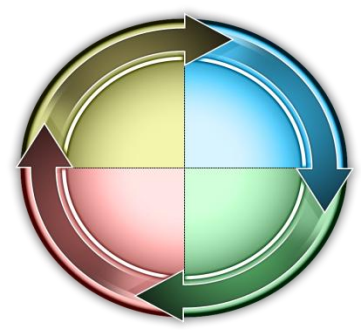


# Connections on Issues of Violence

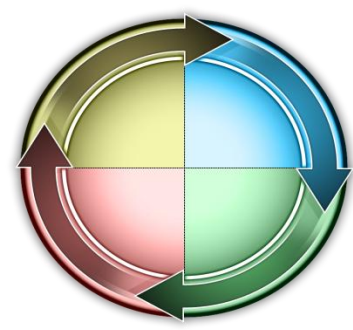


Can We Create a  
Nonviolent Future?





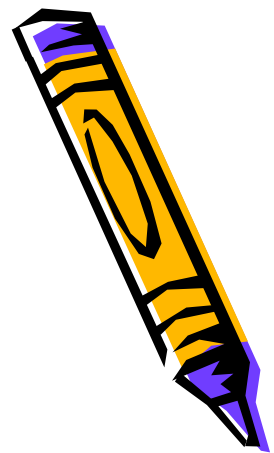
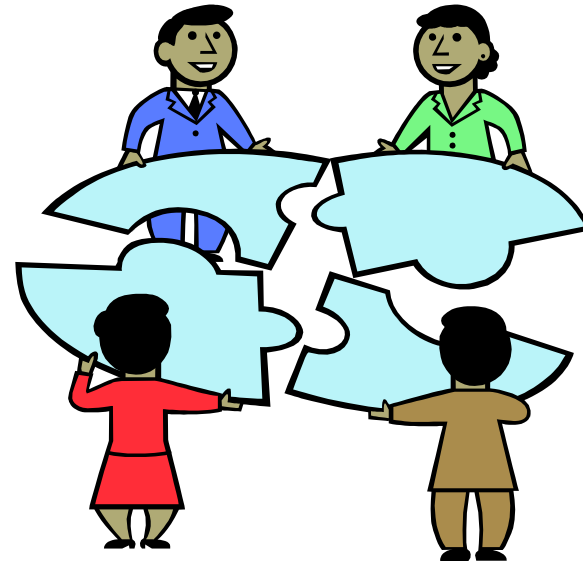
# Why connections?



- It helps us understand how violence works. That helps us understand how countering violence works.
- Instead of dividing our work on different issues, we can multiply our work on different issues.
- We can work together building a web of peace and life if we know where the strands are.

# Connecting Individual Issues

- War
- Death penalty
- Abortion
- Euthanasia
- Poverty
- Racism



# Death Penalty & Culture of Life



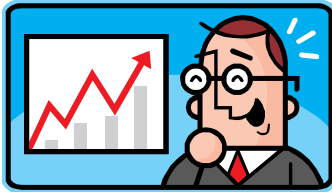
- John Paul II did include opposition to the death penalty in his encyclical discussing the Culture of Life.
- “If we're trying to establish a culture of life, it's difficult to have the state sponsoring executions.”  
-- conservative Republican U.S. Senator Sam Brownback



Gloria Berger, "A Time for Uncertainty." *U.S. News and World Report*, April 11, 2005. p. 34

# Abortion & War

Excessive military and war spending



crowds out funding for human needs, including crucial supportive services for abortion-preventing help to low-income mothers.



# Abortion & War




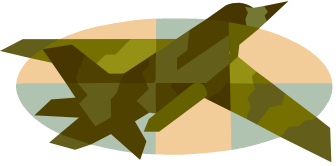
“Both the military ethic and the abortion ethic are grounded in the same belief: Life is cheap. Iraqi life. Fetal life. . . . The language of the war lobby and the abortion lobby is from the same glossary of evasions. No one likes war, say the generals. No one likes abortions, says NOW. But let's keep 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.”

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



# Abortion, Death Penalty & War

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“Reference was made to my agreeing that abortion is taking a human life, which it is. However, let us remember that war is also legalized killing, that the pilot that dropped the atom bomb on Nagasaki and Hiroshima killed human life. He got medals for it. We bless our troops when they go into battle to kill human beings, so that the taking of human life, including the death penalty in certain states like Utah, where the man was shot, is not a strange behavior in a society.”

