

Why should socialists

embrace the Consistent Life Ethic?

“ We are socialists because we reject discrimination based on race and sex, and brutality and violence in defense of the status quo.

- Democratic Socialists of America constitution

As the organization that supports equal distribution and opportunity; that seeks to establish a political order that will defend and empower the working class, Socialists stand for social justice, equality, and peace. We fight for humane public policies that will redirect help and assistance to the much neglected poor and vulnerable members of our society. Similarly, the Consistent Life Ethic is a philosophy rooted in the belief that every individual has the right to live a life free from violence. Those who uphold the CLE agree that it is time to acknowledge the rights and protect the lives of all human beings, – no exceptions, and in doing so, creating a culture of peace.

The CLE opposes *all* forms of aggressive violence, including but not limited to: war, capital punishment, torture, human trafficking, abortion, embryonic stem cell research, assisted suicide, and euthanasia.

for more info :
www.lifemattersjournal.org/socialist

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But wait...

But women need abortion in order to achieve success in school and the workplace.

Four decades after Roe, pregnant women still suffer from discrimination in school and the workplace, women still struggle to earn equal pay for equal work and don't have guaranteed paid leave. We need to attack these injustices directly with sustainable solutions instead of attacking the lives of human beings in the womb.

But by defunding abortion providers, you are taking away women's access to healthcare.

The health needs of women comprise much more than just pelvic exams, PAP smears, STD tests, UTI inspections, manual breast exams and birth control. However, these limited services are the only things Planned Parenthood offers [A]. Federally Qualified Health Centers offer all those services and more fully comprehensive healthcare vital to the health of women [B]. FQHCs outnumber Planned Parenthoods 13 to 1 and serve 22.8 million people yearly (compared to PP's 2.8 million) [C, D]. Beyond this, it is important to recognize that the government shouldn't contract with an organization that kills human beings.

But without embryonic stem cell research, we lose the potential for lifesaving treatments.

Adult stem cells have been used successfully in human therapies for years, but embryonic stem cell therapies have proven medically problematic at best, and deadly at worst. Additionally, recent advances have allowed us to create induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), which are similar to embryonic stem cells in both form and function [E], but don't require the destruction of a human's life in their creation. It is important for us to respect the lives of humans in their early embryonic life like those of any other human beings and explore research and treatment options that do not require their destruction.

But the disabled should have the right to die.

While pain is often cited as the primary reason people advocate for assisted suicide, Oregon doctors did not report this as any of the top five reasons they issue lethal prescriptions. Instead, "loss of autonomy", "less able to engage in activities", and other issues of disability were listed as the top reasons [F]. It is clear that assisted suicide is the product of a society which devalues the lives of people with disabilities. It is important to stand against these attitudes and respect the life and dignity of all individuals by providing holistic and comprehensive care to the sick instead of reinforcing the stigmatization of impairment by allowing them to kill themselves.

WORKS CITED

- [A] Planned Parenthood Federation of America. <http://www.plannedparenthood.org>
- [B] Medicare Benefit Policy Manual. <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/bp102c13.pdf>
- [C] HRSA National Data, 2013-2014. <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/uds/datacenter.aspx?q=tall&year=2014&state>
- [D] Planned Parenthood Annual Report, 2013-2014. https://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/6714/1996/2641/2013-2014_Annual_Report_FINAL_WEB_VERSION.pdf
- [E] Takahashi et al., 2007. Induction of pluripotent stem cells from adult human fibroblasts by defined factors. *Cell*, 131 (2007), pp. 861-872
- [F] Oregon's Death with Dignity Act—2013. <http://public.health.oregon.gov/ProviderPartnerResources/EvaluationResearch/DeathwithDignityAct/Documents/year16.pdf>

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