In Race to Create COVID-19 Vaccine, Will Ethical Cell Lines Be the Winners?

EDITOR’S NOTE: PRI has been working with the USCCB to ensure that cell lines derived from aborted babies are not used in the research or production of a vaccine for the China Coronavirus. PRI researcher Jonathan Abbamonte details the problem below.

BY JONATHAN ABBAMONTE

The race is on to find a vaccine for COVID-19.

The good news is that many of the world’s largest vaccine companies are developing promising vaccine candidates using ethically derived cells. The bad news is that many of the leading vaccine candidates for the 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV2) are being developed using fetal cell lines that were originally derived from the tissues of aborted babies in the 1970s and 80s.

With more than 7 million reported cases and more than 430,000 deaths worldwide as of mid-June, the burden of disease from the 2019 novel coronavirus continues to mount. And so does the urgency to find a cure.

From big pharma to small biotech companies and universities, researchers have been pushing out dozens of vaccine candidates and have fast-tracked promising vaccine candidates to clinical trials in record time. Pharmaceutical companies are sprinting to have a vaccine ready by the end of the year or by early 2021.

According to a tracker from the World Health Organization, there are now more than 120 vaccine candidates in development. Of these, 10 vaccine candidates have already advanced to clinical trials to test the vaccine candidate’s safety and efficacy. Several more candidates are expected to begin clinical trials before the end of the year.

Fetal Stem Cells Are Being Used

Several COVID-19 vaccine front-runners — including those being developed by Moderna, Oxford University/AstraZeneca, CanSino Biologics/Beijing Institute of Biotechnology, and Inovio Pharmaceuti-

(continued on page 5)
The last week of May, President Donald Trump gave a nine-minute speech on U.S.-China policy that will change the world forever. It did not receive the attention it deserved in America, given the ongoing rioting in major U.S. cities. But I am sure that it was heard loud and clear in Beijing.

Trump began by announcing that he would be “terminating our relationship with the WHO” because it had failed America and the world by conspiring with China to cover up the “Wuhan Virus.”

Even more momentous was his decision to condemn the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) decision to tear up its treaty with Great Britain and rule Hong Kong directly. “China has replaced its promised formula of ‘one country, two systems’ with ‘one country, one system,’” Trump said, adding that it was “absolutely smothering Hong Kong’s freedom.”

I would say that the result of the CCP’s takeover of Hong Kong is better described as “one country, one tyranny,” but that is just a quibble.

The Communists have unilaterally decided to make fundamental changes to Hong Kong’s Basic Law, imposing a new National Security Law that would “prohibit any activity (in Hong Kong) that would seriously endanger national security.”

This action reduces the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, which was supposed to operate with a “high degree of autonomy,” to nothing more than a rubber-stamp parliament. For ordinary Hong Kongers, it means that China’s feared secret police will move into Hong Kong and arrest anyone who criticizes the Party and its leaders.

Some say the Communists won’t overreach in Hong Kong because that would ultimately hurt China itself. But I would have them call to mind Aesop’s fable about the scorpion and the frog. The frog offered to carry the scorpion across the river if the scorpion promised not to sting it. Halfway across the river, the scorpion stung it anyway, explaining to the dying frog that it couldn’t help itself because this was its very nature.

Communists, too, just can’t help repressing and tyrannizing — it’s in their very nature. If the Chinese Communist Party is allowed to crush freedom in one place, it will be emboldened to threaten it in another, just as the Nazis were emboldened by their seizure of Czechoslovakia’s Sudetenland.

Trump understands this, and he declared that he would be revoking Hong

(continued on next page)
Kong’s special status under U.S. law. The city will henceforth be treated the same as the rest of China for travel, customs, and trade purposes. The same tariffs that have been imposed on China will be imposed as well on Hong Kong. He also promised to sanction Communist officials who are directing the crackdown there.

