards each other.

Even the American principle of limited government reflects the Christian conviction that God frees us, not the state. It was St. Augustine who laid down the template in his masterful work, the *City of God*: Since government cannot save our souls, its power is limited to other human affairs. However, saving our souls is the highest good, and government is thus ordained to make it as easy as possible for man to reach that ultimate goal, not through politics but beyond politics.

America’s constitutional system relies on the conviction that our country was founded on and invigorated by a profound belief in God. That conviction required of the citizens certain pre-political civic virtues — as Virginia’s Constitution put it, “Christian forbearance, love and charity.” These were not political qualities, but moral virtues without which a free people cannot long survive. To paraphrase Aristotle, “good men can make the best of a bad constitution, but bad men can wreck the best of them.”

Today’s “bad men”—our secular elites—deny everything that Justice Brewer invoked in 1892. They have driven those truths out of our

schools, our culture, and our public life. Patriotism, that humble love of God and country, has been hijacked by love of government. With that comes fear of government, which has produced an ersatz democracy, an arena in which gladiators fight not to receive the emperor’s favor but to seize his throne.

This transformation has happened in our lifetimes—beginning when the Supreme Court took God out of the schools and replaced Him with itself. Now good and evil is decided by what the late Justice Antonin Scalia called “a committee of five unelected lawyers.”

As God took a back seat, democracy’s secular trinity took over: The courts declaring what is good and evil, the executive branch bossing us around, and the congress distributing material welfare while holding a “No Trespassing” sign against spiritual trespassers.

And the faithful? The media, the elites, the establishments, all in favor of control — people control and, ultimately, population control.

Today’s families must realize that *Humanae Vitae* is not a pipe-dream preaching unattainable ideals; rather, it is God’s very practical roadmap to protecting and preserving our homes and our nation for ourselves, our neighbors, and our children — and for accepting God’s desire that our children will inherit the future in abundance.



■ U.S. Congressman Blasts China Policies

A bipartisan congressional commission urged the Trump administration to address human rights abuses in China including “still-coercive population control policies,” according to the Catholic News Agency.¹

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Florida) chairs and Rep. Christopher Smith (R-N.J.) co-chairs the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, which includes senior-level officials of the executive branch, U.S. senators and U.S. representatives. The commission issued its annual report on human rights issues in China in October.

“Chinese authorities continued to implement a ‘universal two-child policy’ and persisted in actively promoting coercive population control policies that violate international standards,” the report stated. “Tellingly, the family planning bureaucratic apparatus remains intact. The Chinese government’s population control policies have contributed to the country’s demographic challenges, including a rapidly aging population and shrinking workforce that threaten to further slow China’s economic growth.”

“Chinese authorities are ruthlessly targeting human rights lawyers and advocates; clamping down on foreign NGOs, media outlets and

Internet companies; restricting religious freedom particularly in ethnic minority Tibetan and Uyghur areas; and forcibly repatriating North Korean refugees to near certain persecution and even death,” said Rubio on the report’s release.

The report notes the “missing girls” problem caused by sex-selective abortion and recommended the consideration of an appointment of a special advisor at the U.S. State Department to address the social and economic issues created by the Chinese government’s population control program.

The commission went on to recommend projects “that protect women and their families from the most coercive aspects of the population control policies.” The commission also called on Congress to continue to link U.S. contributions to the U.N. Population Fund for use in China with “the end of all birth limitation and coercive population control policies in China.”

■ U.S. Donor Gives to U.K. Activist Groups

Townhall.com reported this fall on yet another American spending millions to fund population control measures in the United Kingdom.²

According to a recent report from two organizations known as the Energy and Environment Legal Institute and the Taxpayers Alliance,

energy and environment non-profits in the United Kingdom are funded by the government, including grants from the European Commission, and increasingly private funding, including shadowy Americans intent on changing public policy in the U.K.

The report found almost all the private funding comes from just a few American donors. One of those donors is Fred Stanback of the Stanback headache powder family.

According to the Townhall article, this multi-millionaire has largely stayed out of the limelight while his money, channeled through Foundation for the Carolinas, supports activists unified in their belief that there are too many people in the world.

Stanback has been one of the largest donors to Planned Parenthood over the years (giving over \$1.3 million in 2013 alone). He also donates millions per year to left-of-center environmental non-profits. But it was his donations to—and comments about—anti-immigration efforts that brought him bad press.

Still, the environmental groups accept his money: Since 2014, the Foundation for the Carolinas has contributed \$57 million to the Southern Environmental Law Center, \$25 million to the Natural Resources Defense Council, \$6 million to Friends of the Earth, \$3 million to Greenpeace and \$2 million to the Dogwood Alliance.

