

POPULATION CONNECTION

Volume 53, Issue 4
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**"WE CANNOT HIDE
AWAY FROM HUMAN
POPULATION GROWTH..."**

JANE GOODALL





President's Note

Far from eastern Africa's Lake Tanganyika, on whose shores Jane Goodall conducted her pioneering research with chimpanzees, Big Darby Creek flows for 84 miles through northwestern central Ohio, skirting around Columbus before emptying into the Lower Scioto River. The Ohio Nature Conservancy reports, "Wetlands in the area support such plant species as marsh marigold, skunk cabbage, trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit, and cottonwood and, along with the surrounding forests, sustain wild turkey, eastern screech owls, and great crested flycatchers."

Part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system since 1994, Big Darby Creek has been considered the only home on earth of the Scioto madtom, a tiny catfish that, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "prefers stream riffles of moderate current over gravel bottoms."

No more, it seems. The Scioto madtom, the only vertebrate species known to be endemic to the Buckeye State, has recently been proposed for removal from the endangered species list due to extinction—along with 22 other species including Bachman's warbler and the vaunted ivory-billed woodpecker. The Scioto madtom's actual demise may predate preservation efforts along Big Darby Creek, since it was last seen in 1957. Impoundments, siltation, and pollution could have driven the species to extinction. We know with certitude who is responsible for these disruptions: *Homo sapiens*.

Species declared extinct have later been found, so it's important that extinction announcements not be used as pretexts for lessened conservation efforts. Big Darby Creek now benefits from some protection due to the presence of other endangered species. Yet threats of urban development and sprawl caused it to be named to the list of our nation's 10 most endangered rivers by American Rivers in 2019.

Before the modern era, we coexisted with nature—if only because we lacked the ability to bend it to our selfish will. Not only did we lack modern technology, there were far fewer of us. The population of Ohio in 1800 was less than 45,000. Today, it's close to 12 million. Numbers matter.

For the past two centuries, we've generally acted as if we are the only creatures on earth. To call our own human species heedless is a gross understatement, as our global numbers soar toward 8 billion and beyond. No room for a tiny catfish in our mad rush toward a perilous future.

Certainly, there are vital exceptions to our folly—as with sustained conservation work by the Ohio Nature Conservancy, which includes creation of the 900-acre Big Darby Headwaters Nature Preserve. Yet the diminutive Scioto madtom may have already succumbed—one more victim in an era of looming mass species extinction unprecedented during our own time on earth.

Many of the world's travails—ecological and otherwise—can be traced directly to our failure to recognize both the rights of women and the laws of nature. We could do much to prevent catastrophes by lessening population pressures. If every woman had reproductive freedom, family planning knowledge, and access to modern contraception, family sizes would plummet. Benefits would accrue to our own species, and to the natural world that sustains us all.

We may reasonably conclude that the Scioto madtom ceased to exist because of human overpopulation. The apparent end of this little-noticed fish deserves our respectful attention as we heed Jane Goodall's calls to action to save our living world. Tragedies and threats of extinction, whether in Tanzania or Ohio, remind us that one vital way we can radically reduce our human footprint is by working toward zero population growth.

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Feature**14****Excerpts From *The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times***

By Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams



Cover Image: Jane Goodall gives her lecture “Reasons for Hope” on June 21, 2019, in Munich (Sven Hoppe/picture alliance via Getty Images)

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Editor's Note

When trying to explain to my husband recently why I prefer hiking alone (dogs don't count!), I quoted Jane Goodall from a recent article in *TIME*: "If you're alone, you feel part of nature. If you're with one other person, even somebody you love, it's two human beings in nature—and you can't be lost in it."

Nobody knows this more than Dr. Jane, who spent decades sitting alone in the forests of what would later become Tanzania's Gombe Stream National Park, befriending generations of chimpanzees and making groundbreaking scientific discoveries about their use of tools, their kinship rituals, and their profound ability to feel joy, sorrow, and appreciation.

At 87 years old, Dr. Jane published her 18th book in October (not counting the 11 she's written for children), and is busy speaking every day with multiple groups, classrooms, and journalists all over the world. (I tried to secure an interview with her, but sadly was not successful, due to the "hundreds of requests from around the world every day.")