There are a number of other actions that the Committee on the Present Danger China, of which I am a member, are recommending that the President take in the days to come.²

As I’ve written previously, “The Party’s so-called ‘Great Firewall’ is an instrument the CCP uses to enhance its efforts to propagandize its citizens, including by fostering animosity towards the United States, that can contribute to future hostilities. Priority should be given to penetrating and defeating (it).”³

I lived in Hong Kong before the 1997 handover, and I shared the hope of the people of Hong Kong that it would become a beacon of freedom for the rest of China. Over the past 23 years, the city has proved that the people of China, like those in Taiwan, can live in peace, prosperity and freedom guided by democratic institutions.

That is, of course, precisely why the Chinese Communist Party is intent on destroying Hong Kong, and then moving on to destroy Taiwan as well. Both have illustrated to the Chinese people that there are alternatives to living under a one-party dictatorship, and so are a threat to that dictatorship.

As long as Hong Kong was allowed to rule itself, the hope remained that, as the President put it, “China would increasingly come to resemble its most radiant and dynamic city. The rest of the world was electrified by a sense of optimism that Hong Kong was a glimpse into China’s future. Not that Hong Kong would grow into a reflection of China’s past.”

That hope is now gone.

Clearly, this president is not afraid to make tough decisions. These are given in the spirit of putting the interests of America First, although certainly not America alone. Where the U.S. leads, others will follow. The joint statement on Hong Kong, signed last week by the foreign ministers of Australia, Canada, the U.K. and the United States, is an example of this.⁴

If there was ever a time for the Free World to come together and stand against Chinese Communist tyranny, it is now.

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2  https://presentdangerchina.org/

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Dear Steve,

We met in the U.S. in 2007 at an event organized by the PRI. I remember everything from the conference. That event renewed my commitment to stay active in the pro-life arena that I’m so passionate about. But of all that was given to me during those days, the most useful is something that has become a part of myself.

You gave us, at the end of the program, a rosary that was handmade by Chinese nuns. It’s one of my most precious belongings. I also framed the Chinese Holy Mary image you gave us too. I really appreciate these two gifts but, above all, the rosary. It’s always with me wherever I go. It has been prayed a lot for our common causes through these 13 years.

I will continue to pray for your work to Our Lady of She Shan and I promise many Rosaries for you.

Thank you!

Miguel Repetto
Argentina

Dear Miguel,

It is very good to hear from you, Miguel. I am glad to know that you have put the rosary to good use, and I appreciate your many prayers for our common cause.

Steven Mosher
This Philosophy May Be All the Rage…
But It’s Totally Contrary to Catholicism!

You’ve no doubt seen this long-discredited economic philosophy is making a comeback, not only on college campuses and political talk shows but among sincere Catholics. Some think it could be the answer to greed, and globalism. Some even argue that it’s the reason to allow abortion—to help the poor!

Let’s give socialism a fresh chance, they say. A democratic socialism this time, friendly to religion and ordered to the common good, as the Church says the economy should be.

In *Can a Catholic Be a Socialist?*, Trent Horn and Catherine R. Pakaluk refute this tempting but false notion. Drawing on Scripture, history, Catholic social teaching, and basic economic reality, they show beyond a doubt that Catholicism and socialism are utterly incompatible.

Along the way, they debunk many of the common claims used to keep afloat the fantasy of a Christian-socialist hybrid, including:

- Since the early Christians kept their property in common, so should we.
- Jesus would be in favor of an economic system that guarantees everyone food, health care, and education.
- Socialism would work if it were just done right, like in Sweden.

Although there is no one Catholic economic system, *Can a Catholic Be a Socialist?* helps you understand common sense economic principles that are truly in line with the Faith. For we all should work for an economy that gives life, fostering prosperity and the common good while providing opportunities to practice temperance and charity.

This can be yours for your gift of $40 or more. See the enclosed reply form to claim your copy today.

And Here’s Why We Can’t Sit Back Quietly...
Perhaps you saw Chris Manion’s mention of *Unquiet Americans* in his *Humanae Vitae* column on page 8.

Before the Second Vatican Council, America’s Catholics operated largely as a coherent voting bloc, usually in connection with the Democratic Party. Their episcopal leaders generally spoke for Catholics in political matters; at least, where America’s bishops asserted themselves in public affairs there was little audible dissent from the faithful.