¹ <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/how-the-us-can-protect-human-rights-in-china-51115>

² <https://townhall.com/columnists/brianmnicoll/2017/10/05/green-groups-have-deplorables-too-they-just-dont-let-you-know-about-it-n2390815>



■ PRI to UN on Right to Life

On October 6, 2017, the Population Research Institute submitted a policy paper to the United Nations Human Rights Committee. Here is an excerpt:

“The Population Research Institute (PRI) is grateful for the opportunity to submit to the Human Rights Committee (hereinafter “Committee”) a comment on the revised draft of General Comment No. 36 on article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The right to life is the first and most fundamental of all human rights, a right inherent to the human person and the ‘prerequisite for the enjoyment of all other human rights.’ As the Committee has correctly stated, the right to life is ‘the supreme right from which no derogation is permitted even in time of public emergency’ and a right which ‘cannot properly be understood in a restrictive manner.’

“The Population Research Institute is an educational non-profit, non-governmental organization that promotes human rights in the context of population issues and exposes the violation of human rights in population control programs. PRI President Steven W. Mosher is the first Western eyewitness of forced abortion practiced under the one-child policy as it was first made applicable to all provinces in the People’s Republic of China in 1980.

“Article 6 of the ICCPR recognizes the inherent right to life for every human being. This necessarily includes the right to life for the unborn child and the human person in

all stages of development and at the end of life. As such,

(a) building upon the wide consensus of nations with respect to the right to life as agreed to by states that have adopted the ICCPR;

(b) reiterating the obligations of states and international institutional bodies under the norms of international law;

(c) recognizing the universal interest in upholding and protecting the fundamental and inherent right to life for everyone;

we reiterate that there is no internationally recognized “right” to abortion or “right to die.” We remind the Committee that abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia are not mentioned in the ICCPR nor are they implicit anywhere in the treaty nor in the customary norms of international law. Abortion, assisted suicide, and euthanasia are grave violations of the right to life and are incompatible with article 6 of the Covenant. As such, paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Draft General Comment No. 36 on article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights are incompatible with the ICCPR and should be revised per the recommendations laid out in Section VI of this written submission.

“Abortion is a grave threat to the fundamental right to life and any change in the Committee’s interpretation of ICCPR article 6 should take into account the scale of the loss of life of unborn children.”

The full paper can be found on our website: www.pop.org.

—Population Research Institute¹

■ Mosher Warns about Essure

German drugs and pesticides manufacturer Bayer AG announced this fall it will discontinue marketing its birth-control sterilization device Essure in all countries outside of the United States, the *National Catholic Register* reported.

The company says the decision is not related to safety, although one website logs more than 34,000 complaints from women about health problems from the device, and lawsuits allege side effects from miscarriages to fatalities, according to the report.

In the article, PRI President Steve Mosher expressed concerns about what will happen to Bayer’s unused supply of the device.

“We have to make sure that Bayer doesn’t try and dump its remaining stock on women in the developing world,” Mosher said. “This has pretty much been the standard practice in the past.”

“If Essure is marketed through aid agencies to women in the developing world,” he added, “it will surely cause considerably more deaths and injuries there than it has in the developed world.”

—National Catholic Register²

■ Global Warming ‘Fraud’

PRI President Steve Mosher’s critique on the global warming movement was the subject of a recent article about an international symposium to address the anti-Christian nature of population control.

Mosher spoke on “Environmentalism and Climate Change as an Avenue for Population Control” at the International Conference on Population Control sponsored by the Lepanto Institute.

Mosher, an expert in China’s domestic policy and bestselling author who also received a Ph.D. in Oceanography at the University of Washington, explained in his remarks that the earth’s temperature has always fluctuated, sometimes dramatically.

“I did a historical study of climate change in China, which shows that the climate in China 2,000 years ago was several degrees warmer than it is today,” Mosher said, adding, “And of course that was a long time before we started hearing about climate change and global warming.”

Criticizing global warming fear-mongers, Mosher said not long ago the same “experts” were frantically making the exact opposite claims. “In the 1970s ... the climate ‘experts’ were warning about a coming ‘ice age,’” he said. “Now it has flipped over 180 degrees to be global warming.”

He called the global warming alarm “the biggest scientific fraud ever perpetrated on the family of man.”

—*LifeSite News*³

■ Montenegro Sex-Selective Abortions

A recent article in *Eurasia Review* exposed the “open secret” of pregnant mothers in Montenegro who undergo illegal genetic testing to find out the

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sex of their unborn babies — and then abort their baby girls.

Because of centuries-old cultural pressure to have a son, pregnant mothers are referred by gynecologists to private clinics in Serbia (which also bans genetic testing) to undergo painful chorionic villus sampling tests; if they are pregnant with a girl, some women obtain an abortion prior to 10 weeks, after which abortions are illegal.

The article cited a PRI report entitled “Protect Girls from Sex-Selective Abortion,” which covers the period from 2000 to 2014, and estimates that 50 female babies are aborted for this reason each year in Montenegro. This figure comes from a comparison of the actual number of girls born with the expected number.

According to the article, the exact number of sex-selective abortions in Montenegro remains unknown, however, due to an informal code of silence.

