

**Statement of Elizabeth Yore, International Child Advocate Attorney.
April 27 and 28, 2015, Rome, Italy**

The Heartland Institute sought my consultation, as an attorney, who has worked on international human trafficking cases and in the field of child exploitation for 30 years, most recently with Oprah Winfrey in South Africa. I am deeply troubled by the Statement issued by the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences regarding the upcoming Papal environmental conference on Tuesday, April 28, 2015.

The Pontifical Academy posits that the goal of the conference is:

“The desired outcome is a joint statement on the moral and religious imperative of sustainable development, highlighting *the intrinsic connection between respect for the environment* and respect for people--especially the poor, the excluded, victims of *human trafficking and modern slavery*, children and future generations.”

This declaration of an *intrinsic connection*, a nexus between climate change and human trafficking is on its face, preposterous, deceptive and infinitely damaging to the plight of victims of global human trafficking. This fallacious statement links a *real* human crisis of modern slavery with a *manufactured* one of climate change.

St. John Paul the Great powerfully articulated the intrinsic nature of modern slavery in 2002 at the International Conference entitled *21st Century-The Human Rights Dimension to Trafficking in Human Beings*, St. John Paul urged:

“The sexual exploitation of women and children...must be recognized as an intrinsic violation of human dignity and rights, and *to reduce the rich mystery of human sexuality to a mere commodity.*”

Based on my experience with human trafficking victims, St. John Paul II uniquely understood that the cause of this crime is the violation of the dignity of the human person. Human trafficking thrives in both developed and undeveloped countries. Its victims and perpetrators span the economic spectrum. This crime is growing for a multitude of reasons, open borders, the ease of jet travel and transportation, the instantaneous Internet connection to conduct this criminal enterprise, and yes, abortion and its heinous and predictable mutation, sex selection abortion. Nature abhors a vacuum with a void of 140 million missing Asian girls, as a result of genocide. Abortion, not climate change, is fueling the human trafficking trade. But at the core of modern slavery lies a malevolent heart which seeks to exploit and abuse another human being, as a disposable commodity.

“Bursting at the Seams Canard”

And who is the Vatican consulting with on this problem? Jeffrey Sachs, who spends his career sounding the alarm that the world is overpopulated, and fertility rates must be lowered. In fact, at a 2007 international lecture, Sachs claims that “we are bursting at the seams.” The focus of Sachs’ overpopulation mantra is primarily the continent of Africa. He argues that if only poor African countries would just lower their fertility rate, the world and Africa would thrive economically.

This fear mongering is nothing new. Sachs is standing on the shoulders of Paul Ehrlich, architect of the “sky is falling” deception perpetrated in his 1968 book, *“The Population Bomb.”*

Ehrlich mastered the alarmist overpopulation canard with his infamous thesis, *“the battle to feed all of humanity is over. In the 1970s hundreds of millions of people will starve to death in spite of any crash programs embarked upon now. At this late date, nothing can prevent a substantial increase in the world death rate.”*

In furtherance of his imagined crisis, Ehrlich supported a panoply of draconian solutions to address his concocted calamity, including putting birth control in the water supply, forced abortions, coercive sterilizations, forcibly punishing countries who balk at implementing radical population control measures. Ehrlich’s recommendations also included punitive taxes on families who have children, and on childcare products, in order to “fix” the problem of global famine from overpopulation.

Ehrlich’s doomsday prophecy was a fraud.

Nevertheless, as a consequence of Ehrlich’s deceit, the UN began its strategy of spreading global reproductive right’s pressure to reduce the population, including contraception, sterilization and abortion. The big lie worked and the UN used fear as an opportunity to introduce abortion into the world order. Panic and fear mongering are the weapons of repressive organizations.

Jeffrey Sachs continues the Paul Ehrlich phony drumbeat of overpopulation, and, conveniently adds new fear tactics of climate change and human trafficking to justify and bolster the urgency of abortion and other sterilization tools to achieve the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. Incomprehensibly, the Vatican relies heavily on Jeffrey Sachs as its expert on climate change and the UN Sustainable

Development goals to achieve its mission, including retaining Sachs to author the *Pontifical Statement of the Problem of Climate Change and the Demand for Transformative Solutions* issued on April 29, 2015.

Today, same scare tactics, same players, new alarm bells. The scare strategy of catastrophic global warming, debunked by science, morphs into climate change, debunked by science, morphs into sustainable development. Undeterred, the United Nations asserts its power to impose its elitists' goals on the world under the rubric of "shared sustainable development goals." Yet, forever embedded into the bureaucratic culture of the UN is their desired weapon of choice, abortion on demand. That is why it is so very troubling that at a Papal Conference entitled *Dignify Humanity*, the Vatican is consulting with the Secretary General of the UN and Jeffrey Sachs to recommend 'sustainable development' measures, which we all know are abortion, contraception and sterilization to solve alleged climate change.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches:

"From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person -- among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life." CCC2270

The Church believes that every human being, rich and poor, has an inviolable right to life.

"The inalienable rights of the person must be recognized and respected by civil society and the political authority." CCC 2273

Over the centuries, Catholic moral teaching uniquely understood the power of laws to deprive certain human beings of the right to life.

