A quarterly publication of Rochester Area Right to Life Committee, Inc. Education Fund January 2009

F O C A Freedom of Choice Act



The greatest threat to human life since *Roe v Wade* is ready for introduction to the U.S. Congress now.

- F.O.C.A. would invalidate ALL federal, state or local government law, regulation, policy or action that would "deny or interfere with" a woman's access to abortion.
- F.O.C.A. would apply, regardless of "*Viability*," to ANY abortion sought for "health," not defined in the bill, so abortion would be justified by ANY physical or emotional factor claimed by an abortion seeker.
- F.O.C.A. would invalidate ALL laws requiring parental or judicial notification or consent for abortions done on minors, laws permitting health care providers to opt out or performing abortions on conscience grounds, laws prohibiting non-physicians from performing abortions and waiting periods.
- F.O.C.A. is designed to strip all 50 states of all common sense prolife legislation passed since 1973.
- F.O.C.A. is designed to guarantee <u>unrestricted</u>, <u>unregulated abortion-on-demand</u> throughout all nine months of pregnancy, for any reason whatsoever, no matter what an individual state may or may not want on abortion.
- If F.O.C.A. passes, New York State would be required to continue taxpayer-funded abortion and be unable to:
 - 1. Provide ultrasound viewing
 - 2 Prohibit abortion pre-payment
 - 3. Require informed consent for abortion
 - 4. Set and monitor clinic regulations
 - 5. Require abortion complications' reporting
 - 6. Require parental consent for minor's abortion
 - 7. Provide conscience cause for abortions

Don't think this is so radical it could never happen.
On July 17, 2007, speaking to the Planned
Parenthood Action Fund, Senator Barack Obama said:
"The first thing I'd do as President is sign the Freedom of
Choice Act (F.O.C.A.). That's the first thing I'd do."
He continued: "Throughout my career I've been a
consistent and strong supporter of reproductive justice
and have consistently had a 100% pro-choice rating with
Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice America."

F.O.C.A. was first introduced in 2004 but did not pass in both houses. It will be reintroduced at the beginning of the 2009-10 Session. Despite President-elect Obama's desire to quickly sign F.O.C.A. into law, Congress may not quickly pass the bill. Obama's advisors have suggested the F.O.C.A. be held back until he's been in office a while. That may be a diversionary rumor.

We must listen and watch carefully.

Pro-life people have no time to lose. We must massively increase public awareness about F.O.C.A. Public ignorance of F.O.C.A. and its effects was seen in its being deliberately downplayed during Obama's election activities.

Educating about F.O.C.A. is an **immediate must**. See page 3 for effective opposition activities to <u>begin now</u> and <u>continue until the F.O.C.A.</u> is defeated.

HOLY HOUR; 1/22 @ Sacred Heart Cathedral

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Justin Cardinal Rigali's letter to Congress

In September, 2008, the Cardinal wrote to the members of the 110th Congress on behalf of the Catholic bishops of the United States. The Cardinal warned about the F.O.C.A. removing Congressional ability to "enact modest restraints...on the abortion industry." He added apprehension about coercing all Americans "into subsidizing and promoting abortion with their tax dollars" and predicted the F.O.C.A. would "counteract ...sincere efforts by government to reduce abortions in our country." ... "For the first time, abortion on demand would be a national *entitlement* that government must condone and promote in all public programs affecting pregnant women.

Cardinal Rigali's letter included some of the information on our Life-Lines front page and the following. He referenced the national debate on abortion seeking consensus on reducing abortion numbers, saying many women have testified of social and economic hardships pushing them to abortion. He asked for support of a law to help women carry pregnancies to term. He noted that there was ample evidence that programs "promoting contraceptive mandates and 'emergency contraception' generally do *not* reduce abortions. For more information see Cardinal Rigali's full letter at www.usccb.org/prolife/FOCArigali.pdf

Cardinal Rigali effectively ended the letter with the following:

"However there is one thing absolutely everyone should be able to agree on: We can't reduce abortions by promoting abortion. We cannot reduce abortions by invalidating the very laws that have been shown to reduce abortions. We cannot reduce abortions by insisting that every program supporting women in childbirth and child care must also support abortion. No one who sponsors or supports legislation like F.O.C.A. can credibly claim to be part of a good faith discussion on how to reduce abortions."

