

Morality Forum Update

Standing up for family values in society

Issue 46

Summer 2012

HUMAN RIGHTS: SOLUTIONS

By John O'Neill

I recently attended a 2 day conference on human rights in Central London organised by the Universal Peace Federation. The conference was headed: "Protection of the Unempowered and the Dispossessed". There are so many key issues which come under the heading of human rights: honour killings, forced marriages, religious persecution, youth unemployment, women's rights etc. In one of the question and answer sessions I brought up the topic of the human rights and dignity of the unborn child, and also similarly regarding the abuse and corruption of numerous children in our schools in the UK through insidious, amoral sex education lessons. I also mentioned how immorality, and in particular pornography is rampant in our society. The government should be legislating so as to empower the people to be protected from all immoral influences. This is a very serious matter, because history shows conclusively that when immorality becomes rampant in any society, eventually that society will self-destruct.

Comments made during various presentations are as follows: *Academics often make detailed; issues which are straight forward and simple. It only takes one person to change one person's life. Empowerment... Without universal human rights there will not be an ideal world. Living for the sake of others is the only way that human rights can be guaranteed. The good works of religion are glossed over by anti-religious people. Moral and spiritual guidance comes from our religions. Loving families are key for character and moral development... Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, religion and conscience.*

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Sex Education

9,000 local people have signed a petition calling on Tower Hamlets Council and the Healthy Lives Team to stop funding the Christopher Winter Project-a sex education programme which employs graphic, highly offensive images to teach young people about sex education. Parents are calling the council to account for the use of taxpayers' money and to bring an end to local authority intervention in teaching sex education in schools. Schools need a clear message that sex education must be delivered in line with parents' wishes and the ethos of the community. A Parents Action Group, formed to campaign against explicit sex education in the borough presented the petition to the Mayor on July 11th. NHS paid £78,000 to Tower Hamlets to train teachers to deliver the Christopher Winter project in their borough. The Council paid £2,277 plus VAT on DVD's. Both training and DVD's were offered free of charge to schools in the borough. Yusuf Patel of SRE Islamic and Antonia Tully of SPUC Safe at School have been supporting the parents' campaign. It is absolutely vital that parents know the full extent of all the materials being used in the sex education classes which their children attend. So many amoral, graphic, highly offensive sex education materials are being used in many schools, even primary schools! Contact Antonia Tully for advice: Tel: 02084073463 Email: safeatschool@spuc.org.uk

Pornography

Dr. William Struthers, associate professor of psychology at Wheaton College, Illinois, an expert in sexual arousal who researches the impact of pornography on young people told MPs that in eight out of ten cases youngsters come across hard-core images by accident. Research subjects were able to recall the first images of pornography they ever saw in remarkable detail. Dr. Struthers explained that the hypothalamus - the region of the brain which controls sexual development- is preparing the body for sexual maturity; the higher thinking regions of the brain were not developed enough to deal with viewing extreme sex. "As they are exposed to more porn, their self-confidence goes down because they feel inadequate and their use of sexually explicit material goes up." Dr. Struthers told

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MPs that there is now a broad consensus among academics that porn is changing the way children behave. He said studies have found that porn is an 'accelerant' which brings down the age at which young people first have sex. The easy availability of porn is creating a generation growing up with the belief that sex is a recreational commodity. Please contact MPs about this serious matter. See the Morality Forum website for more information about porn: www.moralityforum.org.uk

Offensive Language

A study published in the journal *Mass Communication and Society*, is the first to examine swearing in teenage literature. The researchers stated: "We found a wide variety of profanity use in adolescent literature...however this is not indicated anywhere on the book itself." The study of 40 books for teenagers and young adults found that characters who swore were generally portrayed as rich, attractive and more popular than those who did not. The study found 1,522 instances of profanity across the 40 books, an average of 38 per book, with 88% of all books containing at least one swear word. Characters who swore were more likely to be wealthier, more attractive and more popular or socially influential. Prof. Sarah Coyne who led the study said: "This is really important because adolescents are more likely to imitate media characters portrayed in positive, desirable ways." Our religions teach us not to use foul and abusive language; as such conduct harms our spiritual growth and character development, as well as causing offence to others. Spicing-up books and TV programmes etc. with foul language only fuels the job culture and sends out all the wrong messages. It also shows a total lack of intellectual and moral awareness and understanding.

