



Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues

2021

End of Year Report



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Summary

The Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues (PNCI), based in Washington, D.C., continued its mission to advance global respect and dignity for life through law and policy around the world in 2021 despite the challenges of COVID-19. PNCI shared information and networked with key parliamentarians and staff, leaders of like-minded organizations, and clergy to counter the promotion of abortion including by international and regional organizations, pro-abortion lawmakers and radical abortion activist groups.

PNCI kept the public informed on pro-life efforts internationally and wrote Priest for Life's submissions to the United Nations giving pro-life witness during key meetings. PNCI also participated in discussions with the Forum for Catholic-inspired NGOs.

I. Information sharing

PNCI operated under two levels of information sharing—public and internal—with partner individuals, organizations and coalitions including for Africa, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United Nations,

PNCI tracked news outlets and websites for the latest news, events, and tactics affecting global respect for life from conception to natural death including those run by, or related to, the United Nations, Organization of American States, European Parliament, Council of Europe, and African Union.

Through the [PNCI website](#), the monthly PNCI newsletters, updates, daily news clips and personal emails, PNCI helped keep its network informed of global actions affecting abortion and helped facilitate exchange of information and strategies.

Each edition of the newsletter included a focus on the pro-abortion actions of the Biden administration, on activities related to abortion by United Nations entities, pro-life victories and activities around the world and in the United States, actions to advance access to abortion, and summaries of the actions of legislators, executives and judicial bodies around the world on critical life issues.

Updates were sent via email to PNCI contacts and posted on the website as appropriate about current and urgent issues.

PNCI monitored leading abortion NGO websites and social media for pro-abortion activities and plans alerting PNCI partners and coalitions to specific challenges.

It shared opportunities for pro-life NGOs to show their support for country specific pro-life legislation and responded to requests for assistance from individuals and other NGOs.

PNCI was recognized as a reputable source of information with pro-life news sources reposting PNCI's updates and articles from its newsletter.

PNCI news receiving the greatest attention included: *European Parliament Condemns US Pro-Life Laws*; *Public Officials Are Told: "Say Abortion!"*; *G 7 Shared Agenda Includes Ending the Lives of Unborn Children*; and *Extreme Pro-Abortion Report Advances to a Vote at European Parliament*.

II. Monitoring pro-abortion tactics

PNCI monitored pro-abortion NGO websites in order to learn pro-abortion tactics and develop counter measures and strategies with members of the network through personal and group emails.

A major concern continued to be the activism to lessen or remove restrictions on women's and adolescents' access to abortion-inducing drugs for so-called DIY (do-it-yourself) abortion and the use of telemedicine to enable that access using the

pandemic as an excuse. Access to abortion continued to be called part of “essential healthcare” in response to the pandemic by various UN agencies, including the WHO, with efforts to make the changes permanent.

PNCI was thanked for its work in alerting its network to the challenges. A contact in the Caribbean wrote: *“Thank you for bringing this related and important program to our attention!”* A contact in Europe wrote: *“Thank you for bringing us this information. It is very useful for our work!”*

III. Networking and collaboration

PNCI collaborates with other US-based pro-life groups and with pro-life groups from around the world.

PNCI networked with parliamentarians and staff and pro-life leaders from select countries and regions of the world and maintained close collaboration with key individuals in its global network. PNCI believes that collaboration is most successful when it remains confidential and local leaders are empowered to defend life.

It is a member of various pro-life google groups organized to advance protection of life including for Africa, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United Nations.

PNCI participated in Zoom calls, responded to questions seeking answers on pro-life issues, and assisted in efforts to garner support for pro-life actions and legislation.

PNCI is acknowledged as a trusted source with one leader in Europe saying, *“Thank you for all the fantastic information you always give us with links and pulling out for us the pertinent parts. It’s really helpful to all of our work.”*

IV. Working to sustain and expand Trump pro-life coalition

PNCI collaborated to sustain and expand the pro-life and pro-family coalition begun under the Trump administration when 34 countries signed the Geneva Consensus Declaration proclaiming that “human rights extend to unborn children”. It was the first time that countries united to stand up for core values of life and family as they face ongoing attempts by the United Nations to promote abortion as an international human right and advance access to abortion.

PNCI kept its network informed on how countries can join the coalition and the ongoing work and events sponsored by The Institute for Women's Health to sustain the coalition and to expand its numbers. Two additional countries signed the Declaration and joined the coalition in 2021: Russia and Guatemala.