Made to order pro-abortion laws

On 12/17/08, Family Research Council Director, Tony Perkins, wrote about an "undo" list given to President-elect Obama. He referred to a 12/17/08 *Wall Street Journal* article by Laura Meckler about pro-life policies the next President will move quickly to reverse. As President Bush, Obama can accomplish much by Executive Orders, which require no Congressional approval but have legal weight equal to laws passed by Congress. Even if the 44th President puts the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) on the back-burner, as his transition team recommends, he could still significantly harm the sanctity of life by



- Rescinding the Mexico City policy, which would then permit sending taxpayer dollars to overseas groups providing and promoting abortion;
- Restoring funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which condones forced abortion and sterilization policies in countries like China;
- Having the Department of Health and Human Services change the conscience exemptions for health care workers who morally object to abortion and other practices;
- Changing the Department of Justice Sexual Assault Protocol, Defense Department pharmaceutical formulary, and USAID's Commodities Program to encourage the use of "Plan B," which ... [is said to] ...act as an abortifacient;
- Making "emergency contraception" available over-the-counter for girls of all ages;
- Rolling back the abstinence-only education requirement for certain federal aid; and,
- Permitting use of taxpayer funds for the destruction of human embryos through unethical stem cell research.

Pro-abortion Surgeon General pick

At press time, President-elect Obama appeared poised to appoint Sanjay Gupta, M.D. to be the next Surgeon General. Gupta, a practicing neurosurgeon and a media celebrity reports on medical matters for the cable news network.

Dr. Gupta apparently favors abortions, including those done to disabled unborn children He has opposed protections for pro-life medical professionals, and denied risks associated with the RU 486 abortion drug. In a CNN December 2008 report Gupta appeared to join abortion advocates condemning the Bush administration's new regulations giving more protections for doctors and medical centers not wanting abortion involvement.

Gupta's religious affiliation is not now known. Seven of fourteen Cabinet nominations are Catholic and pro-abortion (see page 6). Others of various religious affiliations appear to be predominantly pro-abortion. From Ertelt; LifeNews.com; 1-7-09 Unknown is whether this large number of pro-abortion appointments is deliberate or accidental.

P U C F A

Protecting Unborn Children From Abortion

The push in Washington for F.O.C.A. requires prolife people to vigorously work on **P.U.C.F.A**. Exactly when **F.O.C.A**. (Freedom of Choice Act) will be introduced is not known. What is certain is the commitment President-elect Obama and many Cabinet and staff members have to the **F.O.C.A. P.U.C.F.A.** activities must begin immediately.

It is expected that Senator Hillary Clinton will be replaced by a Governor Patterson' appointee when Mrs. Clinton takes the position of Secretary of State. Also, following the November, 2007 elections, New York's Congressional representatives will include many new faces. Both the returning and the new legislators need to begin the 2009 session with urgent messages from

constituents to **Protect Unborn Children from Abortion.**

ail sent to Washington is delayed for security measures. Local office addresses are now known only for re-elected Senator Schumer and Representatives. Addresses are in your phone book or at your County Board of Election (number in phone book). Newly appointed/elected legislators' addresses will be at your County Board of Election where you call for the names and addresses of NY's new Senator and your Congressional representative. Add these legislators' names, addresses and phone numbers to your address book so you use them often for P.U.C.F.A. and other pro-life activities.

Please do as many of the following as possible, now and often:

If you or a family member/friend is pregnant and concerned about going to term, get help from pro-life doctors/organizations, e.g. Birthright of Rochester, Care Net Pregnancy Center of Orleans County, CompassCare Pregnancy Services, Embracing Options, Women's Care Center and more. Check phone book or call RARTL @ 585-621-4690 for information.

Pray & fast that God mobilizes pro-life people in NY and across the U.S. to oppose F.O.C.A.

Contact <u>President-elect Barack Obama;</u> The White House; Washington, D.C. 20500; 1-202-456-1111 (Comment line M-F 9-5) & <u>Senator Charles Schumer;</u> U.S. Senate; Washington, D.C. 20510; 1-202-224-6542 Phone or 1-202-228-3027 Fax. Contact both our "new" Senator and <u>your</u> House Representative by local mail or phone.

