

# Morality Forum Update

*Standing up for family values in society*

Issue 53

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## Mary Whitehouse - A Remarkable and Courageous Lady

By John O'Neill



This year marks the 50th anniversary of the packed meeting in Birmingham Town Hall on May 5th, 1964, organized by Mary Whitehouse in response to the worrying decline of standards of good taste and decency in the media. At that meeting Mary stated: "If violence is shown as normal on the television screen it will help to create a violent society." Mary Whitehouse was a teacher and a mother who became aware of the profound effect television was having on the moral values of the girls in her care. What they consumed was undermining family life, social cohesion and attacking Christian values. The message that young people were hearing from the new generation of opinion formers and pop stars who littered the media was one of 'free love' and 'if it feels good do it!'

Motivated by a profound Christian faith the 'Clean Up TV Campaign' was launched in 1963 and a nationwide petition organized soon after. The National Viewers' and Listeners' Association-now known as Mediawatch-UK was founded in 1965 as a response to the huge, and on-going public support for the campaign.

The following quotes from Mary show how correct she was in speaking out in the way she did: "If society accepts the free distribution and display of pornography then inevitably it will fall into the hands of children." "No movement, with the exception of communism and fascism, has practiced censorship more rigidly than those who bellow for the abolition of all controls."

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sex Trafficking

Morality in Media have created a website to help deal with the horrendous impact sex trafficking is having on so many vulnerable lives: [www.stoptraffickingdemand.com](http://www.stoptraffickingdemand.com). "Pornography is frequently shown to sex trafficking victims to train them in what they will have to perform/endure. Studies and surveys show that nearly all men who buy sex from prostituted or trafficked women are also pornography users. Their tastes are greatly affected by what they have seen in porn and they often demand that victims perform similarly. When asked about this subject, many victims of sex trafficking explain that "Johns" will sometimes bring porn with them and demand the victims reenact what they have seen in the film. Pornography is also used as a training tool to desensitize the victim to the violence, degradation and humiliation. This is especially true if the victim is a child or a young woman. The victims soon believe that porn sex is real sex and that everyone is expected to perform this way. Repeated and sustained viewing of pornography alters the way viewers think about sex and the presence of violence, even if the viewer will be on the receiving end. Dr. Mary Anne Layden of the Sexual Trauma and Psychopathology Program at the University of Pennsylvania explains pornography is "a permission-giver for, and a trigger of, many negative behaviours and attitudes that can severely damage not only the users but many others." Sex traffickers understand the cognitive power of pornography to change the brain to accept porn life as real life. They use this reality against their trafficked victims. By forcing them to watch porn, traffickers force victims to normalize the abuse perpetrated against them."

### Homosexuality: Guidance for Teachers in Schools

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has released helpful guidance on how education providers should tackle the implications of same-sex marriage: "No school, or individual teacher, is under a duty to support, promote or endorse marriage of same sex couples. Teachers, other school staff, governors, parents and pupils are all free to hold whatever personal views they choose on marriage of same sex couples, including a

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view that marriage should only be between a man and a woman. The Government recognises that the belief that marriage can only be between a man and a woman is a belief worthy of respect in a democratic society. Schools with a religious character can continue to deliver sex and relationship education in accordance with their particular religious doctrines or ethos. They must do so in a sensitive, reasonable, respectful and balanced way.” Information from Coalition for Marriage.

### **Dangerous Dogs**

In a recent edition of the Camden New Journal the heading on page one was: ‘SO LUCKY OUR GIRL SURVIVED DOG ATTACK’. The article stated: “The family of a four-year-old girl mauled by a pit bull type mongrel have spoken of the horrific moment the dog attacked her-and called for urgent new measures to stop it happening to anyone else... The dog’s owner had been at the centre of an earlier case in which one of his animals killed a cat last summer. The police knew about the dog. Four police officers are facing an internal investigation over how that case was handled. The little girl Carla, was walking home with her dad. Her Dad Duska said: ‘It was completely unprovoked. The dog suddenly grabbed her face and started shaking her in its jaws. It happened so quickly. I grabbed hold of it. I roared at it. I managed to wrestle its jaws open. We are very lucky Carla wasn’t killed. A few centimetres another way and she would have been killed.’ Carla suffered a fractured cheekbone and serious cuts around her right eye. She also had severe wounds to her cheek, extensive nerve damage and had to have plastic surgery. Judge Peter Clarke QC told the court the injuries to Carla were ‘...the worst I have seen to a living person in the 40 years I have been working in the criminal justice system.’ The family want the experience to be a wake-up call to police, Town Hall and dog owners. Duska said: ‘Carla will no longer run free on the Heath. The change it has had on her is so profound and obvious. It is heartbreaking’” The owner of the dog was jailed for 25 months. How many more of these recurring horrendous dog attacks need to happen before the government brings in proper legislation to protect the public from such attacks. (There were 6,740 hospital admissions through dog attacks in 2013. A 6% increase!) It is a national scandal how successive governments have failed abysmally to protect the public from dangerous dog attacks. In other countries there are proper and sensible laws to protect people from dog attacks. In the Czech Republic all dogs are muzzled in public places. At the very least in the UK known dangerous breeds of dogs should be muzzled in public places. Please contact MP’s about this serious matter: House of Commons, Westminster, SW1A 0AA. Tel:02072193000