The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times is a salve for those of us who sometimes worry that all hope is lost for a sustainable planetary future, at least as long as humans are part of it. Dr. Jane details examples of the good deeds and promising programs that raise people out of poverty, protect wildlife, and give people agency over their own reproductive lives. We've included excerpts from the book, beginning on page 14, especially focusing on the sections where she discusses population growth and related topics.

The Jane Goodall Institute, founded in 1977, has been a supportive voice for family planning alongside conservation and livelihood projects, in order to preserve the habitats of

chimpanzees and other wildlife and to improve the lives of the people who live in their midst. Dr. Jane has never minded saying the unpopular thing (colleagues used to mock her for claiming that chimps and other animals had unique personalities, for instance), so her assuredness in her position when it comes to discussions of population growth is right on brand. She has one child herself, a son who lives in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and she doesn't shy away from speaking about the importance of small families for the future of the planet. Indeed, she caused Prince Harry to make headlines when he interviewed Dr. Jane for *VOGUE* in 2019 and they had the following exchange:

Prince Harry: I think, weirdly, because of the people that I've met and the places that I've been fortunate enough to go to, I've always had a connection and a love for nature. I view it differently now, without question. But I've always wanted to try and ensure that, even before having a child and hoping to have children...

Dr. Jane: Not too many! [Laughs]

Prince Harry: Two, maximum!

Dr. Jane is a naturalist, an activist, an author, and one of the world's most recognizable public figures. She's also a soft-spoken, contemplative, dog-loving vegetarian who, when asked during interviews, doesn't ever seem to be able to put her finger on what it is that makes people gravitate toward her. I can't speak for others, but she captivates me by living a life I wish I were suited to pursue. To sit in the forest and be groomed by chimps who have grown to trust you must be the ultimate life experience for an animal-lover, and I regret that I'll never know that thrill. Envy isn't becoming, but I think that when it comes to envying someone like Jane Goodall, it can be forgiven.

Marian Starkey
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Letters to the Editor

I was very happy with your last magazine that addressed the common misconception that a stable population means economic disaster. To the contrary, population stabilization is the only way we will ever have a livable earth and sustainable economy. I was so pleased, in fact, that I made an extra donation on top of my usual monthly gifts. I hope you continue to speak up on this issue. I would also like to see more detailed papers on this topic available on your website, if possible.

Virginia Long

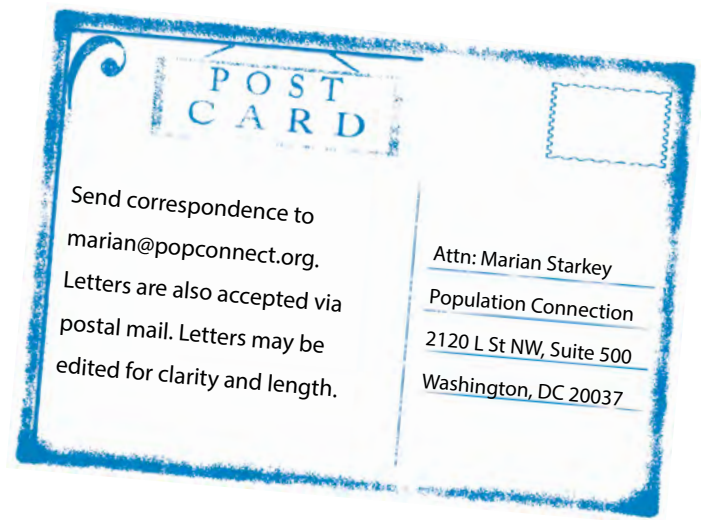
In “Estimates and Projections of U.S. Population by Age, 1950-2050” [Pop Facts, September issue], all figures are based upon units of thousands, but that fact is nowhere indicated in the labeling. At the very least, the words “in thousands” should appear under the title of the chart. Yes, yes; I realize that any sensible person would ASSUME that the numbers reflect multiples of 1,000, but a good chart should be clearly labeled.

Joanne B. Auth

You had several articles about the lower birth rate in the September magazine. All the articles talk about our economy (blah! blah! blah!) and how it will be impacted by fewer people. I think our economy will survive. But when will I read an article about how having fewer people will help save our earth? Less people will help our climate crisis, our natural resources, maybe slow the extinction rate of our wildlife and native plants. Maybe fewer trees will be needed to build houses, less habitat will be lost—a plus for wildlife. There is a lot of good with fewer people. We should be celebrating!