V. Cooperation with the Forum for Catholic-Inspired NGOs

PNCI continued participation in the human rights working group of the Forum for Catholic-Inspired NGOs and in discussions on the politicization of human rights and attempts to expand the concept of human rights in harmful ways, including efforts advancing abortion as a human right.

VI. Pro-Life Advocacy at the United Nations

PNCI notified its network about UN submission opportunities and collaborated with Priests for Life in its pro-life advocacy at the United Nations writing PFL submissions to meetings, helping to give pro-life witness.

The Annex contains the full submission statements for the top three annual meetings taking place at the United Nations in 2022.

Excerpts follow below:

60th session of the Commission for Social Development

Priority theme: "Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda"

PFL statement includes:

Well-being and dignity for all — every human life without exception — form the foundation of policies and programs that liberate countries and, most importantly, people from poverty and hunger, and ensure an inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19.

During the 60th session of the Commission for Social Development, attention must be given to reducing the large number of children who are malnourished and to meeting their nutrition needs, right from the start at conception, and to meeting the nutritional needs of women and girls of reproductive age.

Children in the womb are the most hidden victims of the pandemic as they develop and grow during the most vulnerable time in every human being's life. What happens in the womb will affect them for the rest of their lives and will impact their families, communities and countries. Their health and nutritional needs must be included in programs that address poverty and nutrition and recovery from COVID-19.

Priests for Life believes that their lives, and every human life, need to be valued for their innate worth. No member of the human family should be stripped of human dignity and denied their most basic right — the right to life — through policies that

allow individuals to be marginalized, treated as a problem, and their elimination considered an acceptable strategy for poverty eradication.

Sixty-Sixth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Priority theme: "Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes"

PFL statement includes:

Priests for Life recalls the words of Pope Francis writing in [On Care for Our Common Home](#) that since everything is interrelated, concern for the protection of nature is also incompatible with the justification of abortion. He asks the question, "*How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient they may be, if we fail to protect a human embryo, even when its presence is uncomfortable and creates difficulties?*"

Priests for Life concurs and believes that women need to be empowered in their universally valued role as mothers and protected from environmental toxins and the dangers of climate change which negatively impact their and their children's health, before and after birth, and contribute to maternal and newborn mortality.

Priests for Life is especially concerned with the large number of women and girls around the world who are adversely impacted by exposure to chemicals and hazardous wastes, which lead to developmental disabilities in unborn children and infertility. [Women, Chemicals and the SDGs](#) by UN Environment Programme describes how women are disproportionately impacted by exposure to chemicals and wastes while having less access to participation in decision making on waste management.

A growing body of research around the world has raised concern about the negative impact of hormones excreted into water supplies worldwide, including estrogen from contraceptives and from animals treated with hormones or naturally occurring, that affect human, animal, and fish reproduction and fertility while creating the need for new water treatment systems.

Water supplies are also filled with endocrine-disrupting chemicals which have a long-term impact on unborn children's development and lead to adverse birth outcomes and developmental impacts on the child's central nervous, skeleton, and reproductive systems.

Women and girls deserve a healthy environment that respects, protects and empowers their procreative ability. The very future of the human family depends on protection and care of all of creation, not the destruction of the weakest and most vulnerable through abortion.

Fifty-fifth Commission on Population and Development

Priority theme: “Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth”

PFL statement includes:

Priests for Life in its submission to the 55th Commission on Population and Development highlights two particular areas of concern, malnutrition and exposure to environmental risks, under the theme population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth as related to chapter III of the Programme of Action and urges the Commission to address these dual risks beginning at the earliest stage of life, in the womb, which impact an individual for her or his entire lifetime.

Adequate nutrition during the first 1,000 days of life not only saves the lives of women and children, it reduces stunted growth, wasting, and malnutrition which improves the economies of countries. When women of child-bearing age are well-nourished, they are healthier and better able to provide nourishment for their children in the womb and those they are nursing. They are better able to make nutritious food choices for themselves and their young children; all essential to ensuring healthy physical and cognitive development. When children thrive, they are empowered to become healthy adults who are better equipped to make meaningful contributions to their families, society, and country.

Exposure to environmental risks also negatively impact the health of women and children, before and after birth, and contribute to maternal and newborn mortality.

Priests for Life also raises concern about risks present in the world’s water supply caused by an assortment of chemicals that can impact women’s and children’s health.

Priests for Life urges the Commission to address the dangers of malnutrition and environmental risks. The very future of the human family depends on protection and care of all its members during all stages of the life cycle, beginning in the womb.

[Read the PNCI 2021 Annex Report](#)