### **Marriage Counselling**

A government backed study funded by The Department for Education calculates that successful relationship counselling could save taxpayers billions of pounds a year by reducing family break-up. It has been estimated that broken relationships cost Britain between £20 billion and £44 billion a year in extra benefit costs. It is calculated that successful relationship initiatives could pay for themselves more than 11 times over A team from the Tavistock

Institute analysed the success of three types of marriage and relationship education courses run by charities including Relate, Marriage Care and Care For the Family. They included a traditional marriage preparation programme; relationship education and sessions for established couples and professional counselling for those facing difficulties. Hundreds of participants took part in surveys and interviews several months after completing the courses. Participants in all three cases, said they had changed their behaviour or learnt to deal with conflict or were communicating better. The Department for Education is calling for a national drive to encourage couples to consider getting help to strengthen relationships before problems occur.

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### **Letters and Emails Received**

Dear John, I did enjoy reading the article by Mark Brann on human rights and democracy. We are not reminded often enough of the limits of what democracy can be expected to achieve in a society where an adequate moral compass is lacking. Also, we too readily allow the legal framework of human rights to take the place of morality and fail to recognise its intrinsic limitations. Regards, Colin  
Thanks John!! I found that this edition is full of good and substantial material! Thanks for your great efforts and all power to you in them! Best rgds. MARK BRANN

Hi John, Many thanks for sending me a copy of the above via e-mail. It is always interesting and unfortunately depressing to hear what those who are working against God are getting up to. The information also supplies me with plenty of ammunition when I get involved in debates. Keep up the good work. Maria Rose

Dear John, Yes I’m really keeping well and God has been very faithful. Thanks for the Morality Forum Update sent to me. I enjoy reading it, very insightful, educative and informative. I always look forward to receiving it. [Rev.Dr.R.Opedare]

Dear Michael,

Good you see my point. Indeed, it has never been the focus of any religion to love their enemy. That is exactly what I agree with. But it should be very different, especially since Jesus has told us to, very clearly. And the enemy can be anyone. Nobody can be excluded here from receiving our love.

Yes, the “aims” and “attitudes” of the various religions is far from this. And that is God’s headache, as well as Jesus’. They can have different opinions about the nature of God, but what matters is that we love them anyway, no matter what they think, what they do or even how they treat us.

You can debate about doctrine with other religions, but what really counts is what quality of love we have for them. That is what makes the real difference. True love is the real truth. Why did Jesus say he is the truth? Because he embodied the true love of God. And he told us to become just like that by loving the “enemy”. Not by debating, but by loving. Debating is fine, but the main thing must be that they feel the love of the Living God coming from our hearts. That will win in the end. Love will win the world for God, not religion per se. And even the Kingdom of God can only come based on true love. God bless you! Bruno

*from page 2 Letters and Emails Received*

Dear John, Just to say very good work. It is time that we save young people from harmful sex education. I like to see more diversity in representing communities. We from Council for Mosques Bradford very much support the work you are doing. Mohammed Saleem Khan, Chief Executive

## **Debunking Myths about Marriage: It Works for Women, Too.**

By HARA ESTROFF MARANO

The researcher, Dr. Linda J. Waite, a professor of sociology, presented her findings in July at the second annual Smart Marriages Conference in Washington.

“This is definitely a public health issue,” Dr. Waite said.

“People need to know the facts so they can make good decisions. Marriage is good for everyone. But I’m battling a deeply entrenched, if dangerous and false, belief.”

The notion that marriage damages women’s emotional well-being derives from the 1972 publication of “The Future of Marriage” (Yale University Press) by the sociologist Jessie S. Bernard, who died in 1996 at the age of 93. In it, she reported that married men are better off than single men on four measures of psychological distress: depression, neurotic symptoms, phobic tendency and passivity. But married women, she said, score higher on these negative traits than single women.

Although the findings were never replicated and were disputed even then, they entered the lore of the field and of popular culture. “They helped de-romanticize marriage” at a time when that was needed, said Dr. William J. Doherty, a professor of psychology at the University of Minnesota.

