

Discussing abortion - Washington AIDS International Teens, (WAIT)

Kate Tsubata
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"I further direct the Secretary of State to take all necessary actions, to the extent permitted by law, to ensure that U.S. taxpayer dollars do not fund organizations or programs that support or participate in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization."

[Mexico City Policy](#)

In discussing abortion, I notice that most people jump to a specific stance and stick to it. This is dangerous, because it obscures a lot of the very real issues. For instance: many in the U.S. see abortion as a “right” of the woman, a form of choice over her own body and her own destiny. They truly believe this.. But this doesn’t fit the reality of many ways abortion is used. For instance, in China, to deplete the population, abortion was mandated if the family already had one child. The rights of the women (and men) over the choice of parenthood were denied. Government-mandated abortion, paid for by the government, was an act of tyranny and control. It was also a form of ethnic domination, in Tibet. Additionally, it was female fetuses that were largely being aborted, due to the cultural bias for male children. The result, after 40 years, was a huge disproportion between the male and female population of the country. Even now, there are 117 male children born to each 100 female children. The situation finally became so bad that now the government has outlawed testing for and aborting female fetuses, to try to bring the population back into balance.

Another abrogation of human rights takes place in the U.S. as well as other countries, when pimps and sex traffickers bring their victims—the exploited women they force into sex-for-hire—to the clinics to have a pregnancy terminated. This is not the “free choice” of the woman, who is already denied any safety, freedom, rights or determination over what happens to her body. Her reproductive organs are considered the “money-making equipment” of the pimp; he forces the termination to maintain maximum profits. She is not a free agent, making a choice based on her own goals in education, career or safety. She is the chattel of the individual or syndicate who subject her to any humiliation or indignity or violence, for a price.

It's popular for pro-choice advocates to bring up the scenario of a rape victim, impregnated through violence. The inference is that no woman should be forced to carry a pregnancy if the result of the criminal violation of her body. But what does this say about women whose reproductive rights are systematically violated by a criminal sex trafficker, not once but many times a day for a prolonged period of time? When the clinic removes the embryo, returning her to her sexual bondage, are they not knowingly enabling her to be violated again and again?

In many countries, U.S organizations tricked or coerced women into sterilization procedures. This was seen as a positive thing by the organization, who believe overpopulation and large families to be a deleterious thing. To those women and their culture, however, this is an invasion and a loss of a precious capability. Poor women, minorities and marginalized populations have been victimized by the eugenic-based actions of funded NGOs. Where is the outcry for their reproductive rights?

It has been widely reported that the origin of the entire "family planning" movement was the racist and elitist conviction of such people as Margaret Sanger that contraception and abortion should be used to keep those of other ethnicities and economic groups from reproducing. These were the underlying theories behind the Nazi and Aryan supremacy mindsets, and were part of Hitler's plan to eliminate unwanted populations—along with gas chambers and industrial crematoria.

The lessons of history do not provide a correlation between the provision of abortion, contraception, female sterilization, prenatal genetic screening or other genital mutilation—to women's rights, health and safety. Since the introduction of these elements in the U.S., rape has increased 600 percent, female poverty and single parenthood has skyrocketed, violence on women and children has increased.

If we truly want to safeguard women and empower them to have ownership over their bodies and choices, we need to look at all the evidence, all the issues, and really consider the actual impact of these policies, both to the individual and the society.



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Ms. Kate Tsubata is a journalist, educator, and community activist. She is founder and director of the Washington AIDS International Teens, (WAIT). It began in 2002 as a small group in Washington, DC, but has since spread to 24 nations. WAIT advocates abstinence and faithfulness in marriage using music, dance and drama. It is effective in both traditional and industrialized urban cultures, teaching youth to make positive life choices and develop their talent. Kate is also involved in documentary and original feature film production.

Resources:

waitteam.org/

www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/23/presidential-memorandum-regarding-mexico-city-policy

georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/20010123-5.html

www.opensocietyfoundations.org/sites/default/files/against-her-will-20111003.pdf

www.womensrightswithoutfrontiers.org/index.php