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**Please  
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us!**

We are committed to the protection of life, which is threatened in today's world by war, abortion, poverty, racism, capital punishment and euthanasia. We believe that these issues are linked under a "consistent ethic of life." We challenge those working on all or some of these issues to maintain a cooperative spirit of peace, reconciliation, and respect in protecting the unprotected.

We are an international network of 200 groups, as well as individual endorsers and members. For information on our member groups, becoming an individual member, and latest actions, visit our Web site.

Nat Hentoff, columnist  
ASAP, November 30, 1992

"Nearly ten years ago I declared myself a pro-lifer. A Jewish, atheist, civil libertarian, left-wing pro-lifer . . . . Afterward, men, women, and teenagers wrote from all over the country that they had thought themselves to be solitary pro-lifers in the office, at school, even at home. They were surprised to find that there was someone else who was against capital punishment, against Reagan and Bush, and dismayed at the annual killing of 1.6 million developing human beings. They felt, they told me, that it was absurd to talk blithely of disposing of potential life. These were lives -- lives with potential to someday do New York Times crossword puzzles and dig Charlie Parker. That is, if they weren't thrown out with the garbage."

Benazir Bhutto, assassinated former Prime Minister of Pakistan  
Speech to the 1994 Cairo Population Conference

"I dream . . . of a world where we can commit our social resources to the development of human life and not to its destruction."

Colman McCarthy, columnist  
*Washington Post*, April 11, 1992

"Both the military ethic and the abortion ethic are grounded in the same belief: Life is cheap. Iraqi life. Fetal life. . . . The language of the war lobby and the abortion lobby is from the same glossary of evasions. No one likes war, say the generals. No one likes abortions, says NOW. But let's keep the killing option, just in case. And cases keep coming. If Iraqis are causing trouble, or Libyans, Grenadans or Panamanians, bomb them. If fetuses pose problems, destroy them."

Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize Winner, 2004  
December 7, 2004, press interview

"When we allow abortion, we are punishing the women—who must abort their children because their men have run away—and we are punishing the children whose lives are terminated . . . . I want us to step back a little bit and say: Why is this woman and this child threatened? Why is this woman threatening to terminate this life? What do we need to do as a society? What are we not doing right now as a society?"

Helen Prejean, author *Dead Man Walking*  
August 11, 2006 statement

"My stance on abortion is a matter of public record. I stand morally opposed to killing: war, executions, killing of the old and demented, the killing of children, unborn and born. As I have stated publicly many times, I stand squarely within the framework of 'the seamless garment' ethic of life. I believe that all of life is sacred and must be protected, especially in the vulnerable stages at the beginning of life and its end."

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## Consistently Opposing Killing

From Abortion to Assisted Suicide, the Death Penalty, and War

Rachel M. MacNair (ed.), Stephen Zunes (ed.)

0-313-35278-X/978-0-313-35278-2

### Description

This work explains an increasingly popular view dubbed the Consistent Life Ethic, which holds that all life deserves reverence, so all social support for actions that destroy life should be withdrawn. The call is for opposition to abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia and other forms of killing to be consistent. Supporters of this view, shared widely in these pages, include figures from the Dalai Lama and Nobel Peace Prize winner Mairead Corrigan Maguire to actor Martin Sheen and Village Voice columnist Nat Hentoff. It is at once an ethical, religious and political ideology, explored here in its application to actions from treatment of unborn humans to infants, the disabled, the poverty-stricken, war combatants and animals.

Endorsement from Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*

The societal wounds of racism, poverty, and a penchant for using violence to address problems are intimately connected to the death penalty, to war, to the killing of the old and demented, and to the killing of children, unborn and born. If more people were familiar with the consistent life ethic, as expounded in this book, then the voice of all unseen vulnerable people would be better heard.

Endorsement from Dr. Alveda King, Founder of King for America, Director of African American Outreach for Gospel of Life, and niece of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The authors consistently and rationally support the position of opposition to murder in a society where wrong may seem right, to the detriment of life, liberty and justice for all. This is a recommended read for serious thinkers and for all seeking truth.

### Author Information:

RACHEL M. MACNAIR is Director of the Institute for Integrated Social Analysis. A Psychologist and Sociologist, she is also author of *Psychology of Peace: An Introduction* (Praeger 2003) and *Perpetration Induced Traumatic Stress: The Psychological Consequences of Killing* (Praeger, 2002).

STEPHEN ZUNES is Professor of Politics and International Studies at the University of San Francisco, where he chairs the Middle East studies program. He serves as a member of the advisory committee for the Tikkun Community and as the chair of the board of academic advisors for the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict. Previous books include *Tinderbox: U.S. Middle East Policy and the Roots of Terrorism* (2003) and *Nonviolent Social Movements: A Geographical Perspective* (1999).

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