“They matched the then-evolving belief that marriage is an oppressive institution for women.”

Since the 1970’s, researchers have come up with better measures of emotional health, and on these, married women and men generally score very well. Further, in the last two years several large studies that tracked people in and out of relationships over a long period have produced evidence that marriage actually causes psychological well-being in both sexes.

By contrast, Dr. Bernard’s material consisted of one-time glimpses of people’s lives. While both Dr. Bernard and Dr. Waite based their conclusions on data from many studies, reducing the likelihood that either was reporting a fluke, marriage itself has changed in the intervening years in ways that generally make women happier.

Dr. Waite told the conference that her curiosity was aroused four years ago when she stumbled across “the marriage mortality benefit” -- statistics showing that married men and women live longer.

In a large national sample of adults followed for 18 years beginning at the age of 48, slightly more than 60 percent of divorced and never-married women made it to 65, as opposed to nearly 90 percent of married women. Widowed women, for reasons not entirely clear, fared almost as well as married women. Among men, however, those unmarried for any reason -- whether widowed, divorced or never married -- had only a 60 to 70 percent chance of living to 65, versus 90 percent for married men.

Since then, Dr. Waite has found that “marriage changes peo-

ple’s behavior in ways that make them better off.” Married partners monitor each other’s health, for example. They also drink less alcohol and use less marijuana and cocaine.

From detailed reports on 50,000 men and women followed from their senior year in high school to the age of 32 by University of Michigan researchers, Dr. Waite discerned a steep increase in “bad behaviours” among those who stayed single, but a “precipitous drop” in bad behaviours like the use of alcohol or illegal drugs among those who married.

Drawing heavily on a study of 13,000 adults assessed in 1987 and 1988 and again in 1992 and 1993, Dr. Waite demonstrated the positive impact that marriage has on mental health. The study, conducted by two psychologists at the University of Wisconsin, Nadine F. Marks and James D. Lambert, will be published in November in *The Journal of Family Issues*.

It is not just that people who remained married reported significantly higher levels of happiness than those who remained single. The data showed that those who separated or divorced over the five-year period became, in Dr. Waite’s word, miserable.

Men and especially women who married for the first time during the course of the study experienced a sharp increase in happiness. Remarriage, however, brought only a modest increase in happiness.

Dr. Waite noted that Dr. Bernard similarly found married women happier than single women, but relegated that fact to her book’s appendix.

In addition, marriage appeared to reduce the degree of depression. Men and especially women whose marriages ended over the five-year period experienced high levels of depression compared with those who stayed married. Single men as a group were depressed at the outset of the study and became more depressed if they stayed single.

Compelling as he found these data, Dr. Doherty, the University of Minnesota professor, noted that they represent population-based averages. They do not mean that everyone is better off married than single, or that people are bound to be happy and healthy if they marry the wrong person.

Emotional health also hinges on satisfaction with sex, and in this realm marriage serves both men and women, but delivers a special bonus to women. First of all, Dr. Waite said, married people have sex twice as often as single people. Unmarried couples who live together also have active sex lives but, like unmarried people, get less emotional satisfaction from it than married people, the studies found.

For married men, satisfaction hinges on sexual frequency, fidelity and emotional commitment to the relationship. For women, these elements are equally important, but just the fact of being married added an extra kick to their sexual satisfaction. “Men make an investment in pleasing their partner because of their ongoing relationship,” Dr. Waite said. “People who are committed to a partner get more than sex out of sex.”

Married people also have more money. From her own analysis of a National Institute of Aging survey of 12,000 people 51 to 61 years of age, Dr. Waite found that married people have more than twice as much money, on average, as unmarried people. Married couples not only save more while enjoying some economies of scale, but married men also earn up to 26 percent more than single men.

Similarly, married women earn more than unmarried women, but only if they have no children. When they have children,

*from page 1 Mary Whitehouse*

“The greatest danger, particularly to the young, is that we may come to accept as normal what is, in fact, exceptional and vile.” “No other age has exploited violent crime, as ours does, by constantly exploiting it as entertainment.” “If women are most frequently shown as cheap, self-interested and superficial, such an image will come to be accepted as the norm.” “We have betrayed our young people into the hands of manipulators who exploit their immaturity and aimlessness for their own ends.” “It’s important that children grow up with a positive, balanced and healthy approach to sex.” “Those who think that the increasing acceptance of obscenities is simply part of an evolving contemporary society are being dangerously naïve.” “The new libertarians are, in fact, the new tyrants. They launch an assault upon the senses and freedom of the individual which is the essence of the worst kind of dictatorship.” “We shall raise a generation which either grasps at sex as a physical lust or treats it simply as a passing fancy, no more.” “Today our society ruthlessly exploits the minds and emotions of young people for financial and political capital.” “Our campaign was born out of our own personal and vivid experience of the impact of television on the young for whom we were responsible.” “The creative growth of a society, and its stability, depend on the willingness of the individual to accept responsibility for his behaviour.”