Bonnie Scott

The three main articles in the September issue of *Population Connection* on possible economic effects of a declining American birth rate include only one mention of immigration, citing it as a possible “short-term solution to an aging population.” However, immigration can be much more than that. With nearly 2 billion



more people expected on earth by 2050, future immigration pressures across the Mediterranean and the Mexico-U.S. border are likely to dwarf the levels we see today. Rather than working to counter declines in fertility among American women, we should be grateful that below-replacement fertility leaves room to accommodate more of the (primarily young) people who seek to come to this country for a better life.

Dean Amel

The September issue has hopeful articles by John Seager, Hillary Hoffower, and Jill Filipovic on how declining population might benefit the economy. None of the articles address the central issue of how to deal with the fact that economic prosperity has always relied on population growth to increase business sales and profit, which in turn drives capital wealth. How do we transition to a stagnant economy?

Stuart H. Brown

I am a great believer in fewer footprints on the planet, and your recent article on the U.S. shrinking population was most interesting. Of particular note to me is the mini piece “How to Shrink Smart.” I would really like to see more on this. Cities, counties, but also school systems and neighborhoods need to know how to get smaller smarter. In business, organizations generally know how to get smaller: sell off pieces, stop product lines, close plants, etc. This often brings very negative effects to employees and towns, etc. These decisions are guided by strategic thinking in the executive bodies for “the greater good” of stockholders. That business model does not work well in the “commons,” so more research is needed. The natural but uncontrolled experiments of the cities you name—but also Detroit, and now downtowns of many metro areas depleted from telework during Covid—need this guidance.

Barbara Bird

Jane Goodall

on Population Pressures



SELECTED QUOTES FROM 2019–2021

Women everywhere must be able to choose whether to have children, how many children, and the spacing between them. This is critical for their own wellbeing. But, they also need to be equipped with the knowledge as to how their choice affects the health of the planet and thus the future of their own children and all future generations. For we are part of the natural world and rely on its “services” for our very survival. It is important to remember that one child from a wealthy family is likely to use many more times the resources as a child from a poor family in the developing world.¹


In order to slow down climate change, we must solve four seemingly unsolvable problems. We must eliminate poverty. We must change the unsustainable lifestyles of so many of us. We must abolish corruption. And we must think about our growing human population. There are 7.7 billion of us today, and by 2050, the UN predicts there will be 9.7 billion. It is no wonder people have despaired. But I believe we have a window of time to have an impact.²

[Population] is one of the most important issues that we face today. ... When I flew over Gombe in 1990, it was a tiny island of forest surrounded by completely bare hills, and it was obvious there were more people living there than the land could support. ... The fact that human populations are still growing on this precious planet of ours is something that everybody should be aware of. ... It's been shown all around the world that as women's education improves, family size tends to drop. ... We can't go on like this. We can't push human population growth under the carpet. We must find ways to address it. And we find that the local people want this too because cultures change. So please, everybody who's listening to this, please think about what you and your organization can do to help human population decrease in such a way that we can live in harmony and to support future generations on this beautiful planet Earth.³

1 Removing Barriers to Family Planning, Empowering Sustainable Environmental Conservation: A Background Paper and Call for Action,” Margaret Pyke Trust, with the Population & Sustainability Network, margaretpyke.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/C1-Removing-Barriers.pdf, 2019

2 “Jane Goodall: These Four Issues May Not Seem Related to Climate Change. But They Are and We Need to Solve Them Now,” TIME, time.com/5669043/jane-goodall-climate-change/, 2019

3 Conference on Human Population and the Sixth Mass Extinction, youtube.com/watch?v=2t8DLzLqj5Q, 2019



[T]here are approximately 7.8 billion of us on the planet today and already in some places we're using up natural resources faster than nature can replenish them. In 2050, it's estimated that there will be 9.7 billion of us. What will happen? We can't just go on burying it under the carpet.