Since the mid-1960s, for the first time in the Church’s American history, controversial questions about the basic moral requirements of the political common good are front and center for America’s Catholics.

These questions call Catholics to confront matters which heretofore they either took for granted or left to the bishops to handle. But the Council Fathers rightly recognized that Jesus calls upon a formed and informed laity to act as leaven in the public realm, to bring Gospel values to the temporal sphere.

In this book of essays referencing the truth about human equality and political liberty, Gerard Bradley supplies indispensable aid to those seeking to answer Jesus’ call. Get yours with your gift of $50 or more. See the reply sheet to make your selection.

Request your copies of…

*Can a Catholic Be a Socialist?* and *Unquiet Americans*

Gifts to PRI are tax deductible. Give today!
COVID-19 Vaccine, continued

cals — are using a human fetal kidney cell line called HEK-293 to develop their trial vaccines. HEK-293 was originally derived from kidney tissue taken from a baby girl who was aborted in the Netherlands in 1972 and later developed into a cell line in a lab in 1973.

Additionally, Janssen, the pharmaceutical division of consumer product giant Johnson & Johnson, is using the human fetal cell line PER.C6 to develop its vaccine. This cell line was derived from retinal tissue taken from an 18-week-old baby boy who was aborted in the Netherlands in 1985 and later converted into a fetal cell line in 1995.

The U.S. government has made grants totaling nearly $2 billion in support of the development of COVID-19 vaccines using fetal cell lines. Most of this funding has been awarded through the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), a division within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

BARDA has awarded a $1.2 billion grant for AstraZeneca to fund research for the trial vaccine it is jointly developing with Oxford University.2 BARD has also made grants for up to $483 million for Moderna’s vaccine and $456 million for Janssen Research and Development, LLC of Johnson & Johnson.3,4

Inovio has also received an unspecified grant for developing its vaccine candidate from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) at the Department of Defense.5

On June 1, BARDA issued a $628 million task order under a preexisting government contract with Emergent BioSolutions Inc. to accelerate development and manufacturing capacity for COVID-19 vaccines and drug treatments.6 Emergent BioSolutions is currently working with Janssen of Johnson & Johnson to manufacture their trial vaccines.

Moderna is also receiving substantial research assistance for its COVID-19 vaccine from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) which helped develop the vaccine and conduct clinical trials. NIAID is a division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) led by Dr. Anthony Fauci.8

Ethically Produced Vaccines in Pipeline

While many COVID-19 vaccines are being developed with fetal cell lines, a number of promising vaccine candidates, such as those being developed by Novavax, Sanofi Pasteur, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), and Sinovac, are using ethically derived cell lines.

Of particular note, rival pharmaceutical giants Sanofi Pasteur and GSK have teamed up in an unprecedented partnership to jointly develop a vaccine for SARS-CoV2. Sanofi Pasteur will be bringing to the table an ethically produced antigen for the vaccine, and GSK will be contributing an adjuvant—an immune response booster that improves the effectiveness of a vaccine.9

U.K.-based GSK and France-based Sanofi are the world’s #1 and #3 largest vaccine producers respectively by total revenue in 2017 according to FiercePharma.10

A vaccine being developed by Maryland-based Novavax is using an ethically derived insect cell line Sf9 to produce protein nanoparticle antigens that make its vaccine work. Novavax’s vaccine has already been approved for a fast-tracked phase I/II stage clinical trial.11

Sinovac, a China-based biotech company, is also working on an ethically derived vaccine candidate called PiCoVacc. PiCoVacc uses a purified inactivated SARS-CoV2 as an antigen. Sinovac’s antigen is ethically grown in Vero (monkey kidney) cells. Sinovac’s vaccine is currently undergoing expedited phase I/II clinical trials.12

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2 https://www.biospace.com/article/u-s-government-provides-astrazeneca-more-than-1-billion-for-covid-19-vaccine/
7 https://www.cdc.gov/ovid/article/26/6/20-0516_article
12 https://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/05/06/science.abc1932
What Does the COVID-19 Pandemic Have to Do with Pushing Abortion?