Repeat Abortions

Shocking statistics revealed recently show that thousands of women are using the abortion procedure as a form of contraception. Some women have seven, eight or even nine terminations in their lifetime! Statistics show that single or unmarried women account for five out of every six repeat terminations. Approximately a third of all abortions carried out in England and Wales are repeats. Abortions cost the NHS up to £1,000 each. In 2010, some 189,000 abortions took place. More than 64,000 of these were on women who already had previously had an abortion. A total of 85 women, across all age groups, had an abortion despite having had seven previous terminations. Back in 1998, 29% of abortions were repeats; now the figure has risen to 33%. Critics claim that lack of independent counselling at clinics leads women to choose to have an abortion rather than continue with their pregnancy. Josephine Quintavalle, of the Pro-Life Alliance stated: "Abortion is an unpleasant and harrowing experience for women and to hear it is happening repeatedly makes your hair stand on end." Stuart Cowie, a spokesman for pressure group LIFE stated: "These figures show that 'no questions asked' abortion-on-demand trivialises the process so much that it is no longer seen as the last resort. We would like to see more counselling offered to women, and more conversations in the classroom."

Letters and Emails received

Dear Beloved Friend Brother John O'Neill, Greetings in the Mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I just want to say it's such a blessing and great work, what you are doing. I pray God bless you all more and more and supply all the needs needed for this amazing work to continue in Jesus name. God is with you my Brother and you are always in our prayers... Bishop C.Roberto

Thank you for this John. [Human rights information] Bless you for all the wonderful work you continue to do. I'm so sorry I've been so busy lately and have been unable to keep up, but I do read and enjoy everything you send. I only wish the world had more people like you, John. With love and respect, Dee

Dear Mr O'Neill Thank you for letting us have the Morality Forum Update. I think we should join hands and make a strong representation with Educational authorities. [Concerning offensive sex education programmes] Azmat Ali. Harrow Mosque. (Information and advice was sent to Mr Ali)

Dear Sadiq, [MP] I am firmly against redefining marriage because it would have far reaching consequences. See <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2167472/Schools-teach-pupils-gay-marriage-passed-law.html>. Those who as MP still vote for it will be responsible in front of God and history. This is not the time for political correctness, but for integrity and truth. All the best from Bruno Klotz

Dear John, I thank you for updates on this very important issue as marriage is, and how it will be preserved. David Cameron's plans to legalise the same-sex marriage stands against his professional approach to the subject and is very hypocritical in action where it is worth to mention the act that every morning opening of Parliament is initiated with a prayer to God for guidance in their decisions. Marriage is sacred, created and designed only for two opposite sexes. In my humble opinion David Cameron's plans to legalise the same-sex marriage should be scrapped and not allowed to be exercised even in thought based on these following references from the Holy Scriptures: Genesis 1:26-28. Hebrew 13:4. Romans 1:18-27, 28-32. Matthew 19:4-6. I thank you very much for allowing me to contribute into this very important matter of marriage. Creator made marriage sacred and the same Host of Hosts shall preserve its sacredness. In Peace Forever, Marek

Dear Sirs, It has come to my attention that the Law Society is now blocking the holding of a conference on Marriage. I strongly believe that this issue needs to be debated and the withdrawal of a booking in your premises [Queen Elizabeth 2nd Conference Centre] is very surprising. The fact that there is a high proportion of the population of UK have a view on this means that it needs to be debated. Please reconsider your decision to revoke the booking by Christian Concern and the World Congress of Families. With regards Mr Christopher Jubb (B.A. Oxon)



Theresa Quarmby recently had a letter published in the *Huddersfield Examiner*: Dear Sir, May I reply to "Shock Level of Teenage Pregnancies," which *to page 8*

from page 1 HUMAN RIGHTS: SOLUTIONS

What is the role of religion in protecting human rights? Inter-faith is better. Religions have a role to challenge governments. Challenge prejudice wherever we find it. Church of England have not challenged the slur of religions in public. In Arab countries millions of Christians are not allowed to attend church. Religious freedom is one of the most important human rights. Every religion needs sensitivity to other religions. In the Koran it states that religious freedom is every person's entitlement from birth. Islam is very clear: no religious people should be persecuted. Secular, humanistic society does not want religion. A state will be judged by how they treat their minorities. Shame of politicians who have double standards. Religious communities have to grow up and work together. Religious leaders have to challenge... We do not stand up and speak out for our rights. Give the facts and figures. Koran allows people to change their faith. Sharia is not a fixed law in a book. Human understanding of a sacred text. Foundation of Islam is based on education. Koran: "seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave...we are all one." Strengthen their faith in God. 1 in 3 Muslims are without a formal education. Look at history and learn from it. Ask questions... People running the state should have morals. All politicians have to work together, not accusing each other. State has no business of defining people's faith. Be careful of religion used for political purposes. Silent majority must speak out to make the difference; affirm the presence of one God in our societies.