Notable successes achieved by Mary and NVLA: In 1978 achieving effective legislation which made all child porn illegal. Lobbying: this resulted in 1989, of a media advisory body, The Broadcasting Standards Council. Instrumental work regarding an Act of 1984, which required all videos to be classified by age suitability.

Over the years Mary Whitehouse received much ridicule and criticism from various quarters, for her courageous and righteous stand for family and moral values. However, many people have now come to accept that what Mary said during those years was correct. Roy Hattersley former Deputy Leader of the Labour Party stated: “forty years ago I dismissed Mary Whitehouse as a bad joke. I believed that broadcasters, acting with little or no restraint, would produce an ever-improving quality of programme. The reverse has happened. One of the hard facts of television’s decline—a painful fact to swallow for unapologetic libertarians—is that liberty, far from producing an improvement in quality, has produced a continual deterioration in standards.” Roy Jenkins the former Labour Minister and known as one of the main instigators of the permissive society was asked years’ later what he thought about the permissive society. He refused to answer the question. The reason was obvious. The permissive society and the sexual revolution have been a complete disaster for our nation. Ever increasing levels of teenage pregnancies, STD’s, abortions, divorces, and huge increases in crimes and social problems! Ever increasing levels of sex, violence and bad language in the media etc. History shows that without a strong moral code being prevalent centred on Godly values in any society, decline is inevitable.

Mary Whitehouse took responsibility for spearheading the challenge against the evils of the permissive society and the sexual revolution. In reality it should have been the national level religious leaders who were at the forefront of this battle. Mary’s conscience and her sense of responsibility and indomitable and exemplary Christian faith meant that she had to respond to the seriousness of the situation. She could foresee the catastrophic results which would result from doing nothing. Let us all thank God for the life of such a great, virtuous lady, who set such a

wonderful example. There is still much work to be done. Let us all strive to follow the tremendous example and legacy left by Mary Whitehouse. Mary was awarded the CBE in 1980. She died in 2001. One final very pertinent quote from Mary: “I emphasise the need for everyone—wherever they stand on the spectrum of taste and standards to make his or her voice heard.”

## ABORTION-THE CONSEQUENCES

### The cost to the unborn



Seven and a half million lives have been terminated in the UK since the Abortion Act 1967. This represents a huge loss of human life. These Individuals have had the opportunity to experience life taken away from them, without their consent. They are the greatest victims of the abortion industry. In addition to the lives of unborn children being prematurely ended, recent studies have suggested that some unborn children may suffer pain during their terminations. The current abortion time limit is set at 24 weeks, yet a major study on foetal pain by Professor KJS Anand has shown that an unborn child is likely to feel pain from 18 weeks’ gestation.<sup>5</sup> There have even been signs that unborn children experience pain from as early as six weeks’ gestation.<sup>6</sup>

### The mental health risks of abortion

The cost of abortion goes beyond the death and pain of the unborn. Abortion often has a profoundly negative effect on the women who experience the procedure.

In 2008, the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCOP) was forced to publish an official statement admitting, for the first time, that abortion may damage a woman’s mental health, as more and more studies have emerged demonstrating a strong link between abortion and an array of psychological disorders, ranging from depression to post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse and even suicide.

The RCOP recommended that women should not be allowed to have an abortion until they are counselled on the risks of the procedure to both their physical and mental health, overturning the consensus that stood for decades that continuing with an unwanted pregnancy is more harmful than having an abortion.

The RCOP’s new stance stands in stark opposition to its 1994 position statement in which it claimed that there was “no evidence” that abortion is damaging to a woman’s mental health. In fact, the largest ever meta-analysis of the effects of abortion on women, conducted in 2011, actually concluded that abortions increase the risk of developing mental health problems by 81%.<sup>7</sup> Published in the British Journal of Psychiatry, it showed that abortion increased the risk of anxiety disorders by 34%; depression by 37%; alcohol abuse by 110% and suicide behaviours by 155%. It concluded: “Results indicate quite consistently that abortion is associated with moderate to highly increased risks of psychological problems subsequent to the



## **True Family Values**

(compiled by **Frank Van Der Stok**,  
continued from previous issue)