BY JONATHAN ABBAMONTE

By early summer, over 7 million people had fallen sick and more than 430,000 have died due to the 2019 novel coronavirus. In much of the world, doctors and health care workers have been stretched thin, hospitals have been filled to capacity and shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilators have reached critical levels.

The fallout from the virus could soon be even worse in developing countries where the health infrastructure is already weak and access to care is often hard to come by. But while developing countries are in dire need of everything from PPE, ventilators, and public health assistance (not to mention food and emergency loans), how has the government of Sweden chosen to respond to this crisis?

It has committed $2 million to provide condoms and abortion equipment in sub-Saharan Africa. In a recent statement from the Swedish government’s international development agency—the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)—the government announced that it would be making a $2 million dollar grant (SEK 20 million) to DKT International to provide access to abortion and contraception in sub-Saharan Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grant includes funding for manual vacuum aspirators (MVAs) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as funding for abortion pills and abortion equipment in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Mozambique. MVAs are manual hand-operated devices that suction the unborn child out its mother’s womb, crushing the child in the process.

“The fight against Covid-19 threatens access to vital products and access to maternal care. It is extremely important to continue working on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR),” a Google translation of a statement from Sida Director General Carin Jämtin on Sida’s website read.

According to Sida, the grant will provide DKT International with the capacity to “quickly expand their stockpiles of condoms, various contraceptives and equipment for medical abortions before the effects of corona pandemic make it difficult to get hold of these.”

But the Swedish government is not alone in pushing abortion on the nations of the world amidst the global COVID-19 pandemic. A page on the World Health Organization’s (WHO) website devoted to sexual and reproductive health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic encourages self-managed care for “safe abortion” during the pandemic.

The web page highlights a report the WHO published last year that urges governments and public health systems to allow women to have pill-induced abortions at home up to 12 weeks gestation without the supervision of a healthcare provider in circumstances where women “have a source of accurate information and access to a health-care provider should they need or want it at any stage of the process.”

The WHO recommends that women be permitted to “self-assess” themselves for their eligibility for the abortion pill, essentially allowing the average lay person with no medical training to self-prescribe for them-
selves abortion-inducing drugs without prior medical evaluation.

This is medical malpractice on a global scale.

The WHO also recommends that women be counseled to confirm a completed abortion by using over-the-counter pregnancy tests. However, the WHO itself admits that over-the-counter pregnancy tests have a much lower sensitivity compared to tests typically used by physicians.5

Incomplete abortions occur when pieces of the baby or the placenta remain in the uterus. If left untreated, it can lead to life-threatening infections and sepsis. During clinical trials for the abortion drug Mifeprex, nearly 1 percent of all women in foreign countries participating in the trial had a continuing pregnancy after taking the abortion pill and nearly 4 percent required surgery to treat excessive bleeding or incomplete abortion.6

According to adverse events records kept by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as of 2018, at least 22 deaths have been associated with the use of the abortion pill (mifepristone) in the United States.7

The FDA has also received notification of 11 additional cases where women in foreign countries who, after taking the abortion pill, died from symptoms ranging from sepsis, stomach rupture, severe hemorrhaging, and toxic shock syndrome.

However, adverse events reporting is voluntary for physicians and consumers. And physicians and consumers in foreign countries are probably less likely to submit a report to the FDA in the event of a complication resulting from the abortion pill. Additionally, the FDA only receives reports for drugs registered in the United States which does not include other popular abortion pill brands sold in foreign countries.

A recent public statement issued with the support of over 30,000 physicians in United States strongly condemned efforts to continue providing elective abortion services during the COVID-19 pandemic and statements “which falsely characterize elective abortion as essential healthcare.”9

According to the physicians’ statement, approximately 5 percent of women who take the abortion pill eventually need to report to the emergency room for evaluation, most often for excessive hemorrhaging.

“Emergency room personnel—who are already struggling to meet the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic—will be further strained to provide care to these women,” the statement read.9 How will this even be possible in the African context, where the nearest hospital may be many miles away?