Population issues are politically sensitive, so I talk about voluntary population optimization. So that's OK, it's voluntary, it is your choice. You optimize it for your financial situation. People are desperate to educate their children and they can't educate eight anymore. So they love family planning, and women can space out their children so that they can have a child and look after it.⁴

We cannot hide away from human population growth because, you know, it underlies so many of the other problems. All these we talk about wouldn't be a problem if there was the size of population that there was 500 years ago.⁵

We are seeing the consequences of the crazy idea that there can be unlimited economic development on a planet with finite natural resources and a growing population. Decisions are made for short-term gain at the expense of protecting the environment for the future. Now, the world's population is estimated at over 7 billion people, and it is expected to be closer to 10 billion by 2050. If we carry on with business as usual, what is going to happen? To be clear, the main problem is not population growth. ... It is one of three main problems—the other two are our greedy lifestyle, our reckless burning of fossil fuels, the demand for meat, poverty—and, of course, we must also tackle corruption.

We have to eliminate poverty. Because if people are really poor, they will destroy the environment because they have to feed themselves and their families. ... As women's education improves, family sizes tend to drop. Women want to educate children. They don't want to be birth machines.⁶

4 "Jane Goodall on Conservation, Climate Change and COVID-19: 'If We Carry on With Business as Usual, We're Going to Destroy Ourselves'," CBS News, [cbsnews.com/news/jane-goodall-climate-change-coronavirus-environment-interview/](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/jane-goodall-climate-change-coronavirus-environment-interview/), 2020

5 World Economic Forum, twitter.com/tomselliott/status/1220696092532187136, 2020

6 "Jane Goodall: 'Change Is Happening. There Are Many Ways to Start Moving in the Right Way'," The Guardian, [theguardian.com/environment/2021/jan/03/jane-goodall-change-is-happening-there-are-many-ways-to-start-moving-in-the-right-way](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jan/03/jane-goodall-change-is-happening-there-are-many-ways-to-start-moving-in-the-right-way), 2021





IN THE NEWS

By Stacie Murphy, Director of Congressional Relations

Update: Texas Abortion “Bounty” Law

The fight over Senate Bill 8, Texas’s notorious abortion “bounty” law, continues to make its way through the judicial system. The law, which bans abortion after about six weeks into pregnancy, allows anyone from any state who believes the law has been violated to file a civil suit against anyone who “facilitated” the abortion—this includes clinic workers, those who help the patient pay for the abortion, or even the taxi driver who brings them to their appointment. If the claimant wins the suit, they will receive a monetary award of at least \$10,000.

Two separate lawsuits—one from Texas abortion providers and one from the U.S. Department of Justice—are seeking to have the law put on hold while the legal battles play out. A U.S. District Court judge issued an injunction preventing enforcement of the law in mid-October, but that ruling was quickly overturned by the conservative 5th Circuit Court.

On November 1, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in both cases. Rulings were pending at the time of our print deadline (November 18), and the Texas law remained in effect.

New Study Says Young People Will Experience More Climate Disasters

A new study published in the journal *Science* says that people born in 2020 will

experience between two and seven times more climate-related disasters—especially heatwaves—in their lifetimes than people born in 1960. The study, which used a cohort approach to quantify relative lifetime exposure to climate-related events, is an attempt to highlight the intergenerational inequity at the heart of the current failure to grapple with the effects of climate change.

Climate Crisis Is a Violation of Children's Human Rights

A new report from UNICEF calls the climate crisis “the defining human and child’s rights challenge of this generation” and says that it “is already having a devastating impact on the well-being of children globally.”

The report’s authors estimate that 2.2 billion children are currently exposed to at least two overlapping environmental “hazards, shocks, and stresses” such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves. The report notes that children are more physically and psychologically vulnerable to such events than adults and that they are also more likely to die of diseases exacerbated by climate change.

WHO and UNFPA Launch Joint Initiative to End Preventable Maternal Deaths

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have partnered to launch new

targets called the Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality (EPMM) initiative. The initiative’s goal is to get the world back on track to meet Sustainable Development Goal 3, Target 1 (to reduce the ratio of maternal deaths to less than 70 per 100,000 live births, down from 211 today).

EPMM has issued five targets that should be met by 2025 if SDG 3.1 is to remain achievable by 2030:

1. 90 percent of pregnant women to attend four or more antenatal care visits (towards increasing to eight visits by 2030);
2. 90 percent of births to be attended by skilled health personnel;
3. 80 percent of women who have just given birth to access postnatal care within two days of delivery;
4. 60 percent of the population to have access to emergency obstetric care within two hours of travel time;
5. 65 percent of women to be able to make informed and empowered decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use, and their reproductive health.