### **The Value of Sexual Purity**

#### **A. Sexual purity is the key to establishing and maintaining the culture of heart.**

8. *We keep our connection to God's lineage by maintaining our purity.*

- **No premarital sex:** virginity is absolutely required before marriage.
  - First love is the best love. It is like tree-ripened fruit. First love has no precedent. It is unique and incomparable. Therefore it is absolutely for each couple.
  - First love is eternal love. Even in the selfish world, everyone longs for eternal love. This is because God is eternal and He created us to be His eternal partners through love.
  - True love waits for the one spouse. If there is more than one partner, love is not absolute and unique.
  - The concept of "dating" should not exist, because this leads to the situation in which partners are chosen based upon individual desires and affinity.
  - God provides our eternal partner.
- **Monogamous marriage.**
  - Marriage is a covenant with God, spouse, children, and the greater society and spirit world.
  - Absolute, eternal, unique and unchanging love, which all people desire, requires one spouse. To change spouses destroys the absoluteness, eternality, uniqueness and unchanging quality of true love.
  - Infidelity destroys marriage, because it destroys love.
  - There is no divorce within the culture of heart.
  - Faithful spouses set the proper example for children and protect the tradition of true love necessary for the culture of heart.

### **The True Family Culture**

#### **A. The true family culture is a world of interdependence, common prosperity and universally shared values**

##### *1. Interdependence*

- We recognize our interdependence and help one another.
- For example, at meals we think of all the people who helped grow our food and bring it to the table.
- All nature is interdependent; we realize we are within the symbiotic web of nature.

##### *2. Common prosperity*

- We would never want to prosper at the expense of another's

poverty, or even permit others to go hungry.

- When people are wealthy, their conscience guides them to perform charity.
- Tithing is a principle by which everyone gives to the higher purpose.
  - Government taxation is a false substitute for tithes given from the heart. It is forced, collected with grumbling and resentment, and spent unwisely.
  - Conservatives want to eliminate big government and many welfare programs. Will the poor go hungry or will the people, churches and charities be able to fill the need? Or will families be able to grow to encompass their poor relations?
  - What is missing is a restoration of true love and true heart within true families and tribes. Through true love and true family life, not through political programs, common prosperity will come. Vibrant religious communities do not have their people on welfare rolls.
- True love will inspire the equalization of technology and expertise.
- There will be more travel and communication to share the heart and situation of people in different nations and cultures.

##### *3. Universally shared values.*

- Beyond the smaller values of nationality or race, we will together promote the righteous values that we all share, working for liberty, justice and peace for everyone.
  - The world's religions share common values. Therefore we are witnessing expanding programs of inter religious cooperation and dialogue.
- The quality of love in the family naturally expands to relationships at all levels of society.
  - Businesses will operate to some degree like a family, displaying empathy, teamwork, community life outside the business, common fortune, desire for mutual success, etc.
  - The nation will have the atmosphere of a family, with everyone feeling responsible for the national destiny, strong support for the government, the leaders having parental heart toward the people and respecting their advice, shared concern for natural resources, etc.
  - The world will be one nation. There will be spiritual leadership, and the political leaders will have secondary position, in continual healthy relationship with the spiritual leadership.

##### *4. Society is like a single organism, moving in love.*

- The vibrations of true love in one family resonate with all creation and the spirit world.
- The cosmos is guided by the mind of God, which underlies all creation with one heart, purpose and principle.

##### *5. Ultimately, no religion is needed. Our life is naturally one of attending God and living together with one heart in true love.*

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

from page 3 *Debunking Myths about Marriage*

“they trade some time earning for time with their children,” Dr. Waite said. If the women continue to work, she added, they have difficulty getting child care, and experience stress trying to balance two sets of demands.

Married women are not only happier and wealthier than single women, Dr. Waite found, they are also safer. Moderate domestic violence (defined as hitting, shoving or throwing things at a partner) occurred half as often with married couples and cohabiting couples engaged to marry than it did with cohabiting couples not planning to marry.

The findings suggest that there is more to marriage than just a social bond. There appears to be something specifically protective about the long-term commitment that marriage entails. All told, marriage seems to be “an unmitigated good” for men, Dr. Waite added. For women, marriage indeed brings increased life satisfaction and happiness, but those benefits are “part of a package” that also includes family demands that are sometimes burdensome.

Perhaps, she suggested, this was what Jessie Bernard really meant.

from page 4 *Abortion - The Consequences*  
procedure.”

Another study published in the *British Journal of Medicine* found that women who have an abortion are at least six times more likely to commit suicide than those who carry their pregnancy to term.<sup>8</sup>

The risk of experiencing depression has been shown to be significantly higher in women who have an abortion compared to those who carry their pregnancy to term, even when the pregnancy was unplanned.<sup>9</sup> A 2008 study by Dr. Priscilla Coleman and psychologist Dr. Vincent Rue published in the *Journal of Psychiatry* demonstrated a strong association between abortion and depression and anxiety disorders. It stated: “Abortion was found to be related to an increased risk for a variety of mental health problems (panic attacks, panic disorder, agoraphobia, PTSD, bipolar disorder, major depression with and without hierarchy), and substance abuse disorders.”