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has also been urging governments to ensure uninterrupted access to abortion during the pandemic. An interim technical brief recently issued by UNFPA calls on governments to: “Ensure women’s and girls’ choices and rights to sexual and reproductive health is respected regardless of their COVID-19 status, including access to contraception, emergency contraception, safe abortion to the full extent of the law.”10

The technical brief also advises governments to “encourage” women who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection to seek abortion services “to the full extent of the law.”11

This seems a backhanded way of saying that, when women come to African health clinics to be treated for the coronavirus, they should also be propagandized about the benefits of abortion. Health care in Africa has often been directly tied to population control programs in this way.

What Africa really needs to manage the pandemic is PPE, medical equipment, and skilled health care workers.
The Declaration of Independence firmly bases our God-given rights on “The Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God.” Recent challenges to those rights have gained ground in truly unprecedented ways. Consider: in signing that document, the Founders pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. They were taking a grave risk, prayerfully invoking “the protection of divine Providence.”

Can Americans rely on that protection today?

In *Unquiet Americans*, recently released by Saint Augustine Press, Notre Dame law professor Gerald Bradley addresses that question. He is not sanguine. By now, “Americans have exhausted the cultural capital stored up by believing Christians and Jews who came before them,” he observes. Moreover, many Catholics have experienced this exhaustion as well, and the results have not been encouraging.

Fact: Americans are no longer the “religious people” that the Supreme Court recognized in *Church of the Holy Trinity* 130 years ago. We note that those unanimous justices were not alone. The constitutions of 49 of our 50 states gratefully acknowledge God and/or invoke Divine Providence for the blessings of freedom.

Our once-vibrant culture comprised a variety of religious believers, but all embraced not only the Divine Law but the natural law as well. This combination inspired our civic virtue that flourished far beyond the realm of politics.

Our governments — state and federal — were limited by that common embrace of civic virtue and civil liberty. The constant threat to our freedoms lurks, nonetheless. It was best articulated by William Penn, founder of the state of Pennsylvania: “Those who will not be governed by the laws of God will be ruled by tyrants.”

**Probing the Mystery**

When cultural capital runs out, “common sense” is “common” no more. Intellectually and morally, it’s “every man for himself”—and that’s true in the legal realm as well. There, Professor Bradley traces the slow demise of natural law by focusing on the crucial 1992 Supreme Court decision in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. There, Mr. Justice Kennedy wrote what Bradley calls “the mystery passage”: “At the heart of liberty is the right to define one’s own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and the mystery of human life.”

So let’s start there: just what does “define” mean, anyway? In *Notes Towards the Definition of Culture*, T.S. Eliot writes that “(t)o define” is “to set limits’ (OED).”

Life and law thrive on limits. From the moment God told Adam and Eve to eat the fruit of this tree but not that one, man’s proper ambit of activity has been defined by God, by nature, by culture, and, ultimately, by laws.

The natural and divine laws that inspired our Founding once permeated our culture and our laws. The Federal Constitution sets forth a catalog of limits — limits on power, on jurisdiction, and, uniquely, on the Federal Government itself. State laws reflected that common desire for ordered liberty — which by nature and definition required the establishment of limits of all kinds. A robust civic virtue preserved this ordered liberty. Yes, America had many religions in 1892, but the great majority embraced the “Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God.”

Yet with finality, *Casey* defies all limits. Prometheus is unbound. The decision represents the end of the road taken by those intent on denying those laws and breaking the bonds that they imposed.

It was a dead end. What was a mystery in 1992 is a mystery no more. When everyone is his own god, Leviathan soon takes the stage. He enters in disguise, but not for long.

Today, governments no longer respect limits on their authority. Why should they? We confront a battle that reflects the fundamental political question, “Who shall rule?”

Even John Roberts, a Catholic and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, joined the majority last month to allow the governor of California to regulate religious service. He was throwing in the towel on religious freedom.

Like the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God, religious freedom is today just another political slogan. This will not end well.
Call for America to “BDS” — not Israel, but China

NEW YORK POST — In a recent column for the Post, Steve Mosher, PRI President, defended the Boycott, Divest and Sanction (BDS) movement, but not against Israel—against China.1

“Like most conservatives, I haven’t been a big fan of the (BDS Movement),” he wrote. “But there is one country that Americans across the entire political spectrum — liberal or conservative, progressive or libertarian — can perhaps now all agree needs to be BDS’ed right up the Yang-tze River.”