Tell each of the four, in your own words, that 50,000,000 innocent, helpless unborn babies have already lost their lives to "choice" since *Roe v Wade* legalized abortion 36 years ago. Speak about a few of the sections of F.O.C.A. and tell why you object to them. It is good to refer to the harm abortions have done to women and families you have known, its use as a method of birth-control or other points that explain your objection to the F.O.C.A. being passed.

Ask about the legislator's stand on F.O.C.A. and ask that he/she be told of your message. Ask to have a written response to your concerns from the legislator. Learn the name of the person with whom you are speaking and periodically call the same person with regularity while F.O.C.A. is available for action.

Learn what F.O.C.A. would do, if passed, and alert family, friend, co-workers and all you know so they too can take P.U.C.F.A. action by educating others. Good resource for information about the bill and action on it is www.nrlc.org.

Must save our "Hyde"



President-elect Obama has assured his supporters an attempt will be made to pass the F.O.C.A. It may happen on day 1 or on the 101st day of his term. We can and must be vigilant in our opposition to FOCA, which, if passed, will bring the largest expansion of abortion since 1973.

As we do all we can to oppose F.O.C.A. other threats exist One of the most serious, and an Obama target for termination is the Hyde Amendment. The Hyde Amendment, first enacted in 1976, is a pro-life limitation amendment placed in annual appropriations bills. Placed in the federal HHS budget, it restricts federal funds, i.e. our tax dollars, being spent for abortion unless the actual health of the mother is threatened. It has saved countless lives during the 36 years of its use.

Because appropriations bills are passed each year,, including the Hyde Amendment in them has been necessary every year; 2009 will be no exception. Without Hyde Amendment abortion funding limitations, abortions can be handled almost as if they are "free," having no meaningful restrictions and, thus, leading to increased abortions.

The pro-abortionists have ranked the termination of Hyde as Priority #1 for the first 100 days of the Obama Administration, as shown on the top left of page 7 in the abortion industry's "Advancing Reproductive Rights and Health in a New Administration."

Pro-lifers must be working to save the Hyde Amendment now. We must inform the public and our legislators about the danger of losing it, just as we will be educating them on the dangers if FOCA is passed.

New York State does use our tax dollars for Medicaid abortion funding, <u>by</u> the choice of our Governors and Legislature.

We have and will continue to fight this un-required expenditure in March, 2009.

In the meantime, we must tell our federal Senators and Congresspersons to save Hyde. Failure to protect our "hydes" will have us paying for even more abortions with our tax dollars.

Roe v Wade anniversary Holy Hour at Sacred Heart Cathedral; 7:00-8:00 PM; Thursday, January 22nd

Adult stem cells do tissue repair

Progress continues in ethical use of adult stem cells in treatments. Evidence of their ability to self renew and also repair tissue damage was reported at the 48th annual meeting of the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) on December 14th.

A particular adult stem cell population in muscle in a mouse's hind leg was destroyed with radiation, making it impossible for the muscle to repair itself. A transplant of "skeletal adult muscle stem cells" was done and time was allowed for the stem cells to proliferate. Recovery from a subsequent injury showed that the transplant had restored the muscle's ability to repair itself. Furthermore, scientists were able to take newly-formed stem cells from the repaired muscle and grow them in the laboratory. from http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-12/asfc-sas112008.php

Dr. David Prentice, a leading pro-life bioethicist, was enthusiastic, saying: "These detailed experiments lay the groundwork for the potential use of muscle adult stem cells to treat various muscle disorders in patients." He explained:

"The work by the Stanford group is exciting, because it shows with very definitive experiments that even a single muscle adult stem cell can grow and repair muscle damage, while still maintaining a pool of muscle stem cells for future repair, or as in these experiments, for transplant."