Abortion was found to increase the risk of bi-polar disorder by 167% and major depression by 45%. With regards to anxiety disorders, abortion increased the risk of panic disorders by 111%, panic attacks by 44%, post-traumatic stress disorder by 59% and agoraphobia by 95%.

An American study published in the *Journal of Pregnancy* in 2010 also reported high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms amongst women who had undertaken both early and late abortions, with 52 per cent of the early abortion group and 67 per cent of the late term abortion group meeting the American Psychological Association’s conditions for a diagnosis of PTSD. Furthermore, 60% of women said they felt that “a part of me died” after their abortion.<sup>10</sup>

Abortion is also commonly linked to a number of negative reactions including regret, anger and sleeping difficulties. In one study of women suffering from post-abortion problems, 80% said they experienced guilt, 83% regretted their decision, 79% had feelings of “loss”, 62% felt anger and 70% experienced depression.<sup>11</sup> Another study, published in the *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, found that just 8 weeks

after their abortions, 44% of women reported nervous disorders, 36% experienced sleeping problems, 31% felt regret, and 11% had been prescribed psychotropic medicine by their doctor.<sup>12</sup>



### The physical risks of abortion

Medical complications following an abortion vary from minor problems to more serious conditions such as pre-term deliveries in subsequent pregnancies, reduced fertility, cancer and even death. Post-abortive women are 2.3% more likely to suffer from cervical cancer compared to women with no history of abortion, and three times more likely to develop breast cancer in later life.<sup>13</sup>

Abortion also places women at a risk of developing serious life-threatening complications, such as haemorrhage, endometriosis and pelvic inflammatory disease which can all be fatal if left untreated. The latter is also a major cause of infertility in post-abortive women.<sup>14</sup> Research has also showed that there is a significant increase in premature births amongst women who have had an abortion.<sup>15</sup>

Considering the mental and physical risks of abortion, could the vast majority of UK abortions actually be illegal because of an inaccurate assessment of the risks?

We consider the answer to be a resounding “yes”. Urgent reform of the law is therefore needed.

\*5 See [http://www.uams.edu/neuroscience\\_cellbiology/faculty/details.asp?id=61](http://www.uams.edu/neuroscience_cellbiology/faculty/details.asp?id=61) \*6 McCullagh and Saunders, “Do foetuses feel pain?”, *British Medical Journal* (25 January, 1997)

\*7 Priscilla K. Coleman, “Abortion and mental health: quantitative synthesis and analysis of research published 1995-2009”, *British Journal of Psychiatry* (2011). The analysis, conducted by Priscilla K. Coleman from Bowling Green State University, Ohio, USA, is the largest study of its kind and is based on 22 published studies, with a combined number of participants totalling over 850,000.

\*8 Gissler, Hemminki & Lonnqvist, “Suicides after pregnancy in Finland, 1987-94: register linkage study,” *British Journal of Medicine* 313:1431-4, 1996; and M. Gissler, “Injury deaths, suicides and homicides associated with pregnancy, Finland 1987-2000,” *European J. Public Health* 15(5):459-63, 2005. \*9 R Cogle, DC Reardon & PK Coleman, “Depression Associated With Abortion and Childbirth: A Long-Term Analysis of the NLSY Cohort,” *Medical Science Monitor* 9(4):CR105-112, 2003. \*10 PK Coleman, CT Coyle & VM Rue, “Late-Term Elective Abortion and Susceptibility to Post-Traumatic Stress Symptoms,” *Journal of Pregnancy*, Aug. 2010.

\*11 D. Reardon, *Aborted Women, Silent No More* (Springfield, IL: Acorn Books, 2002). \*12 Ashton, “The Psychosocial Outcome of Induced Abortion”, *British Journal of Ob & Gyn.* 87:1115-1122, 1980.

\*13 See: [http://www.abortionfacts.com/reardon/effect\\_of\\_abortion.asp](http://www.abortionfacts.com/reardon/effect_of_abortion.asp) \*14 Ibid.

\*15 Rooney, B and Callhoun, BC, *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons*, 8 (2), 2003, pages 46 - 49.

*This article was an extract from a booklet, ‘Abortion’ and was published by kind permission of Christian Concern. To see the full contents of the booklet: [www.christianconcern.com](http://www.christianconcern.com) Copies can be ordered free of charge: Christian Concern, 70 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 8AX. [info@christianconcern.com](mailto:info@christianconcern.com). Tel: 020 7935 1488*

(continued from previous issue...)