Mosher went on to describe what a BDS movement against China look like:

▪ Level sanctions against all companies with ties to China’s military, to weapons of mass destruction, and to its persecution of Uyghurs and other minorities.

▪ Ensure that America’s pension funds, college endowments and personal savings are not used by China’s proliferators and human-rights violators to continue doing business.

▪ A consumer boycott of Chinese-made goods.

“Here I have some good news to report,” Mosher wrote. “Forty percent of Americans now say they will never again buy a product ‘Made in China.’ Like me, they would prefer to ‘use it up, wear it out, make do, or do without,’ rather than fatten the coffers of the regime that has unleashed so much havoc across the world.”

Mosher: Party Infighting Could be Key to Freedom For Chinese Citizens

ONENEWSNOW — Fighting behind the scenes in the Chinese Communist Party could one day free the country from its authoritarian masters, according to PRI President Steven Mosher, quoted in a recent article.2

Mosher, cited as “a recognized authority on China,” reported that Communist leader Xi Jinping has made numerous enemies within the country’s 94-million-member Communist party, which appears to the outside world as though it were in lockstep with the Communist leader.

According to the article, China’s citizens learned last year their actions were being tracked and punished by the CCP. They witnessed their own leaders lie and cover up a viral outbreak in Wuhan only to punish doctors and nurses—some on their death beds—who urged others to protect themselves from this new virus.

OneNewsNow reported that some world leaders cornered by China’s grip on trade and technology, are growing tired of a carrot-and-stick diplomacy, with threats about cutting off trade alongside friendly calls for partnership.

Mosher predicts President Trump will raise tariffs on both Chinese and Hong Kong imports, which will hurt China’s economy and, in turn, hurt the Chinese Community Party.

Hurting the CCP is the ultimate goal, he says, because it has now emerged as the “biggest killing machine in human history.”

Trump Is the Leader Who Can Stop China, Says Expert Mosher

ONENEWSNOW – President Donald Trump is the only world leader who can stop China’s plan to dominate the world, according to PRI President Steven Mosher.3

As reported by OneNewsNow, Mosher said China has been working furiously for decades to realize its plans to dominate the world, known as the 100-Year Plan, which began in post-World War II China in 1949.

The centennial of China’s communist beginnings is 2049, Mosher said, so that date is important to China’s communist leaders.

“The world is alert to the danger from China, and China must be defeated,” Mosher says, “and I think that President Trump is just the man to do it.”

Mosher stated that Trump’s nationalist approach would never happen in a Joe Biden administration.

“I think that what we have in the case of Joe Biden is a clear case of China collusion,” Mosher said. “The China collusion between Joe Biden, and Joe Biden’s family members in China, is real.”
Pro-abortion activists know the pandemic is an excellent opportunity to achieve a goal that has eluded them for five decades: the legalization of abortion in Latin America.

Many governments, with the excuse of protecting the lives and health of their citizens, have cut fundamental liberties and have expanded the power of the state to an extent unimaginable up until just a few months ago.

Total state control is no longer a rarity exclusively confined to communist governments like China’s, which feel empowered to say when you should be allowed to continue with a pregnancy and when you should not. This nefarious power wanted to install itself in the Latin American region, but the pro-life movement responded firmly, showing once again it continues to grow and mature in its participation in public life.

A very strange “joint declaration” supposedly signed by 59 countries appeared on the web page of the French and Swedish foreign affairs ministries on May 6. The declaration was titled “Protecting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Promoting Gender-responsiveness in the COVID-19 Crisis.”

The document itself did not say anything new, but simply regurgitated statements concerning “sexual and reproductive health,” a phrase that was defined 25 years ago at the U.N. Conference on Population and Development in Cairo and one that has been used ever since to mask the ugly reality of abortion and birth control.

The recently signed joint declaration does not make a single contribution for solving any of the urgent matters concerning the pandemic. It merely affirms that the COVID-19 lockdown worsens living conditions for women and girls. But the conclusion of the declaration was absolutely predictable: It called for requiring taxpayer money to pay for ensuring “full and unimpeded access to all sexual and reproductive health services.”