An example was given of Helen Keller, the first deaf, blind person to win a BA Degree. This example was given regarding unemployed youth who; have it within themselves to succeed. Lot of young people don't have confidence. Lack of good home life, going with the wrong crowd. Wrong attitude in some, others happy to live off benefits. All the knowledge is out there. Purpose: most people do not know why they are on this earth... Cultural, intellectual poverty...Dignity is very important. What is our value? Many young people are struggling to measure their value. Most young people are not attached to their parents, elders etc., but to their peers. We need to be clear about our purpose and identity. Young men have the highest rates for suicide. Young men in gangs: "give me respect." Are we giving young people the tools to develop? Jewish religion: young people must learn a trade. Channel their potential...With determination anything is possible. Never give up. Religious and other communities need to take care of the disaffected etc... Shocking statistics regarding women's rights and violence. Need to highlight the importance of women in peace discussions. Women can be the most influential people. Not convenient for UN to know that women are the majority...Some women accept unspeakable violence; just to keep their families together...All of us are unempowered at some point in our lives. Empowerment through knowledge: understand our rights and value. Empowerment begins in our family. We are called to help others. 4 realms of heart: parental, sibling, children's, conjugal. Women have to become aware of their rights, which are not given on a platter. Have to fight. Think for yourself. Civil rights movement. Details were given about key women who started initiatives to help others and who also worked for peace...To empower women we need to meet their needs accordingly. 500,000 Eastern European women are put into the sex trade each year. Women degraded to the role of a sex object. This opens the door to violence

against women. Needs urgent attention; damages the whole culture of society. Dignity of women is very important for the well-being of the society. Dignity is the base of loving and lasting relationships. There have been various campaigns and petitions against sex and violence on TV-Safermedia and White Ribbon Campaign. Monitor the government's words and actions...What does it mean to be a global citizen? Go beyond boundaries. Secure a life of dignity; contact between state and people. It is humans that violate other human rights. Distinguish between "us" and "them." A global citizen takes responsibility for their actions. Man is primarily moral and spiritual in nature. Thinking of others we grow. Need to know what value is and how it is defined. Understand our God given value, then we cannot cause offence to each other. To understand our value we have to understand our purpose. Family is the school of love. The children should take care of their aged parents as they were taken care of when they were helpless. Expanding our hearts to think of others, becoming beings of true love. In marriage how we grew up affects how we are in our marriage; marriage is not easy: quality of the relationship determines the children's character. Children having children. Plenty of money spent on weddings but not on the marriages! Need a sense of responsibility, fidelity towards our spouse, to be able to go over the difficult times. Child abuse begins when parents cannot sacrifice. Become people who can love and embrace others. Our ability to love will determine our position in the Spirit World, which is determined by the value of our love. Do something everyday to help others. Living for the sake of others is contained in the teachings of all the major religions, and also the great philosophers. Physical life is a training ground for our eternal lives, just as in the womb we prepare for life in this world. In politics there are people who are not concerned about helping others, just themselves. Without developing our spirituality we cannot develop our family and our world. Self governance is key. Ancient Wisdom: Where there is righteousness in the heart there will be beauty in the character; where there is beauty in the character there will be harmony in the home. Where there is harmony in the home there will be order in the nation. Where there is order in the nation there will be peace in the world.

One major, vital theme that was mentioned by various speakers was the importance of religious people in taking their God-given responsibility to challenge evil influences in our nations. Religious people have to speak out, especially in nations such as the UK where secular, humanistic, ideologies are doing so much damage overall in our nation. Godly values are meant to the very bedrock, fabric and foundations upon which our nations will develop and prosper. In God's eyes we are "one family." If we truly understand that we are "one family" then we can surely in time, solve all of the many human rights issues which are relevant in our world today. This is why interfaith dialogue and cooperation is vital and very important. The core message at the heart of all religious teachings is to love and serve and to live for the sake of others; this theme was also mentioned a number of times during the conference. We are all challenged to do our best to see that true, Godly values become predominant again in all our nations. I felt very grateful to have participated in such an excellent conference which highlighted the root causes of human rights issues, as well as giving genuine solutions.

Abstinence Essay Competition (USA)

Seneca Anglin. 2nd place Winner. High School 11th and 12th Grade:

What would you tell your future children about the value of abstinence before marriage? Abstinence makes the heart grow fonder for someone else, (Thinkexist.com). In the 21st century, abstinence has become a practice of which many people view as outdated. Today society is filled with a fixation that sex is a natural standard that is completely okay anytime in life no matter what age you may be. Abstinence is the key to appreciate the love between a man and a woman. In the future, I look forward to starting a family of my own. It is important to me to let my children know that no matter what values society may have at the time, the most vital information they can have is the knowledge of how much a life of abstinence before marriages can truly have on a person. Throughout my life, I have always known that I want to live with complete abstinence and purity. However, I have not always understood the importance of living in this manner. As I have grown older and more mature, I have also gained more significant information. God is truly a great and loving father. He desires a pure and simple path for each of His children, a path of abstinence. I want my children to know that, though living a life of complete abstinence may be difficult, it provides such an incredible future for your own self. It takes time and patience, yet the rewards of waiting for that one special person are so great. I believe that the love between man and woman, whom have both remained abstinent until their own marriage together, holds such an immense power that those surrounding them feel their passion and their heart. God, too, can feel their love for one another as well as the love that they hold for Him. A life of abstinence is very difficult to lead with the corrupt culture our nation and our world is in presently. But in order to change this standard, the world needs leaders; the world needs demonstrators. When people can see how well a man and woman can unite together after living with purity, it will be as if a light bulb has turned on in their head. They will want the same unity with their spouse; they will envy and desire the love between this man and woman. It is time that God's children listen up to hear their father calling to them; to hear that each and every person is meant for only one other. Those who live a life of abstinence need to take a stand. It is our time now to stop following and become the leaders that our Father needs in this world today! I feel this with all my heart and for my children to understand the love that God has for each of them and for all of his children, I believe they can understand why abstinence is such a valuable component of life. In the future when I get married, I am looking forward to marrying a man who has also lived a life of abstinence. Looking ahead in my life is scary in a sense. But if both he and I have lived our lives with this value, we will be able to grow together and feel true love for each other as well as the love from God. Living a life of purity has allowed me to save my heart and my love for this man. I can give him all my love without holding back, which is exactly what God desires for each of his children. To abstain from sex before marriage allows a person to give their whole heart and, really, their whole lives to this one person. The most precious information I can share with my future children is that abstinence allows you to feel the utmost love for your one significant other and at the same time you can give an immense amount of love to God!

Morality Forum Action

The Sex Education Bulletins from SPUC, to protect children from harmful sex education continue to be distributed to parents and religious organisations.

Petition forms and leaflets to protect midwives from being pressured to participate in abortions, together with the coalition for marriage petition forms and leaflets have been distributed to numerous religious organisations. The Safermedia petition forms to protect children from online pornography also continue to be distributed to religious organisations.



John O'Neill and Finbar Murphy are shown in this photo obtaining signatures to protect midwives from being forced to participate in abortion procedures-in violation of their consciences and religious beliefs.

On a national Radio Five Live phone-in programme about pornography John O'Neill was able to provide the results of studies which show the appalling harm and damage that pornography does individually and collectively in any society where porn is freely allowed. John O'Neill also had a frank, public discussion with the Watford Conservative MP, Richard Harrington about the evils and dangers from pornography, at a meeting organised by Safermedia in Watford. Although supporting the Safermedia campaign to protect children from online porn, Mr Harrington unfortunately believes that porn should be available for anybody who wishes to have access to such material once they reach 18 years of age.

John O'Neill has received some very positive responses after speaking in various Christian churches about key moral issues. One young lady in one church said that she was going to distribute 25 of the midwives' petition forms to friends and work colleagues,

God's Anger with the sin of sodomy by Steve Stevens continued from previous issue...

29. Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication (sex outside of marriage between a male and a female), wickedness, covertness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30. Back-biters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents. 31. Without understanding covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful. 32. Who knowing the judgement of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but have pleasure in those who do the same.

This record of Sodom and Gomorrah should make all at Tesco's and all others who support 'Gay Rights' convinced that a change of attitude is imperative. HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF. The famous US philosopher George Santayana said: "THOSE WHO DO NOT LEARN FROM HISTORY ARE CONDEMNED TO REPEAT IT". 700 years after GOD'S: SODOM AND GOMORRAH. MAN'S: SODOM AND GOMORRAH Killed 25,000 Bible men. See the Bible's book of Judges chapter 19 onwards. 2,000 YEARS AFTER A SEPARATE GOD'S AND SEPARATE MAN'S: SODOM AND GOMORRAH, IS ANOTHER SODOM AND GOMORRAH ABOUT TO ERUPT? Perhaps the answer to the above question lies in the Bible's last prophetic book of REVELATION which carries terrifying phrases. Steve Stevens DFC. TF 86, Rowlands Road, Worthing, West Sussex. BN11 3LE. Tel:01903 230858 Email: stevestevenspubl@yahoo.co.uk



True Family Values
(compiled by **Frank Van der Stok**,
continued from previous issue)

Success through Positive Thinking

A. The influence of the spirit world on our world.

3. *Invisible spiritual influences upon the behaviour of earthly people. To do so, there must first be a common base between the person on earth and the spirits. Everyone has such common bases:*

- We have a common lineage with many ancestors.
- We have a common mission with many spirits.
- We have common interests and personalities with many spirits.
- We share a common religious faith or philosophy with many spirits.