—*Eurasia Review*⁴

■ 1 Million Abortions

The London-based International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) stated in its annual report that it was responsible for more than one

million abortions during 2016, *The New American* reported.

PRI was quoted at length on the path of destruction wrought by this anti-life international organization.

“IPPF pours millions of dollars into its Member Associations and other like-minded organizations which operate on the country level to provide abortion and/or contraceptive services and to lobby for ever more lenient abortion laws,” according to PRI.

Policy changes effected by IPPF “have covered a wide range of issues including weakening or eliminating laws in defense of life, imposing explicit ‘comprehensive sex education’ curriculum in schools, attacking parental notification and minimum-age consent laws, and ensuring public funding for abortifacient methods of contraception.”

One example cited was Guyana, where IPPF’s affiliate lobbied to obtain a court ruling to allow nurses, midwives, pharmacists and other non-physicians to provide chemical abortions up to eight weeks’ gestation. “The number of chemical abortions ... more than doubled and the number of abortion-related services increased by 68 percent overall,” PRI reported.

—*The New American*⁵

¹ https://www.pop.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Policy_Paper_for_United_Nations_Population_Research_Institute_2017-10.pdf

² <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/bayer-suspends-essure-sterilizing-birth-control-implant-from-foreign-market>

³ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/climate-change-alarmists-disregard-sanctity-of-human-life-population-expert>

⁴ <http://www.eurasiareview.com/29092017-montenegros-open-secret-illegal-gender-tests-for-unborns-analysis/>

⁵ <https://www.thenewamerican.com/culture/item/26932-planned-parenthood-one-million-abortions-globally-in-2016>

From the Countries



POLAND Catholics celebrate, activists protest

As Catholics in Poland prepared for a national rosary rally on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, foreign interests were busy working against the nation's religious and pro-life heritage, according to a report from *Church Militant*.

On October 7, some 1 million Polish Catholics prayed a simultaneous “Rosary to the Borders” in hundreds of churches and other locations along the nation's borders to mark the 100th anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady of Fatima and the 300th anniversary since the coronation of the highly venerated Black Madonna of Czestochowa.

Yet on October 3 pro-abortion activists gathered in Warsaw and other major cities to march in the “Black Protest,” opposing a national law that allows abortion only in cases of rape, endangerment to the mother's health or when the unborn child is diagnosed with certain serious conditions.

The Black Protest receives the equivalent of \$270,000 in U.S. dollars from international family planning and population control organizations, *Church Militant* reported.



THAILAND Age imbalance threatens future

A program officer with the Asia Foundation in Thailand has reported a serious concern about demogra—

phic imbalances in her country, and what it forebodes for its economic future, according to *Mercator.net*.

While Thailand moved into the range of an “upper-middle-income economy” in 2011, a rapidly aging population and declining fertility rates will seriously impede its growth prospects, the article stated.

The government has implemented a social and economic development plan focusing on technology and innovation, transportation infrastructure, education reform, and economic growth for the poorer areas in the north and northeast of the country.

However what is not being addressed is labor shortages and an aging society, the report stated: Thailand, along with China, has the highest proportion of elderly people out of all developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

The elderly are not being sufficiently replaced by new citizens with Thailand's total fertility rate of 1.5 children per woman (the replacement rate is around 2.1). By 2040 (in 23 years) the World Bank estimates that 42 percent of Thais will be over the age of 65.

Little is being done to increase the fertility rate, the report noted. Young Thais are delaying marriage for financial and career reasons, and arranged marriages are in decline. While childcare and daycare costs are not high, this has not induced an increase in childbearing.



CHINA Parents at risk when only child dies

As if there were not enough bitter fruit from the cruelty of China's one-child policy—the forced abortions and sterilizations, the terror and abuse from family planning police, the political and economic penalties—here comes another: the sorrow of the massive numbers of Chinese parents whose only child has died.

The *South China Morning Post* recently published an article on this phenomenon, known as *shidu* (meaning “lose only”): According to a 2013 report by the China National Committee on Aging, there are at least 1 million *shidu* parents in China, and the number is increasing by 76,000 a year.

Shidu parents of the first generation of the one-child policy are now facing retirement and old age without a child to rely on.

Social ridicule and isolation of *shidu* parents is their greatest wound. “It's a feature of Chinese society that once two elderly women meet, they will talk about their children,” Professor Qiao Xiaochun, of the Population Research Centre at Peking University explained in the *Post* article. “For *shidu* parents, that's another bitter conversation.”

The Committee on Aging report found that between 70 and 80 percent of *shidu* parents suffer psychological trauma, with half of them experiencing depression.

Poland: <https://www.churchmilitant.com/news/article/polands-catholic-identity-draws-ire-from-secular-world>

Thailand: <https://www.mercatornet.com/demography/view/thailands-population-challenge/>

China: <http://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/long-reads/article/2107155/chinas-one-child-policy-has-legacy-bereaved>