-- Frank Behrend, M.D., whose practice included abortions  
tape-recorded speech November 7, 1977



# Poverty Causes Abortion



In states with no Medicaid funding of abortion, women on Medicaid have 1.6 times the rate of abortions than women of higher income – they are more than half again as likely to have abortions.

With funding, it is 3.9 times as many.

Heather Boonstra and Adam Sonfield, "Rights Without Access: Revisiting Public Funding of Abortion for Poor Women," The Guttmacher Report on Public Policy, April 2000, Volume 3, Number 2.

# Poverty Causes Abortion

Material deprivation is among the more vicious pressures to abort. It's exacerbated by people who take the attitude that poor women should not be having children to be a "welfare burden."





# Abortion Causes Poverty

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When babies are not caused by sex, but by deciding *not* to have an abortion, they become the woman's entire responsibility. Men self-righteously ditch their paternal responsibilities, and the feminization of poverty increases.



# Death Penalty, Racism & Poverty

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Many statistical studies have shown that the chance of getting a death sentence shoots up for those of low income and for ethnic minorities.





# Abortion, Racism & Poverty

"It takes little imagination to see that the unborn Black baby is the real object of many abortionists. Except for the privilege of aborting herself, the Black woman and her family must fight for every other social and economic privilege . . . The quality of life for the poor, the Black and the oppressed will not be served by destroying their children."

-- Erma Clardy Craven, social worker, in  
Hilgers, Thomas W. & Dennis J. Horan, eds. 1972. *Abortion and Social Justice*. New York: Sheed  
& Ward

# Abortion & Euthanasia

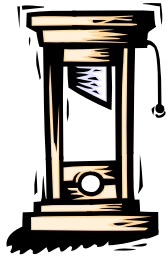


“Medicine's role with respect to changing attitudes toward abortion may well be a prototype of what is to occur. . . . One may anticipate further development of these roles as the problems of birth control and birth selection are extended inevitably to death selection and death control.”

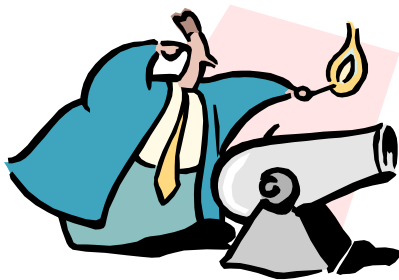
“A New Ethic for Medicine and Society,” (1970, September). *California Medicine* 113, p. 68

# War & Death Penalty

A use of weapons against an enemy:



- The death penalty targets individuals



- War targets communities.

# War & Death Penalty

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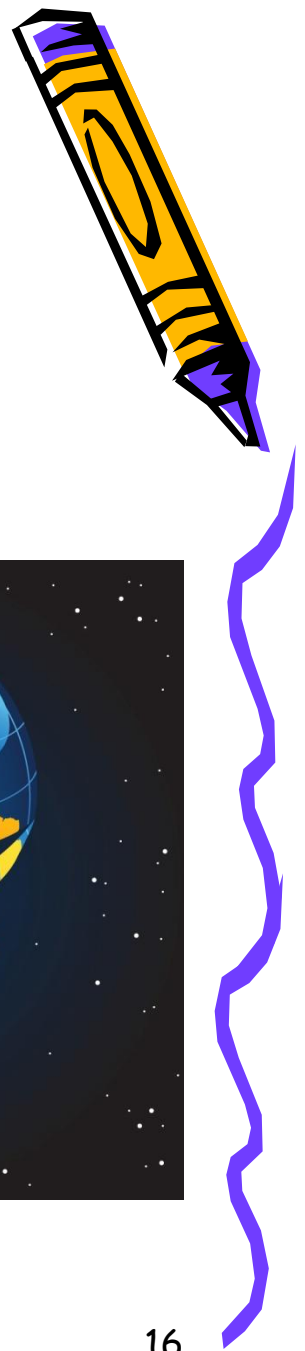


Studies suggest each can increase the criminal homicide rate. Governmental violence is seen by potential murderers as a role model for how to solve problems.