4. *We can change the area of spirit world to which we relate by:*

- Converting to a different religion.
- Changing our role in public life.
- Coming under the influence of a powerful teacher.
- Practicing an extraordinary act of sacrifice for others.

5. *Evil spiritual influences.*

- The spirit of an evil ancestor may:
 - Seek to control me and mold me according to his personality, inducing me to repeat his sin.
 - An indulgent ancestor tempts me to self-indulgence.
 - A racist ancestor induces racist thoughts.
 - A suicidal ancestor induces suicidal thoughts.
 - An ancestor who neglected children induces anger in me which leads to me abusing my child.
 - An unbelieving ancestor will sow in my heart doubts about God's existence.
 - He will try to get revenge for past wrongs through me.
 - Induce me to harm a descendant of one who wronged him.
 - He will punish or torment me in order to make up for his sin.
 - An ancestor who burned someone can cause me to be afflicted with skin lesions.
 - An ancestor who lives with regret that he used his intellect for selfish purpose can cause me to get brain cancer.
 - There is often a correspondence between ancestral sin and one's own afflictions.
- We are all assailed by these influences.
 - Our spirit world is likely to be more evil than good
 - Everyone has, somewhere in his lineage, murderers, rapists, suicides, and other unfortunate

people.

B. Be striving constantly. By doing so, we can connect with good spirit world and receive its benefits.

1. *Be ever fortifying ourselves by studying God's word.*

- Then we can get a proper perspective on life. We can keep the goal toward which we are moving clearly in sight.
- Each person should have a clear understanding of their goals in life, based upon the establishment of a true family and ideal hometown.

2. *Pray and meditate constantly*

- Make a base for God's guidance.
- Set up spiritual protection to block out evil desire.
- Make yourself receptive to spiritual help, and be humble to your need for it.
- Never assume that you have an innate goodness or unaided common sense which is strong enough to guide you. Evil spirit can mislead us through our pride. Always seek God's guidance through His words and His representatives (parents, elders, teachers).

3. *When confronting evil spiritual influence, endure, maintain gratitude and a comprehensive, positive attitude, and overcome evil with true love.*

- By grateful endurance, you maintain subjectivity centered upon the physical world. By a comprehensive attitude (positive thinking), you expand your perspective beyond the base for the evil spirit's torment. By true love, you serve a higher purpose on earth, which brings in greater energy for goodness. This greater energy submerges the lower, evil energy. Then the evil spirit can be liberated, his sin resolved by my atoning love.
- Then I am liberated from the weight of this evil spirit, and I am free to work on a higher level for God.
- Always seek opportunities to serve others. By serving others, we inspire and allow good spirits to help us. These good spirits can gain benefit by assisting us in serving others. Serving others is the best way for the spirits to make restitution for the sins they committed while on earth, and thereby be liberated. Spirits are constantly looking for a channel to work through.
- Then spirit world will shower us with many blessings. This is the power of positive thinking.

4. *It is far easier to grow on earth than in spirit world, because one can gain the benefit of one's own physical actions, through which spiritual growth takes place.*

- What we do during our physical life has consequences for tens of thousands of years in the spirit world.
- Most people do not know when they will go to spirit world. Therefore we must strive daily, as if each day were our last on earth, and the judgment of our lives hung in the balance of this hour.

(to be continued...)(from the book "True Family Values" by Wilson and Pak)(<http://www.hsabooks.com/books>)

JOHN SMEATON, SPUC DIRECTOR:
*David Cameron pits himself against the pro-life movement:
 London Summit on Family Planning July 11th*

Below are some quick-fire rebuttals:

Microsoft first lady partners pro-abortion leaders:



(David Cameron's words are marked DC and Anthony Ozimic's words AO.) DC: "We're here for a very simple reason: women should be able to decide freely, and for themselves, whether, when and how many children they have." AO: Women can do this without contraception. The summit is about convincing women that they should avoid having children. DC: "This is not something nice to have. Some sort of add on to our wider development goals." AO:

By prioritising contraception, the Department for International Development (DFID) is neglecting real development goals e.g. food. DC: "It's absolutely fundamental to any hope of tackling poverty in our world." AO: There is no proof that contraception helps to tackle poverty. There is considerable evidence that large family sizes and growing populations help lift nations out of poverty. DC: "Why? Because a country can't develop properly when its young women are dying from unintended pregnancies and when its children are dying in infancy." AO: Women don't die from pregnancies. Pregnancy is a healthy outcome of a natural process. Women die from lack of basic healthcare. Contraception can't save children from dying in infancy. It's healthcare not contraception that saves lives. DC: "As a result of this Summit, in the next eight years we will avert an unintended pregnancy every two seconds and 212,000 fewer women and girls will die in pregnancy and childbirth. That alone, frankly, is a good enough reason for us to be here." AO: These are figures made up by the abortion-contraception lobby to justify its eugenics and population control agendas.

