

## **Statement of the National Black Pro-life Coalition**

The National Black Pro-Life Coalition is a network of Pro-Life and Pro-Family organizations committed to restoring a culture that celebrates life and family cultivating hope in the Black community. Our message and campaigns informs, educates, activates and transforms the culture of death to a culture of life.

Race became an issue in the population control debate with the introduction of Margaret Sanger and Clarence Gamble's Negro Project in 1939 that "... sought to bring about a major birth-rate reduction among American Negroes".<sup>1</sup> Sanger employed ministers to deliver her message of birth control to straighten us out "...if it ever occurs to any of their more rebellious members" they wanted to exterminate us. The Planned Parenthood Federation of America has never renounced this project. In fact, on their website they modified Sanger's statements, cutting out phrases like "more rebellious members" in order to frame her bigoted beliefs in civil and women's rights terminology to cast an acceptable light of protecting the health of Black and poor women. The articles published in her Birth Control Review have been re-scripted or attributed to others on their website to change the narrative that her eugenics based belief system controlled her actions when dealing with Negroes.

But her eugenic quest was made clear in many of her own writings and in one article she said America should "...apply a stern and rigid policy of sterilization and segregation to that grade of population whose progeny is already tainted... to apportion farm lands and homesteads for these segregated persons where they would be... for the period of their entire lives"<sup>3</sup>. This mindset contributed to the establishment of eugenic boards in more than 30 states that forced the sterilization of more than 65,000 Americans. Elaine Reddick is one example. Elaine was raped by a neighbor when she was 13 years old. The North Carolina Eugenics Board ruled her feeble-minded and ordered her sterilized after coercing her grandmother to give permission lest she lose her government assistance. It was not until Elaine was 19 and married that she learned she had been sterilized.

But no amount of changing the narrative and reframing birth control and abortion in civil rights terms can change the reality that Alan Guttmacher, the President of Planned Parenthood from 1962 – 1974 was a eugenicist and for a time that overlapped his presidency, was Vice President of the American Eugenics Society that "championed racial betterment, eugenic health, and genetic education".<sup>4</sup> Population control by skin color was the basis by which he guided the organization into the era of abortion on demand.

Population control by skin color was also a desire of the 37<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Richard Milhous Nixon. In 1969 he appointed by John D. Rockefeller, III to head the commission on Population Growth and the American Future. It was this

Commission that encouraged America “to make population choices, both in the individual family and society at large, on the basis of greater rationality rather than tradition or custom, ignorance or chance”<sup>5</sup>.

We later learned Nixon supported legalizing abortion in America believing Black babies would be the ones aborted. In 1972 he said: "A majority of people in Colorado voted for abortion, I think a majority of people in Michigan are for abortion, I think in both cases, well, certainly in Michigan they will vote for it [ abortion ] because they think that what's going to be aborted generally are the little Black bastards."<sup>6</sup>

In the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, Mr. Justice Blackmun said “In addition, population growth, pollution, poverty, and racial overtones tend to complicate and not to simplify the problem”. It was this seemingly innocuous statement that introduced race and population control into the abortion public discourse. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg sent shockwaves through the Black Pro-life community when she stated in a 2009 New York Times Magazine interview that she “had thought that at the time Roe was decided, there was concern about population growth and particularly growth in populations that we don't want to have too many of”. No one doubted that the population they didn't want too many of were the Negroes in Planned Parenthood's Negro Project. This was especially true because the organization was headed by an open eugenicist, Alan Guttmacher, when the case was decided and the environment of America tolerated eugenic principles in population control discussions and practices as was made clear by Nixon's backroom conversations.

Since then the march toward controlling the Black birth rate through abortion has increased and in the past ten years has exploded reaching into every corner of the Black and increasingly Latino communities. And that reach is an “intentional abortion performed for purposes of eliminating an unborn child because the child or a parent of the child is of an undesired race” as outlined in the PRENDA bill. Here are a few examples.

In 2006, Cecile Richards, the current President of Planned Parenthood assumed the helm of that organization. Shortly thereafter a pattern began to emerge. Larger and larger surgical abortion facilities were being erected within a two mile radius of Black and Latino neighborhoods such as Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast (the second largest abortion facility in the world), Virginia League for Planned Parenthood, Hampton, VA, Planned Parenthood Greater Texas, Dallas, Texas; Kissimee Health Center, Kissimee, FL, and the proposed new center in New Orleans, LA. A 2012 study completed by Protecting Black Life of Cincinnati Ohio revealed more than 79% of the Planned Parenthood surgical centers have been placed, deliberately, within a two mile radius of a Black or Latino neighborhood.

In 2007, Live Action, a Washington, DC pro-life group, conducted an investigation into Planned Parenthood's financial dealings and made a shocking discovery. They "obtained the information by having an actor call clinics across the country and pose as a donor. The actor communicated to the Planned Parenthood representative a very racist agenda—the one that Margaret Sanger, Planned Parenthood's founder, had envisioned. He then asked to donate money specifically for the abortions of African-American babies in order to "lower the number of blacks in America.

Despite his bigoted requests, no Planned Parenthood employee (or director of development, in one case) declined the tainted money. Some even asked to speak with other employees to get permission. In the first day of calling seven clinics, not a single Planned Parenthood representative expressed outrage or concern at the racism behind donations specifically "to reduce the number of blacks." In fact, some even went as far as agreeing with the anti-black agenda"<sup>6</sup>.