Archer, D. (1984). *Violence and crime in cross-national perspective*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

# Connecting All Issues together

- Justifications for Violence
- Dynamics of Violence
- Effects of Violence
- Attacking Hope
- Deceptiveness of  
Violence as a  
Problem-solver



# War of Words

Dehumanizing language targets people as:

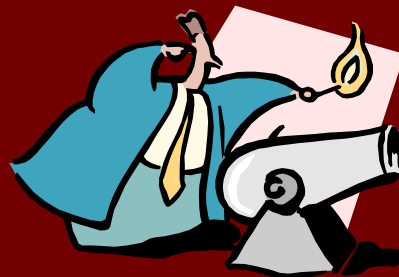
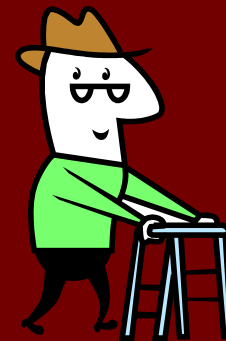
- deficient humans
- non-humans or non-persons
- parasites
- diseases
- waste products

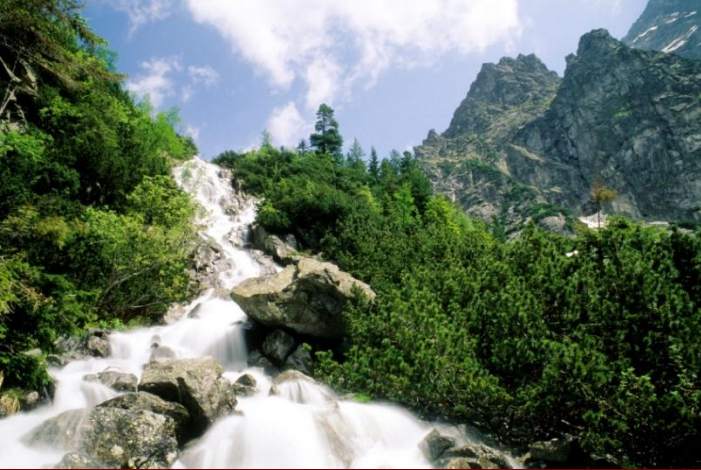


# War of Words

This language has been used against

- Ethnic or religious minority groups
- Women
- People with disabilities or illness
- People who live in poverty
- Children in the womb
- “Enemies”





# Slippery Slope

- Slippery slope – the observation that people are disinclined to go to great violence immediately, but can be eased into it with small violence which then becomes more and more violence.
- In psychology, this was noted in the Milgram electric-shock experiments, in which people were induced by authority to give the most severe shocks after starting small and building up.

# Slippery Slope



- Wars and other massive violence don't generally start full-blown. They start with dehumanizing language and smaller violent acts, and build up.
- Justifying feticide has already led to justifying infanticide and euthanasia; past history with "life unworthy of life" (a Nazi phrase) has shown how the slippery slope can work.

# Aftermath



Combat veterans have long shown that Posttraumatic Stress Disorder is a common aftermath of war, and seems to be worse for those who killed in battle.

Evidence of post-trauma symptoms has also shown up in execution staff and abortion staff.





# Attacking Hope



All are hope-less solutions. We're saying there's no hope. There's no way this pregnancy can happen, no way this murderer can be rehabilitated, no reason for this sick person to live any longer, no way our international problems can be solved diplomatically.

There's no hope for a nonviolent solution, so we must turn to violence.

# Connected Solutions



- \* Re-humanizing language to celebrate us all
- \* Stopping a slippery slope at the small beginning steps
- \* Healing the aftermath of violence with knowledge and tender loving care
- \* Helping all to understand that the seeming quick fix of violence is deceptive.

# Questions for Discussion-Starters

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- Besides the ones mentioned above, what other connections among issues can you think of ?



What other solutions to violence are common to all issues?

# Questions for Discussion-Starters

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- There are times when groups work best on their own single issue, but can we think of times when cooperation between groups working on different issues would strengthen the work of all?