DC: "But there's another reason why family planning is so important for development. When a woman is prevented from choosing when to have children it's not just a violation of her human rights it can fundamentally compromise her chances in life, and the opportunities for her children." AO: The issue of forced pregnancy (e.g. through rape or following a forced marriage) is a separate issue from contraception. This wrong is being cynically exploited by the abortion-contraception lobby to justify its eugenics and population control agendas. DC: "Without access to family planning, pregnancy will often come far too early. In Sierra Leone, for example, a UNICEF survey found that a staggering two-fifths of girls give birth for the first time between the ages of 12 and 14. These young girls are not ready physically, emotionally or financially to become mothers. They don't want to give up school or the chance to go on and run a business and build a better life for themselves." AO: The evil there is statutory rape. Providing contraception will simply allow the rapists and child-marriage criminals to further their crimes.

DC: "And yet suddenly their dreams are broken as they become trapped in a potentially life-threatening pregnancy. Even if they survive, many are left with catastrophic scarring." AO: Again, it is irrational to depict pregnancy, a healthy outcome of a natural process, to be life-threatening. Lack

of basic healthcare is life-threatening. DC: "They struggle to bring up children that are healthy and educated and they are likely to have many more children than they have the resources to look after." AO: I thought the point of international development was to help mothers raise healthy and educated children and provide resources for them. DC: "It's a simple fact that as countries get richer, women generally have fewer children." AO: Increases in population lead to countries becoming richer. The improvement in health following population-driven prosperity means that fewer children die and therefore couples are less driven to achieve more pregnancies.

DC: "And by concentrating their resources on a smaller number of children those children are healthier, better educated and more likely get a job and build a prosperous future for themselves and their own children. Family planning helps that process along."

AO: It simply doesn't work like that. Smaller families result in fewer resources, because it leads to future shortfalls in workers who create profit, pay taxes, make products, care for the elderly etc. DC: "The availability of contraception enables women to decide to have fewer children." AO: Contraception has a massive real-world failure-rate.

DC: "And as fertility rates decline, having fewer children to support can help the economy to grow." AO: Not true. The 20th century proved that economies grow as population rises. DC: "We should be pragmatic about what works." AO: Indeed. Contraception is based instead on the ideologies of sexual liberalism and eugenics.

DC: "In East and Southeast Asia, this reduction in children accounted for more than two-fifths of the growth in per capita GDP between 1970 and 2000. In Matlab in Bangladesh, a twenty year study found that a family planning programme together with improved support for maternal and child health led not just to smaller, healthier families but also to women being better educated and earning more and their families owning more assets with the average value of an educated woman's home as much as a fifth higher than for women in nearby villages where this programme hadn't been introduced. So we know this works. So family planning works not just because smaller families can be healthier and wealthier but because empowering women is the key to growing economies and healthy open societies -unlocking what I call the golden thread of development."

AO: Whole swathes of Asia are now ageing rapidly with no hope in sight. Korea is a dying society, filling more graves than cradles. Japan is the most rapidly ageing society in the world, with an elderly-care crisis with no solution. China is predicted to be the world's first developing country that will become old before it becomes rich. Yes, support for maternal and child health and for education makes societies healthier and wealthier. But contraception impoverishes. DC: "The UK government is taking a whole new approach to development. We know that in the long term we cannot help countries develop just by giving them money. Development cannot be done to the poor by outsiders. It has to be driven by the people who need the change. Our role is to help the poorest countries create the building blocks of private sector growth and prosperity. These building blocks are the same the world over. No conflict, access to markets, transparency, property rights, the rule of law, the absence of corruption, a free media, free and fair elections. Together these key enablers of growth