This line of argument has no foundation in reality nor in science but rather is rooted in an anti-family ideology.

The strange thing is that there were supposedly 59 countries that signed onto this document, but only 39 ministers signed their names. Those who did sign claimed that they “are honored to issue this joint statement on behalf of the people and governments of 59 countries.”

But can 39 ministers, in addition to committing each of their own countries to implement policies, also commit another 20 countries to do the same? Certainly, this is not possible through diplomatic channels. Or is it that these 20 other countries did not have ministers with the courage to sign and identify themselves as signers of this document?

This is what probably happened. Because in many countries, submitting a commitment in the name of the state is reserved as a function of the president, and these officials were unwilling to be accused of usurping functions.

Of the seven Latin American countries listed in this joint declaration, only Argentina (Felipe Solá) and Bolivia (Karen Longaric) had a representative who put down their name. Those who made commitments for Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay remained anonymous.

After some media outlets released the text of the statement, protests began to multiply.

In Bolivia, only four days later, on May 10, the government clarified through an official statement that they “reject the misleading interpretations that claim the international declaration is an attempt to promote abortion,” as abortion is illegal in Bolivia. A few days later, Bishop of Oruro, Mons. Cristóbal Bialasik, President of the Life and Family Foundation, supported the clarification of the government in a press conference.
In Peru, many civil society associations protested the signing of this declaration as well as the directive from the Minister of Health that recommended that consideration be made for allowing abortion for pregnant women with COVID-19. Both measures were tenaciously fought through social media, the media, and through congressmen.

Thousands of signatures through CitizenGo called on the government to void the abortion rule. Additionally, they put pressure on the congressional oversight committee to require the Minister of Health to demonstrate the scientific basis for saying that abortion is indicated for pregnant women with COVID-19. In a session on May 25, the Minister of Health was forced to accept that it is necessary to preserve both lives, both the life of the mother and that of the unborn child.

As for the declaration, the protests were gaining daily coverage from a local newspaper called Expreso. The Expreso in turn asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs who the official was who had signed this declaration, and whether it implied promotion of abortion. His press office briefly replied, “Peru does not favor in international forums the inclusion of the termination of pregnancy as a component of sexual and reproductive health,” but the statement did not mention the official who had signed the declaration.

Faced with this lack of transparency, various civil society associations have managed to get the Committee on Foreign Affairs in Congress to intervene to obtain a complete response.

In Ecuador, as in Peru, pro-abortion groups also sought to have the declaration implemented in their country. In April, Ecuador’s U.N. representative presented the U.N. COVID-19 humanitarian response plan with a proposal for $46 million, $3 million of which would be set aside for “maternal health,” one of whose objectives is safe, legal abortion.

Immediately, pro-lifers began to protest, because abortion is illegal in Ecuador. Like many countries in the region, Ecuador has thousands of people dying from COVID-19 unattended because the public health system is highly deficient and hospitals are poorly equipped. Many medium to small businesses in Ecuador are bankrupt as a result of the prolonged quarantines, and a sizeable percentage of the population is about to be unemployed.

In other words, the U.N. is proposing to spend the few resources Ecuador has on pro-abortion ideology.

Civil society organizations from Argentina came out in support of Ecuadorians. Later, other associations and illustrious persons from Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, and other countries in the region joined. An International Manifesto was drafted, rejecting both the joint declaration and the U.N.’s humanitarian response “plan.” Another 35,000 protested the same through an alert sent by CitizenGo which was then delivered to the Ecuadorian embassies in each of their countries.

The confinement caused by the pandemic has not detained the strength of the pro-life movement. In Mexico, Colombia, and Argentina, virtual Marches for Life were held, bringing together thousands of people protesting against abortion initiatives in their respective countries and reaffirming local and national laws that protect the unborn child from the moment of conception.

The pro-abortion narrative, once very powerful in the last century, is now losing its persuasive strength among the people. What once was a little convincing is now even less convincing. Pro-abortion groups have placed emphasis on more coercive and even violent tactics.