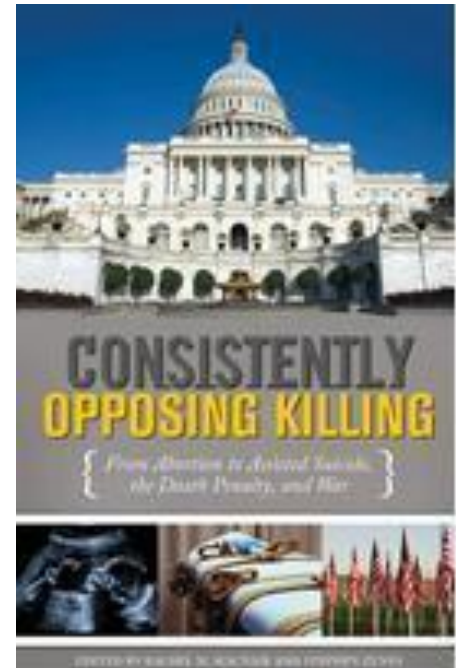


# Books on Peace/Life Connections

Anthology:

## *Consistently Opposing Killing: From Abortion to Assisted Suicide, the Death Penalty and War*

edited by Rachel M. MacNair  
& Stephen Zunes,  
published by Praeger 2008



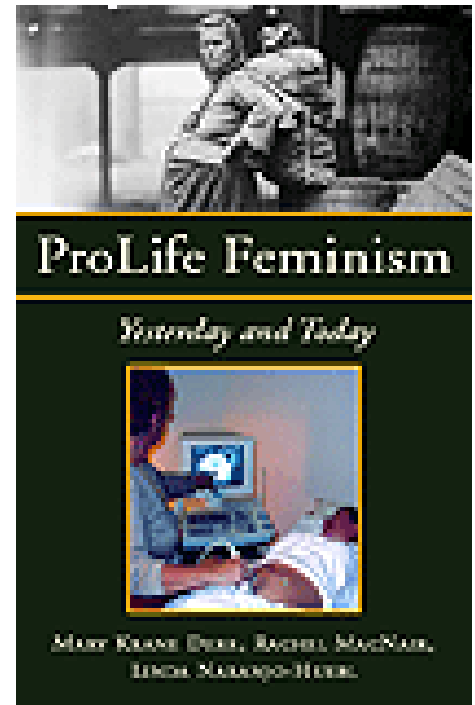
# Books on Peace/Life Connections

## *ProLife Feminism: Yesterday and Today*

edited by Mary Krane Derr, Linda Naranjo Huebl,  
& Rachel MacNair

Feminism & Nonviolence Studies Association, 2006

*Essays from Susan B. Anthony,  
Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and many  
others, along with contemporary voices*



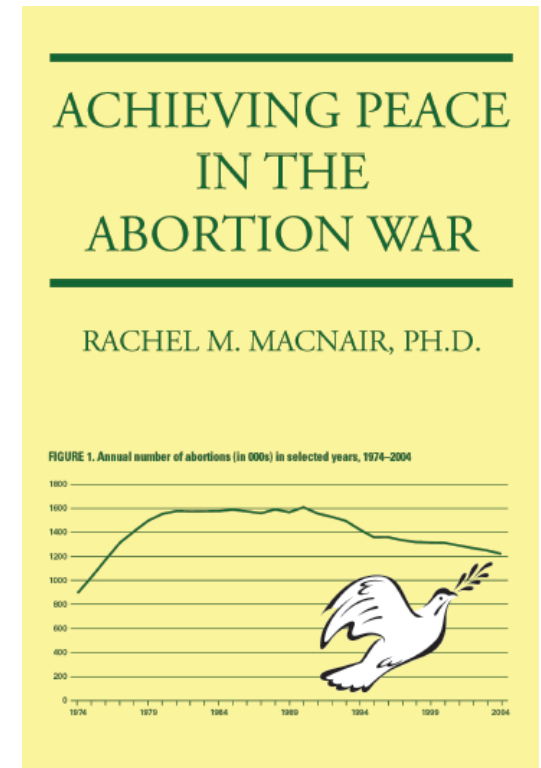
# Books on Peace/Life Connections

## *Achieving Peace in the Abortion War*

Rachel M. MacNair

Feminism & Nonviolence Studies Association, 2009

*Applying the principles of  
peace psychology to current  
U.S. abortion practice.*



# Web Sites on Connections

- [www.consistent-life.org](http://www.consistent-life.org)
- [www.fnasa.org](http://www.fnasa.org)



- [www.prolifequakers.org](http://www.prolifequakers.org)



**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.**