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make up the golden thread that runs through all stories of successful development across the world. And they are quite simply life changing. Curbing corruption means not having to pay a bribe to lease a plot of land. Transparency means that people can monitor whether revenue from natural resources like oil is being invested in roads or wells for their villages, or wasted. The rule of law means that a woman can go to court to settle a dispute knowing that her evidence will be given the same weight as a man's. Free and fair elections mean that every citizen has a voice in their government and the opportunity to stand for office." AO: So why are you pumping hundreds of millions of pounds into contraception instead? DC: "But these vital building blocks of freedom and democracy can not be laid down without a transformation in the participation of women. Why? Because where the potential and the perspective of women is locked out of the decisions that shape a society, that society remains stunted and underachieving. So enabling women to have a voice is a vital part of improving governance and achieving sustainable and equitable growth. And this isn't just the case in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is the case all over the world. A World Bank Study of 100 countries found that the greater the representation of women in parliament the lower the level of corruption. While one of the most powerful signs that real change was afoot in Egypt and Libya was when women turned up and made their voices heard, refusing to be confined to their homes while men decided their future. And one of the standards by which Egyptians will judge their new government must surely be the engagement and participation of women. Crucially, it is by empowering women that countries can unlock their economic potential. Studies show that limited education and employment opportunities for women in Africa mean annual per capita growth is almost a whole percentage point lower than it should be. Had this growth been achieved, Africa's economies would have doubled in size over the last thirty years. Providing girls with just one extra year of schooling can increase their wages by as much as 20 per cent. And that really matters because a woman who can decide when to have children, will go to school for longer and then invest her extra money in her own family." AO: But none of this has anything to do with contraception. The way to reduce teenage pregnancy is to promote abstinence, outlaw child-marriage, and enforce laws on statutory rape and the age of consent. The UK still has high rates of teenage pregnancy after decades of increasing provision of contraception. DC: "When women have opportunity, resources and a voice, the benefits cascade to her children, her community and her country. So family planning is just the first step on a long journey towards growth, equality and development. But it's an essential step - saving lives and empowering women to fulfil their potential as great leaders of change." AO: Contraception doesn't save lives; it prevents lives. It is insulting to women to tell them that they need pills, rubbers, coils etc to 'fulfil their potential'.

DC: "So I am delighted that Britain is taking the lead - together with the Gates Foundation - to tackle an issue that has been ignored for so long." AO: This is a complete myth. Western governments, wealthy foundations, UN agencies and abortion lobbyists have been flooding the developing world with contraception for decades. DC: "Just like the money we gave last year through GAVI to immunise children against preventable diseases this aid is transparent and direct - it reaches the people who need it, and it doesn't get caught up in bureaucracy. Last

year's vaccines summit is saving 4 million lives. This year's family planning summit will prevent a further 3 million babies dying in their first year of life giving 120 million women and girls in the world's poorest countries the chance to access affordable, lifesaving contraception for the first time. And I'm proud to say that Britain will contribute over £500 million between now and 2020 - doubling our annual investment in family planning. This alone will help 24 million women and girls preventing an unintended pregnancy every 10 seconds and saving a woman's life every two hours." AO: These figures are self-serving fantasies. In many developing countries, there are not even reliable statistics about the population in general,



let alone accurate figures for estimates of healthcare outcomes. Lies, damned lies and statistics.

DC: "Of course there are some who will oppose this. There are those who will say we can't afford to spend money on aid at a time like this. And there are

those who might accept the case for aid, but who object to supporting family planning and the empowerment of women because they think it's not our place to tell people what to do, or interfere in other cultures. I think it's vital that we confront these arguments head on. Let me do so. First, it is morally right to honour our promises to the poorest in the world."

AO: We are unaware that the Conservative or Liberal Democrat parties, either separately or in the Coalition agreement, made any promises to bankroll contraception globally.

DC: "Every six minutes a woman who did not want to become pregnant will die in pregnancy or childbirth. Every six minutes." AO: Again, this figure is a self-serving fantasy. DC: "So how many minutes do we wait? I say we don't wait at all."

AO: This is tear-jerking 'Mom and apple-pie' rhetoric, cynically wheeled-out to fool the naive. DC: "But there's not just a strong moral argument for keeping our aid commitment, there's a second, more practical argument too. If we really care about our own national interest about jobs, growth and security we shouldn't break off our links with the countries that can hold some of the keys to that future. For if we invest in empowering women in Africa as the key to driving trade and economic growth it's not just Africa that will grow but Britain too. And that's why I will always defend our spending on aid." AO:

This is another straw-man argument. SPUC does not argue against giving aid but against wasting aid on contraception.

DC: "As for those who say we shouldn't interfere let me be absolutely clear. We're not talking about some kind of Western imposed population control, forced abortion or sterilisation."