That’s why they saw the pandemic as an ideal situation to impose their rules. They have already realized that they were very wrong.

Translated by Jonathan Abbamonte, PRI Research Analyst
From the Countries

**INDIA**

Covid’s Silver Lining: Babies Spared in India

About 1.85 million unborn babies may have been spared from abortions during the coronavirus shutdowns in India, according to an article in LifeNews.com.¹

A study by the pro-abortion Ipas Development Foundation, which was reported in the Indian Express, found that nearly 60 percent of women in India who sought abortions between the end of March and beginning of May could not get them.

In India, there typically would be about 3.9 million abortions during that time period, but the researchers found that there were about 1.85 million fewer due to the shutdowns for the pandemic. Abortions in India are legal until 20 weeks’ gestation, the article stated.

Researchers predicted an additional 33 percent of women would not be able to get abortions during the second, less restrictive phase of the coronavirus shutdowns, which started June 1, according to New Kerala.

The pro-abortion foundation described the situation as negative, the article stated.

“As COVID-19 turned into a pandemic, everyone’s complete attention and effort went to the containment of the virus, which quite naturally pushed a lot of health conditions and their management, including safe abortion, to the backseat,” Vinoj Manning, CEO, Ipas Development Foundation said.

**UNITED STATES**

Why Pro-Life Leader Won’t Support #BLM

Ryan Scott Bomberger, founder of the pro-life organization Radiance Foundation, has detailed why he, as an African American man, refuses to support #BlackLivesMatter.

In his guest column for Front Lines Ohio, he listed his top reasons. “The premise isn’t true,” he wrote. “A comprehensive 2019 study concluded: ‘White officers are not more likely to shoot minority civilians than non-white officers.’

“Every loss of life is tragic, but Washington Post’s database on police-involved deaths puts things into further context. In 2020, among those killed were (all males): two Native Americans, nine Asians, forty-six Hispanics, seventy-six blacks, (149) unlabeled individuals and (149) whites (whose deaths don’t get reported by national mainstream media). Only nine black individuals were actually unarmed.”

There is no goal of forgiveness or reconciliation with the movement, he wrote, but it is all about Black Power. #BLM heavily promotes homosexuality and transgenderism, and it ignores fatherhood. And it demands reparations, which bi-racial Bomberger finds absurd: “Soooooo, I guess the white half of me will have to pay the black half of me?”

The movement also wants to abolish prisons and police forces, which Bomberger said will lead to “utter chaos.”

But the main reason Bomberger will never support #BLM is because it insists on abortion as “reproductive justice.” “Apparently,” he says, “not all black lives matter.”

**CHINA**

Not Enough Women In China Leads to Call For Multiple Husbands

China is missing at least 71 million women, thanks to the sex-selection abortions accompanied by the country’s oppressive one child policy.

The result, according to an article in LifeNews.com, is that many men cannot find wives because they were aborted as babies, and the country’s population is aging rapidly because children are not being born.

To solve the problem, Professor Yew-Kwang Ng at Fudan University in Shanghai recently suggested that the government allow women to marry two or three husbands.

In a June 2 column in the Daily Wire, Yew-Kwang Ng asked, “Is polyandry really a ridiculous idea?”

“I’m not advocating for polyandry, I’m just suggesting that we should consider the option in the face of an imbalanced gender ratio...,” he wrote. “If two men are willing to marry the same wife and the woman is willing, too, what reason does society have to stop them sharing a wife?”

¹ [https://www.lifenews.com/2020/06/09/study-shows-1-8-million-babies-were-not-aborted-in-india-because-of-the-coronavirus/](https://www.lifenews.com/2020/06/09/study-shows-1-8-million-babies-were-not-aborted-in-india-because-of-the-coronavirus/)

² [https://www.lifenews.com/2020/06/10/china-has-killed-so-many-girls-in-sex-selection-abortions-it-suggests-women-have-two-husbands/](https://www.lifenews.com/2020/06/10/china-has-killed-so-many-girls-in-sex-selection-abortions-it-suggests-women-have-two-husbands/)