## Women's increased/equal participation in the political decision-making process essential to sustainable growth: An African Perspective



By Justina Mutale, African Woman of the Year 2012.

European Leadership Conference, 21-22 November 2013, London. [Abridged]

In most African countries women are culturally required to ask the permission of their husbands before engaging in any form of business, social or political activity.

In the aftermath of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, many married women lost their husbands as the country was left with a population that was 60 percent female and 40 percent male, with thousands more males jailed for war crimes or living as refugees in neighbouring countries. Women who lost their husbands found themselves thrust into the role of bread-winners having to take on leadership roles in society, business and politics. Like most African countries, in Rwanda women are culturally expected to ask the permission of their husbands before engaging in any form of business, social or political activity. Prior to the genocide Rwandan women had weak property rights and female entrepreneurs were rare or unheard of. In the aftermath of the genocide, reforms were passed enabling women to inherit property and Rwandan women found themselves involved in agriculture having to take over their husband's, father's, brother's or uncle's farms. After the devastating genocide, Rwandan women have risen from the conflict stronger than any other woman in the world, taking up positions of power in politics, business and other walks of life. In the recently held Parliamentary elections in Rwanda, women took an overwhelming majority in Parliament with 64 per cent seats. Rwanda remains the only country in the world with a female dominated Parliament, having first achieved the feat in the 2008 polls when women took up 56 per cent representation in the House of Representatives. Observers attribute Rwandan women's impressive performance in the elections to a decision by political parties to give both genders equal chances of making it to Parliament as opposed to past tendencies when men would largely occupy more strategic positions on party electoral lists. Rwanda is also one of the few countries committed to Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council adopted in 2000 with a view to enabling a greater participation of women at all levels of institutional prevention, management and resolution of conflicts and the special protection of girls and women from sexual and other violence.

In Rwanda, success in economics mirrors the rise of women in politics. Approximately 45 percent of Rwandan businesses are owned by women. According to the World Bank, Rwanda has become the second-highest ratio of female entrepreneurs in Africa, second only to Ghana. Just like other African countries, Rwanda has enjoyed a surprisingly fast economic recovery, despite the devastating genocide, which left many farms and businesses deserted, damaged or destroyed. Rwanda's economy has since tripled in size and has grown at an average

of over 6 percent since 2004. This has led to a shift in gender economics in Rwanda's post-genocide society, and has altered the way in which young generation of males view their mothers, aunts and sisters. The Rwandan Minister of State in charge of Agriculture asserts that, "Bringing women out of the home and field has been essential to our rebuilding. We are becoming a nation that understands that there are huge financial benefits to equality." Studies have also shown that when it comes to money matters, most men in Rwanda are reported to default on their bank loans after spending the money on women and liquor, while women maintain their repayments and use their loans to support their family, improve their home or send their children to school. In their efforts to finance reduction of poverty in the developing world, many leading experts say that women simply make better investments. A major study in Brazil showed that the effect of



money managed by women in poor households was 20 times more likely to be spent on improving conditions in the home than money managed by men. It should therefore, come as no surprise that women have been key in reconstructing Rwanda. The Rwandan economy has risen up from the ashes of the genocide and prospered greatly on the back of women. Africa is a growing economy and at the centre of this growing continent

are women ready to make a difference. While most African countries are enjoying high economic growth this does not trickle down to the majority of its citizens most of whom are living in abject poverty despite the reported high rates of economic growth. The rise in economic growth has been overshadowed by a rise in poverty and unemployment as well as lack of education and health care provision. This has been attributed to the fact that the African economy is mirrored on the global male economic model which is focused on competition and profits without due regard to social and human consequences. As demonstrated in the case of Rwanda, women who have taken over businesses are using the money to improve their homes, to combat poverty and to pay for the education of their children.

For Africa to be an effective player in a future global Agenda with sustainable development at the core of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the continent needs to close the gender gap and ensure that the potential of every woman and girl in Africa is fully utilised. African women and girls should be allowed to play an integral part in the remarkable growth, opportunity and promise for development that is currently being experienced in Africa. The unprecedented economic growth brings with it emerging challenges related to sustainable development and women should therefore, be involved in addressing these challenges, which include widespread and extreme levels of poverty and its feminization; heightened human and food insecurity; rising unemployment for a growing youth population; falling levels of education and health care provision; as well as conflict and instability. The gender equality and women's empowerment strategy for Africa must be premised on women as key and indispensable actors and leaders in accelerating economic growth and in achieving socially and environmentally sustainable development.