Also, research at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine with stem cells in the esophagus of mice, has shown the stem cell growth into tissue-like structures. When placed into immune-deficient mice parts of an esophagus lining were formed. This was reported in the December **Journal of Clinical Investigation**

"The immediate implication is that we'll have a better understanding of the role of these stem cells in normal biology, as well as in regenerative and cancer biology," senior author Anil K. Rustgi, MD said in a statement. He said the findings could soon lead to treatments for patients using the adult stem cells. He added: "The ultimate goal is to identify esophageal stem cells in a patient, grow the patient's own stem cells, and inject them locally to replace diseased tissue with normal lining,"

Dr. Prentice, with the Family Research Council, also commented on the Penn study.

"This report is interesting because they were able to isolate and grow the adult stem cells from a mouse esophagus, and also get the cells to help with repair of damaged esophagus tissue in mice."

"The results are promising for use of these adult stem cells in repair of various types of esophagus damage, including reflux disease." from Ertelt; *LifeNews.com* 12/15/08

Adult stem cell usage continues to deliver results while embryonic stem cell usage has cured nothing.

NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATION

Governor David Patterson is a pro-abortion Democrat as are most Democrats currently holding state offices. Also, as of 1/01/09, the Democratic Party will control both the N.Y.S. Senate and the Assembly. Gloomy as this picture seems, we must be persistent in presenting the pro-life message to the Governor and the legislators. Challenging as it will be, we must successfully encourage legislators who have voted or spoken out against the pro-life position in the past to take a serious second look.

As this is written, NYS 2009 legislation had not been written/introduced. Now is an excellent time to contact Governor Patterson and your Senator and Assembly Member with a general message like the following:

Please protect the right to life of each individual, from conception to natural death, in all 2009 legislation and funding. Thank you for your serious consideration of this request.

Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act (RHAPP)

This legislation was initially introduced and vigorously pushed by Governor Spitzer. Following the Spitzer resignation, Governor Patterson then spoke of his support of RHAPP but did little to push it during the remainder of the session. There are several possible explanations for his failure to push it in 2008, e.g. doubt it would pass in the then Republican majority Senate, a wish to avoid controversy early in his tenure as Governor. However, this is a new session, with total Democratic control of all branches. There is no doubt that RHAPP will get attention.

RHAPP, likely to be re-introduced in a form similar to the first proposed bill, is radical pro-abortion legislation., which:

- •Would establish a "fundamental right to privacy" in N.Y.S. law, giving the right to "bear a child or terminate a pregnancy" as if both options were equally valid;
- •Would allow post-viability abortions to be performed on an out-patient basis at clinics, leaving women and unborn children with no medical back-up services.
- •Would force all doctors to perform abortions and force all hospitals to allow abortions to be done, even if abortion is opposed to their religious beliefs.
- Would repeal current requirement that only doctors can perform abortions.
- •Would make abortion immune from state regulations or restrictions, e.g. parental notification for abortions performed on minor children or informing women of the risks of abortion and alternatives to abortion.
- •Would suppress all efforts to enact an "Unborn Victims of Violence Act" by not recognizing the unborn child as a second victim in cases of assaults against pregnant women.
- •Would remove N.Y State abortion-related laws from the criminal code, making abortion regulation a medical profession responsibility.

Needed actions

Visit, call, write or e-mail the Governor and your legislators. Clearly state your opposition to the radical RHAPP bill. Pick some of the points above to stress in your communication. Find local office addresses through your county Board of Election or phone book or use the following Albany information:

Assembly Member _____ NYS Assembly Albany, NY 12248 Switchboard: (518) 455-4100 www.assembly.state.ny.us Senator _____ NYS Senate Albany, NY 12247 Switchboard: (518) 455-2800 www.senate.state.ny.us Governor David Patterson Executive Chamber State Capitol Albany, NY 12224 (518) 474-8390

Begin immediately and continue often communicating your objections to RHAPP, stressing different aspect of the bill each time.

Share this information as widely as possible; encourage as many as possible to speak up about this abomination.

Caroline Kennedy: anti-life

At press time the success of Caroline Kennedy's pursuit of Hillary Clinton's U.S. Senate seat is unknown. What is now known are Kennedy's anti-life beliefs. As widely anticipated, Kennedy has come out as firmly pro-abortion. Reportedly, when she was considering seeking the position, one of her first calls was to NARAL, seeking their support.