"The moment a positive law deprives a category of human beings of the protection which civil legislation ought to accord them, the state is denying the equality of all before the law." CCC 2273

These are the precious and profound tenets of the Catholic Church regarding the sacredness of life and human dignity. So, it is perplexing that abortion and reproductive rights zealots like, UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and Jeffrey Sachs, the Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network are prominently highlighted at this Catholic Conference in anticipation of Pope Francis' Environmental Encyclical.

The Unholy Alliance

What is going on at the Vatican with this unholy alliance? Why would the Vatican embrace Sachs' science and his solutions which are antithetical to Catholic moral teaching?

In fact, the very success of Sustainable Development, the new UN global initiative depends according to Sachs, on reducing the high fertility rate of Third World Countries. In Jeffrey Sach's new book published in 2015, "*Sustainable Development*" Dr. Sachs' states:

"The legality of abortion also plays an evident role as well. Different societies have widely divergent views about abortion, but the data suggests that those countries with legalized abortion tend to have lower observed fertility rates than countries where abortion is illegal."

More abortions, fewer people. Sachs continues to underscore the need for low fertility rates as the barometer of successful sustainable development:

"Population dynamics are very important for Sustainable Development. The chances for sustainable development will be very different if the population reaches 10.8 billion at the end of the century or instead peaks by 2050 and declines to 6.8 billion by 2100. The later trajectory would be much easier from the point of view of achieving a higher quality of life, greater poverty reduction, higher income per capita and environmental sustainability."

There is an undeniable, profound moral and ethical schism between the moral teaching of the Catholic Church on life, and the Sustainable Development agenda and its draconian anti-life means promulgated by Sachs and the UN. What is going on at the Vatican and the upcoming Papal environmental encyclical which is relying on these experts and the Obama Administration's EPA Administrator who coordinated with the Vatican on the environmental encyclical?

Like Paul Ehrlich, Sachs employs overpopulation scare tactics to achieve the goals of the UN Sustainable Development Network:

*"I am really scared about population explosion in Nigeria. It is not healthy. Nigeria should work towards attaining a maximum of **three children per family**."*

Here is one man, Jeffrey Sachs, with the enormous power and influence of the United Nations lecturing Nigerian families to limit the size of their families to 3 children.

The hubris is breathtaking.

As a Catholic, I am deeply troubled by the recommendations and policies promulgated over the last 20 years by Jeffrey Sachs, in his various roles at the United Nations. As Director of the UN Millennium Development Goals, and now, as director of UN Sustainable Development Solutions, his rabid advocacy of abortion, and reproductive health services are in direct contravention of the moral teaching of the Catholic Church.

These peddlers of panic, using false science and the poor, seek to inflict their secular religion of environmentalism, replete with an array of admonitions and restrictions on the world; imposing the new commandments of the elite, the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

No glaring distinction is more evident between the Catholic world view and that of the UN and its Sustainable Development guru, Jeffrey Sachs, than the Catholic Church's own Nobel Prize winner, Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Here is Jeffrey Sachs, the expert darling of this papacy on the poor of India:

“As households are able to obtain modern health services, including family planning and modern contraceptives, they are able to follow through on their changing desires about family size.”

Here is the startling contrast. It poses the question to the Vatican, why aren't you listening to and advocating the words of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta who cared for more of India's poor, than Jeffrey Sachs could ever *write* about? Before the global stage assembled at the Nobel Prize award ceremony, Mother Teresa boldly proclaimed:

“The greatest destroyer of peace is Abortion. And we who are standing here--our parents wanted us. Many people are very very concerned with children in India and Africa who will die of malnutrition, of hunger, but millions are dying deliberately by the will of their mother. And this is the greatest destroyer of peace today.”

In conclusion, I find it incomprehensible that the Vatican would be duped into thinking that the United Nations and its Millennium and Sustainable Development goals share common solutions for the world's problems. The Catholic Church welcomes children as a gift from God. The UN Secretary General and Jeffrey Sachs want to limit children.

We seek the truth today and turn to the Child, both unborn and born, rich and poor, whether African, Asian, European, or from the Americas.

For the Child is the Guardian of the Truth.

Elizabeth Yore is an Attorney and International Child Rights Advocate who works international human trafficking, child exploitation cases and advocates for children's issues. She served as Special Counsel at Harpo, Inc. until 2012. In that position, she acted as Oprah Winfrey's Child Advocate in South Africa and in Chicago. She served as General Counsel for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Prior to DCFS, Ms. Yore was General Counsel at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Virginia, and its first Director of the International Division handling international child exploitation and abduction cases. She is an international consultant and speaker on child protection and pro life issues.

She blogs at Yorechildren.com, Catholic Vote blog, speaks internationally on various child protection issues, appears on various television, cable and radio programs as an expert in human trafficking and child exploitation issues and consults both nationally and internationally with corporations on child exploitation. Ms. Yore writes a column for the Remnant Newspaper and serves on the Boards of the National Association to Protect Children, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, the Napa Institute and the Institute for Religious Life. She received her B.A. from Georgetown University and her J.D. from Loyola University Law School in Chicago.