## Morality Forum Action



John O'Neill has in recent weeks participated in various moral/family campaigns: On Saturday March 29th, together with members of the Harrow branch of SPUC delivering abortion information leaflets door-to-door in Wealdstone, NW London. Partici-

pating in a '40 days for Life' peaceful prayer, fasting (24-7) vigil outside a Marie Stopes abortion clinic in Ealing. This was a worldwide event and lives have been saved.

Emails continue to be sent to numerous individuals and religious organizations concerning key family/moral

issues. John O'Neill has spoken in various Christian churches in recent weeks, highlighting key moral/family issues such as sex education in schools. Relevant information items were handed out to the various congregations. The

sex education Bulletins from SPUC and Coalition for Marriage petition forms continue to be distributed.

John O'Neill recently had an email published in his local paper the Harrow Observer. The email was published in relation to a controversy regarding Harrow Council planning to allow a Somalian child to be adopted by a lesbian couple. Somalian families had demonstrated against this proposal outside the Harrow Civic Centre. The proposal was eventually rescinded. People were asked to contact the paper about this issue. One email was published in favour of the proposal and the other email was John's: ***'Both parents have something to offer'***: *"Any parent knows, and any child knows, that a father has a different heart than a mother does. We assert that every child has the right to a two parent family, because a child needs both: a parent with the heart of a father and a parent with the heart of a mother. A father's attitude and love, and a mother's attitude and love, are different. They are both God's love, but they are different."*

### John Smeaton: Speech recently given in USA defending family values. [Abridged]

SPUC, as a pro-life organization, has fought against same-sex marriage legislation for two reasons. First, Statistical evidence on abortion clearly shows that marriage as an institution protects children, both born and unborn. Secondly, same-sex marriage represents an attempt to redefine marriage, thus undermining marriage as a growing body of academic research clearly shows. This undermining lessens the protection for unborn children which true marriage provides. In particular, the homosexual rights agenda is targeted at our children and at our grandchildren in their school years. I am sorry to have to share with you so early on in my talk that homosexual militants are being invited into schools in Britain, including into Catholic schools with the blessing of the local bishop, to train teachers how to educate little boys as young as four years old that they might grow up to marry a man or that they might grow up to marry a woman - and the same with little girls. The British Government is now committed to promoting

worldwide homosexual law reform and same-sex marriage legislation through the Commonwealth, the European Union and other international bodies. Currently, the web site of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual toolkit to promote these legal changes world-wide. British Prime Minister, David Cameron has threatened to withhold UK aid from poor countries that do not conform saying in connection with the homosexual rights agenda, and I quote: "British aid should have more strings attached". Furthermore, the British government and the European Union have enacted a body of law on the equal employment rights of male and female homosexuals, and bisexuals and transsexuals, which is to be enforced with the threat of severe legal sanctions. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has produced Diversity and Equality Guidelines, a policy statement which (whilst it includes elements of Catholic doctrine) welcomes, seeks to implement and states that it will monitor this Government policy within the Church, including in Catholic schools. Bishops are the first ones called to be untiring preachers of the Gospel of Life.

Rest assured, my friends, that SPUC is leaving no stone unturned in raising these matters in Rome, not only because of the implications for our children and grandchildren in Britain, but also because what the government gets away with in British schools, including in Catholic schools, they are committed to promoting in other countries throughout the world.

If we don't preserve the institution of marriage, we will not be able to begin to protect unborn children. True marriage exists prior to the State, prior to legislation, and it's crystal clear to me, as chief executive of a pro-life educational and political campaigning group, that parents, the primary educators, and the family are even more important than legislation in protecting the right to life of the unborn.

And in this context I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks as a parent to the Catholic bishops of Nigeria:

Last week, the Catholic bishops of Nigeria publicly thanked Goodluck Jonathan, Nigeria's president, for signing into law the Same Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Bill, 2011, which prohibits same-sex marriages, civil partnerships, and the promotion of homosexuality. The media statement from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria describes the new law as: "as a right step in the right direction for the protection of the dignity of the human person". Archbishop Ignatius Kaigama, president of the bishops' conference, commended President Jonathan for his: "decision...not to bow to international pressure in the promotion of unethical and immoral practices of same sex union and other related vices", and spoke of: "the conspiracy of the developed world to make our country and continent, the dumping ground for the promotion of all immoral practices, that have continued to debase the purpose of God for man in the area of creation and morality, in their own countries." As a pro-life leader, as a parent and as a Catholic, I am very grateful to the Nigerian Catholic bishops' defence of families. Standing up against the worldwide homosexual agenda is crucial for the protection of children. Bishops around the world should follow the Nigerian bishops' lead and speak out for strong policies against the subversion of the truth and meaning of human sexuality. John Smeaton is Chief Executive of SPUC.