In email responses to **New York Times**' questions, a Kennedy's spokesman was asked her position on parental notification for a minor seeking abortion. He responded: "Caroline believes that young women facing unwanted pregnancies should have the advice of caring adults, but this should not be required by law." About late-term abortions Kennedy was said to "support *Roe v. Wade*, which prohibits third-trimester abortions except when the life or health of the mother is at risk."

Kennedy, a Roman Catholic, has no public service background, having just become visible as an Obama election team member. Her pro-abortion position was forecast by her public praise of Mr. Obama. NARAL of New York likes Kennedy replacing Clinton. They said Kennedy was "someone who could take up the mantle that Hillary has sort of started in terms of commitment to reproductive health care. From Kathleen Gilbert; LifeSiteNews.com; 12-11-08

Other pro-choice Catholics

Eight of the fourteen picked for high-level positions by President-elect Obama identify themselves as Catholic. All of the eight, (*now seven) have been abortion supporters in either votes and/or statements. These Obama administration picks are expected to be easily confirmed. Numbers represent their places in the order of succession for the presidency. They are:

- 1 Vice-President **Joseph Biden**, a heartbeat away from becoming America's second Catholic President;
- 2 Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, unable/unwilling to correctly represent Church position on when human life begins;
- 8 Secretary of the Interior **Ken Salazar**, high-ranking pro-abortion Catholic from Colorado;
- 9 Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Iowa governor, brief presidential contender, supports keeping abortion legal,
- 10 Secretary of Commerce Bill Richardson, New Mexico governor, former self-identified as pro-choice,
 - *1-4-09: Richardson withdrew his acceptance of nomination because of ongoing Grand Jury investigations
- 11 Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, California representative; outspoken supporter of abortion rights,
- 12 Secretary of Health & Human Services **Tom Daschle**, pro-abortion record as former senator from South Dakota,
- 14 Secretary of Transportation **Ray LaHood**, Illinois representative has a "centrist" reputation on abortion.

From "Catholics on Call,; Our Sunday Visitor; 1/4/09

The trend of appointing pro-abortion Catholics to high level government positions continued. Leon Panetta was appointed head of the CIA. Panetta, a Catholic, teaches at the Jesuit-run Santa Clara University. His strong pro-abortion record was acquired as a California congressman who co-sponsored the Freedom of Choice Act in 1990. Later as Clinton's chief-of-staff, he supported the president's veto of the partial-birth abortion ban. From: Gilbert; LifeSiteNews.com 1-6-09

Bioethics document defends human person

Dignitas Personae (The Dignity of a Person) is a Roman Catholic Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith (CDF) teaching. It covers medical research ethical issues and guidance about respecting human life and human procreation. Francis Cardinal George, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and others commented.

It was applauded as a "series of indications so that science will be truly at the service of life and not of death or of arbitrary, dangerous manipulation of human persons." It respects the sanctity of human life from the <u>moment of conception</u>, It opposes "discarding /manipulating innocent lives to benefit future generations or promoting creation of new human life in depersonalized ways that substitute for the loving union between a husband and wife."

Approved are fertility treatments that "succeed in re-establishing the normal function of human procreation" and "stem cell research and therapies that respect the inherent dignity of the human person." Infertile couples' adopting as infertility research continues was encouraged. Use of vaccines with "unethically obtained cells and tissues" is permissible in situations of serious health jeopardy for a child, but parents must ask their health-care system to make other types of vaccines available.

Dignitas Personae did not approve embryo adoption, and rejected *in vitro* fertilization and embryo freezing. Drugs and devices which prevent implantation have not been thoroughly studied but their use to prevent implantation and, thus, embryo survival is abortion. Human gene-line therapy, as presently being done, is unacceptable as is the push for genetic enhancement/designer babies. Creation of human-animal hybrid embryos was rejected. This teaching applauds human progress with judgments against biotechnology abuses. "Guidance on Ethics; The Wanderer; 12-25-08

Life-Lines 7 January 2009

Suggested Prayers

Please become a **prayer partner**. Spend 5-10 minutes daily in prayer about life issues to provide a 24-hour prayer shield over our area. Join in the following themes that

January 22; the 36th anniversary of *Roe v Wade* remind us to pray for change of heart of those who accept abortion:

January 29; women with pregnancy challenges will successfully seek and find help in family, church, community;

February 1: fathers of unborn children be fiscally and emotionally supportive of both mothers and children;

February 8: leaders of all churches show concern for protecting very vulnerable unborn children

February 15: those performing or assisting in abortions realize their sin, repent and begin respecting innocent life;

February 22: appreciation be conveyed to those giving help to pregnant women.