AO: Wrong. The UK government has for decades given tens of millions of pounds annually to the very same organisations which support and help manage China's population control programme of forced abortion and sterilisation. In April, it was alleged that DFID money went to a forced sterilisation programme in India (Observer, 15 April). Melinda Gates' partners, Marie Stopes International and International Planned Parenthood Foundation (IPPF), were founded by leaders in the early eugenics and population control movements, and who were
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very open that they did not like the idea of poor people of colour having children. DC: "What we're saying today is quite the opposite. We're not telling anyone what to do. We're giving women and girls the power to decide for themselves." AO: The easy availability of contraception enables predatory men and coercive relatives to pressure vulnerable women and girls into sexual activity. DC: "Yes family sizes need to come down but they come down not because we say they should but because the women who have children want them to." AO: This is a reversal of the UK government's policy under Labour which claimed it was neutral about population sizes. In any case, what is the evidence that mothers want family sizes to come down? DC: "And to those who try to say it is wrong to interfere by giving a woman that power to decide I say they are the ones who are interfering, not me." AO: Most women around the world, including women in the developing world, already exercise the power to decide over the size of their family. They are not in relationships in which they cannot decide, in conjunction with their spouses/partners, to limit the number of children they conceive. In those relationships in which they cannot exercise this power, this is a problem relating to the nature of the relationship, not a lack of contraception. DC: "I'm not dictating who runs her country. I'm not saying how many children she should have. What jobs she can do. How she can dress. When she can speak. It's those who are imposing their values on women who are doing the interfering. I say that every woman should be able to decide her own future. And yes I say we should stand up against those who want to decide it for her." AO: Mr Cameron is cynically adopting radical feminist rhetoric in order to caricature those who uphold traditional family values. He is pitting himself against the pro-life movement. DC: "Because there are no valid excuses for the denial of basic rights and freedoms for women around the world." AO: There is no international treaty or convention which declares that contraception is a basic right. DC: "So what we are talking about today is the beginning of a much wider battle that will define our century. A fight for female empowerment and equality that cannot be won by having special separate discussions on women every now and then but requires instead that women are at the table in every discussion on every issue. In Britain, we are scaling up and re-prioritising resources for women and girls in all of DFID's 28 country programmes. We have made a commitment to help 6.5 million of the poorest girls in the world to go to school. We are standing up for women's rights against horrific sexual crimes, including through the campaign to prevent sexual violence in conflict which William Hague launched in May with Angelina Jolie. We are determined to end the barbaric practice of female genital cutting making it illegal in Britain leading the way in countries like Somalia where it affects a staggering 98 per cent of women and supporting the brave leadership of the first ladies of Burkina Faso and Niger who are here today. And I will personally ensure that the fight for the empowerment of women is at the heart of the international process I am co-chairing to renew the Millennium Development Goals. Because we know today just how important that empowerment is for women, for the well-being of their families and the future growth and prosperity of the whole world." AO: Mr Cameron is again expropriating feminism as a back-

ground of justification for flooding the developing world with contraception. Women do not need contraception in order to be empowered, equal and protected. Indeed, contraception often degrades vulnerable women to the level of sex objects. DC: "Just before I came onto this stage today I met Aslefe. Aslefe is an inspiring young woman from Ethiopia. She told me she is the captain of her village football team. She uses football matches to distribute materials, contraceptives and HIV prevention methods. She wants every woman and girl to have access to family planning and wants improved health systems in Ethiopia so girls her age no longer have to suffer." AO: I think the vast majority of both children and parents in the world think that what Aslefe is doing is strange and that the normal thing for her to do would be to stick to sport. DC: "She has hope in her eyes. She has ambition in her voice. She gives you that sense that she believes things really can change. Today we are investing in that hope for Aslefe and for girls like her all over the world. Their future will determine our future. And we will help them fight for it. Today and every day until that battle is won. Thank you." AO: Mr Cameron has now overdone the tear-jerking, heartstring-tugging rhetoric here. More arguments and less Walt Disney please.

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referred to an article in a recent edition of the Examiner. The 10 recommendations put to Kirklees Cabinet are already in place in schools and children's centres. Schools can give children access to contraception and abortion services without the knowledge of their parents. The impact of this is to damage teenagers' health, betray parents and destroy unborn lives. The aim is to reduce pregnancies, but the government's strategy doesn't work! Leading abortion supporters have accepted that sex education doesn't cut pregnancy and abortion rates. The Chief Executive of B.P.A.S., a leading abortion provider said: "There have been a large number of stories about the impact of sex education on abortion and pregnancy rates, and these frequently tend to show that they are not having the kind of impact that Family Planning want-they do not seem to have much impact on the abortion rate." As Cll. Liz. Smanje said, "We know that some of these girls may become pregnant because of low self-esteem and lack of aspiration." So what is the answer to this ongoing problem? Marriage is the cornerstone of society. The future of marriage should matter to everyone. All around the world, across all religions and cultures the successful societies have been based on marriage. But marriage will only be the bedrock of society if it remains the legal union of one man and one woman. Marriage is not an arbitrary construct: it is an "honourable estate" based on the different, complementary natures of men and women-and how they reline, support, encourage, and complete one another. Marriage is the only legal union which can naturally lead to children and, crucially, it gives children both a father and a mother. I believe we need to turn the whole teen pregnancy strategy on its head and give children back their childhood and help them to prepare for long term relationships, with its share of both joys and grief, both hopes and anguish. Then one day girls will respect themselves and boys will come to respect girls! Sincerely, Theresa Quarmby