

*consistently*  
**OPPOSING**  
**ALL**  
**AGGRESSIVE**  
*violence*  
*against humans*

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This ethic covers a broad base of issues. Human life and dignity are threatened in today's society; among the threats are many unjust wars and military conflicts, abortion, euthanasia, suicide and its social causes, human trafficking, poverty, all forms of abuse, embryonic stem cell research, capital punishment and torture.

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The Consistent Life Ethic is based on the central tenet that all human life carries dignity and is worthy of protection.

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*Abolish abortion.*  
*Discontinue the death penalty.*  
*Undo unjust war.*  
*Abrogate embryonic stem cell research.*  
*End euthanasia.*  
*Terminate torture.*  
*Halt human trafficking.*

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*Make it history.*

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# WHAT ISSUES DOES THE CONSISTENT LIFE ETHIC COVER?

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## ***Unjust wars and military conflicts***

Some supporters adhere to a strict framework of Just War Theory, while others prefer Pacifism instead. We believe that not only are many of the 2.5 million historical U.S. military casualties largely unnecessary,<sup>1</sup> but that no amount of propaganda can cover up the evil of so-called “collateral damage” in human form. We call for an end to unjust wars around the world and for the promotion of peace and diplomacy.

## ***Abortion***

The CLE holds that abortion is the aggressive killing of a young, preborn human being and that the more than 50 million preborn Americans who have been killed by legal abortion were victims of a great, irreversible injustice.<sup>2</sup> We call for an end to abortion and for society to help mothers to pursue non-violent solutions to crisis pregnancies.

## ***Euthanasia***

Proponents of the CLE are against mercy killings, assisted suicide, and the eugenic practices of those involved in caring for the elderly, handicapped, and mentally disabled because human dignity does not lie in our age or abilities. We call for an end to euthanasia and for compassion and necessary care towards all members of society.

## ***Suicide***

Suicide will always be a tragedy of major proportions, and it takes more victims than homicide each year in the U.S.<sup>3</sup> But its root is societal: many victims of depression were bullied, harrassed, or in great pain. We call for an end to suicide and its social causes through cultural change, understanding, and proper care.

## ***Human trafficking***

Modern-day slavery is in direct opposition to the CLE. With more than 2,500 investigated instances of

human trafficking in the U.S. between January 2008 and June 2010,<sup>4</sup> this expansive, though hidden injustice must be ended. We call for an end to human trafficking around the world, for greater awareness, and truth in employment and respect for our fellow man.

## ***Poverty***

Abject poverty is contrary to the dignity inherent in our being. For there to be so great a divide between the richest and poorest within our own country is appalling, especially because there are children going hungry and suffering under day-to-day living circumstances. We call for an end to selfish living, greater charity towards our fellow man, and a giving spirit towards all.

## ***Abuse***

Whether it involves sexual assault, rape, or domestic abuse (1 in 4 women will be assaulted in her lifetime)<sup>5</sup>, child abuse or other situations—our society has a rampant problem of abuse, and it affects so many lives. We call for an end to abuse of all kinds, for patience and love and self-control towards our partners, children, and our all those we meet.

## ***Embryonic stem cell research***

Despite the fact that many praises have been sung about the potential that lies in ESCR, it not only kills a young human being (according to basic human embryology), but there have been no effective therapies or cures as of yet. Rather, many effective therapies and cures have been brought about through adult stem cell research.<sup>6</sup> We call for an end to ESCR, and for further research in adult stem cell methods to create cures.

## ***Capital punishment and torture***

Both of these practices have been shown to be ineffective at what they purport to do;<sup>7, 8</sup> in addition, they violate the basic human dignity and life of prisoners. Because our dignity and worth is not dependent upon our innocence or alliance, we call for an end to capital punishment and torture, and instead for imprisonment practices that respect the life and worth of all.

# WHY IS THE CONSISTENT LIFE ETHIC IMPORTANT TO MODERN SOCIETY?

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An ethic based in the value of each individual human being provides a proper foundation for human rights work. Without this personalist philosophy, we as a society run the risk of using people, discarding people when they are inconvenient, and degrading human rights.

# WHO ADHERES TO THE CONSISTENT LIFE ETHIC?

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The Consistent Life Ethic does not belong to one religious group or one political persuasion. There are members of many faiths, and people from a plurality of backgrounds that make up the movement.

# HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

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- Please check out Consistent Life, the major network of groups and organizations worldwide involved in many of the CLE causes. ([www.consistent-life.org](http://www.consistent-life.org))
- Life Matters Journal is a publication dedicated to education and discourse on the CLE. ([www.lifemattersjournal.org](http://www.lifemattersjournal.org))
- Consider joining or starting a Consistent Life Ethic group on campus, or work within your existing pro-life, human rights, or pro-peace organizations to change the culture!