IN MEMORIAM Kathleen (Maginn) Hoysic



Beverly J. McConnell Ralph Toscano, Jr. Agnes Hunt

Jimmy Cangialosi Sr.
Jean Black

David Kingston

Gerald Henry

Ms. Mary Jane Orman

Father Richard Neuhaus

Editor: First Things; influential U.S. pro-life advocate

IN CELEBRATION

Helen McGrane: Birthday Mr. & Mrs. William Hoysic

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Legislators' Feedback

As issues and bills come up for consideration in both Albany and Washington, D.C. you are often asked to contact your legislators to share the pro-life position.

At a recent meeting attended by seven area legislators/staff members, they were asked for feedback. There was complete agreement among them about the following:

- ♦ They want to know the identity of the person communicating with them and welcome opportunities to discuss concerns;
- ◆ See little value in petitions as they have no idea of whether the signer is a constituent or what the reasons for him/her signing might be;
- ♦ In a majority they find postcards from postcard campaigns to also have little value as there is no way to know the reason for person sending it and most often, the signatures and addresses are so illegible the postcards have no meaning.

They strongly agreed about the importance of communication from their constituents. Preferences were expressed for personal letters on topic(s) of interest to writers, phone calls and well written e-mails. They expressed desire to have opportunities to interact with constituents in order to best understand their concerns and want to discuss, research and answer questions constituents may have on various issues.

RTL MEMORIAL/HONOR TRIBUTE

You are welcome to remember an event/achievement or a deceased loved one with a memorial/honor/tribute, tax-deductible, donation to the RARTL Education Fund. A card in your name will be sent to the family/person you designate; contribution amount is confidential.

Mail form & check payable to RARTL Education Fund to

RARTL; 675 Ling Road; Suite 3; Rochester, NY 14612

Enclosed is gift of \$_____ in memory/honor

Of/for _____
(occasion) _____

My/our name _____

Address _____

City ____ State _____

Please notify _____

Address _____

City ____ St. Zip

Rochester Area Right to Life Committee, Inc, Education Fund 675 Ling Road; Suite 3 Rochester, New York 14612



P.U.C.F.A.? See page 3

Remembering Roe v Wade ruling

Annual March for Life in Washington

Since 1974 there has been a March for Life in Washington annually bringing hundreds of thousands of pro-life people from across the country. Activities include presentations, a march to the Capitol and visits to legislators. Several buses will take participants to Washington, departing on Wednesday, 1/21 and returning around midnight on Thursday, 1/22.

Reservations for bus seats are required. Ticket purchase deadlines have passed, but there <u>may</u> be cancellations allowing later purchases of seats.

If interested, call: Mary Jo @ 342-3216 about bus from St. Thomas the Apostle; Peg @ 377-9358 about bus from St. John of Rochester: Fairport. In Finger Lakes, call Fran @ 585-924-7051 about bus from St. Mary's; Canandaigua; Katie @ 585-384-5626 for bus from St. Januarius in Naples. In Southern Tier, call Sharon @ 607-734-2680 about bus from St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads; Katie @ 585-384-5626 about bus from St. Pius V, Cohocton.

If on a bus, you will then be given all information about activities and schedules for the day

Holy Hour @ Sacred Heart Cathedral 296 Flower City Park; Rochester; Thursday, January 22nd from 7:00 – 8:00 PM

The Catholic bishops of the United States have established January 22, the anniversary of the *Roe v Wade* decision that legalized abortion in this country, as a day of prayer and penance for violations of human life committed through acts of abortion. On January 22nd, there will be a silent prayer vigil in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. At 8 p.m., the congregation will join in the "St. Francis Prayer for Peace; Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" and then the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed in the tabernacle.

All are welcome to come and pray for a greater awareness of the dignity of human life and for its protection.