In 2008-2009 tax filing, Planned Parenthood acknowledged their mission is to achieve a "U.S. population of stable size in an optimum environment" <sup>7</sup>allowing the reviewer to draw their own conclusion about what an optimum environment is. We believe that environment is one with a significantly reduced number of Blacks and Planned Parenthood uses Black facts to achieve that goal. For example, in the Certificate of Public Need submitted to the Virginia Department of Health in 2012, Planned Parenthood cited the Black infant and maternal mortality rates to justify construction of a third surgical room. Though the only surgery they provide at that facility is abortion, they were using the mortality rates of Black women and infants to justify the construction of a room to terminate the lives of Black babies. We submit that every pregnancy terminated in that room on a Black woman was because of the race of the baby or mother.

The idea of achieving a population of optimum size by terminating the lives of Black babies was the sentiment in some state governments as well. In 2008, The Speaker of the Georgia House of Representative was reported to have said, each time a pro-life piece of legislation was offered, things like "passing that piece of legislation would result in GA being "overrun with black babies" and if the funds for birth control were halted it would "result in the birth of more black babies" and "more black babies would be born and on the dole". That the Speaker made these comments was confirmed by the Speaker himself in a conversation with Catherine Davis and Alveda King (niece of Martin Luther King, Jr.) in February 2008. He said he did not say the words quoted above but he may "have said something like that". As a legislator, his motive to defeat pro-life legislation was perfectly aligned with terminating pregnancies to control the Black birth rate.

In legislative hearings for a PRENDA like bill in Georgia in 2010, a young white female testified that she had gotten pregnant at age 14 by a 22 year old Black male. Her mother forced her to abort the child stating she could not bring that little Black (expletive) into

her home. Despite telling every worker in the Augusta, GA Planned Parenthood, including the doctor, she wanted her child, they aborted her baby. They did not allow her to see the ultra sound or hear the heartbeat, in violation of Georgia law. They also failed to report the statutory rape of a minor, and they readily participated in the forced abortion.

Margo Davison, a Black Democrat from the Philadelphia, PA area, was endorsed by Planned Parenthood in her 2010 race for the state house. She won. The Grand Jury report that resulted in the indictment of Kermit Gosnell, the Philadelphia abortionist who was birthing babies alive and then killing them, revealed that the death of Ms. Davison's cousin, Semika Shaw was at the hands of Gosnell. Semika died a tortuous death after a botched abortion at 5 months left her body raging with infection. Davison sought to safeguard other young women from the butchery of substandard abortionists like Gosnell and voted to close the regulatory loophole that allowed his long term substandard practice to exist. Planned Parenthood's response not only withdrew their endorsement and financial support, but also they found a candidate to run against Ms. Davison when she sought re-election<sup>8</sup>. Their rabid thirst for controlling the Black birth rate by abortion is so out of control, they advocate abortion be unrestricted and unregulated, even if it is performed in a substandard clinical environment that results in the death of the mother.

In 2012 an abortion doctor in Charlotte, NC publically stated his motive for doing abortions was to keep ugly Black babies from being born and a burden to tax payers.

By 2015, Planned Parenthood's Negro Project has become a thriving industry luring many of those in 3% of America's child bearing aged women into the abortion centers that dot their neighborhoods. And with those increased visitations came a new stream of revenue for their population control mission. Planned Parenthood had finally assigned value to the people of color when they began selling the body parts of those they were aborting. The centers most engaged in these sales, were among the largest of those nestled in Black and Latino neighborhoods including Houston, TX, San Jose, CA, and Orange, CA. The Center for Medical Progress Human Capital Project has documented center after center engaging in the trafficking of baby body parts.

In response to the allegations Planned Parenthood is violating federal law by selling baby parts, Cecile Richards and others have repeatedly signaled that to remove federal funds from their coffers would result in removing access to "reproductive healthcare" from poor women in communities of color. This repeated statement is a clear acknowledgement that Planned Parenthood is directing their population control efforts toward America's Black and Latino women. Planned Parenthood rarely, if ever, state the removal of taxpayer funding will result in denying access to healthcare to Caucasian women.

Most of America believed the ability to target or treat people differently based on the color of their skin ended with the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. With Planned Parenthood's implementation of the Negro Project, and the acceptance of eugenics based population control through abortion centers, Blacks and other people of color continue to face discrimination that today has risen to the legal definition of genocide as outlined in Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948). We urge the Congress to take action to provide relief to those most impacted by enacting the Prenatal NonDiscrimination Act (PRENDA) 2016.

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1. [https://www.pop.org/content/betting-lives-clarence-gamble-and-pathfinder-international#endnote\\_anchor-21](https://www.pop.org/content/betting-lives-clarence-gamble-and-pathfinder-international#endnote_anchor-21), last accessed April 1, 2016
2. *Margaret Sanger's December 19, 1939 letter to Dr. Clarence Gamble, 255 Adams Street, Milton, Massachusetts. Original source: Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College, North Hampton, Massachusetts.*
3. Margaret Sanger, *Birth Control Review*, "Plan for Peace" April 1932, Vol 26, Number 4
4. <https://library.missouri.edu/exhibits/eugenics/aes.htm>
5. [http://www.population-security.org/rockefeller/001\\_population\\_growth\\_and\\_the\\_american\\_future.htm#Chapter 1](http://www.population-security.org/rockefeller/001_population_growth_and_the_american_future.htm#Chapter%201) (last accessed April 11, 2016)
6. White House Tape 697/29 — Thursday, March 30th, 1972
7. Planned Parenthood now denies this statement was made by them with the IRS, however no corrected copy is available. [PlannedParenthood\\_2009-131644147.pdf](#)
8. <http://thefederalist.com/2014/03/21/why-is-planned-parenthood-working-to-unseat-gosnell-victims-cousin/> (last accessed April 11, 2016)