The EPMM initiative created these targets after two rounds of consultations over several months, using inputs from 40 countries. It outlines specific goals for individual countries, concentrating on those where rates of maternal mortality are highest.

Illinois Lawmakers Pass Measure to End State's Parental Notification of Abortion Law

The Illinois state legislature has passed a law repealing the requirement that a parent be notified at least 48 hours before a minor undergoes an abortion in the state. The parental notification requirement had been on the books since 1995, though minors did have the right to request the notification be waived if they expressed concerns about their safety.

Governor J.B. Pritzker (D) has expressed support for the repeal and is expected to sign the bill into law, although because it did not pass with a three-fifths majority, it cannot take effect until June 1, 2022.

Mexico's Supreme Court Decriminalizes Abortion

In early September, Mexico's Supreme Court issued a historic ruling: Having an abortion is not a crime. This ruling is a dramatic shift for the majority-Catholic country.

While abortion through the first 12 weeks of pregnancy was already legal and widely available in Mexico City, as well as in the states of Hidalgo, Oaxaca, and Veracruz, it remains severely restricted in most of the rest of the country.

It will take time for the ruling's effects to translate into greater abortion access across the country. There are laws on the

books in many Mexican states that will have to be changed or challenged, and the Court didn't set a gestational limit on abortion access, so it's likely that there will be further argument about the breadth of the decision, but it's a sweeping victory for abortion rights advocates in that country.

Analysis: 26 States Will Ban Abortion if Roe Falls

A new analysis from the Guttmacher Institute suggests that 26 U.S. states are either "certain or likely" to ban abortion if the Supreme Court overturns or severely limits the scope of *Roe v. Wade*.

Twenty-one states (Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, and Wisconsin) already have laws on the books or constitutional amendments that would enable them to quickly ban abortion in the absence of *Roe*. Five others (Florida, Indiana, Montana, Nebraska, and Wyoming) are considered likely to follow suit, based on their recent actions and current political composition.

On December 1, the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a case, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, that could overturn *Roe* and give these states the opening they have been waiting for.

Protests in Poland After Pregnant Woman Dies of Septic Shock

Protests and silent vigils have broken out across Poland after a 30-year-old woman died of septic shock in her 22nd week of pregnancy. According to activists, the woman, identified in the media only as Izabela, is the first person to die as a result of Poland's recently tightened abortion laws.

Poland had previously allowed abortion only in cases of rape, life endangerment, and severe fetal abnormalities. The country's conservative constitutional tribunal ruled last year that abortions were no longer permitted in cases of fetal defects. Opponents charge that health care providers now routinely wait for a fetus to die naturally before inducing an abortion, even in cases where allowing the pregnancy to continue raises the risk to the pregnant person.

A spokesman for the conservative ruling party said that there are no plans to make changes to abortion laws in response to this case. The government did, however, clarify the existing law, emphasizing that when a pregnant person's life is at risk, abortion is permissible.

The digital version of this article includes hyperlinked sources: popconnect.org/articles/in-the-news-december-2021/

FALL MEMBER EVENTS

Members and supporters from across the country joined in our fall 2021 events. We're happy to see so many of you taking advantage of these opportunities to learn, discuss population issues, and network with each other!

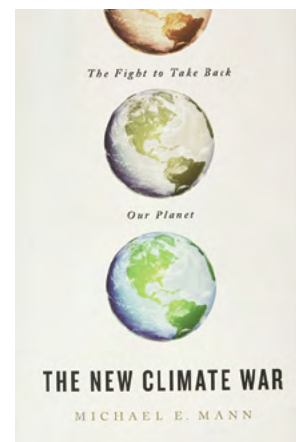
PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB

We hosted two Population Connection Page Turners book club meetings this fall.

Staff members led lively and informative discussions of Paul Morland's *The Human Tide* in

September and Michael E. Mann's *The New Climate War* in November.

The next book club meeting will take place on January 27, 2022, at 4pm EST. We'll be discussing Jane Goodall's *The Book of Hope*—excerpted in this issue beginning on page 14. You can find information about the meeting and sign up to join us at popconnect.org/virtual-events/book-club/.



FALL SPEAKER SERIES

We are proud to host experts in the fields of environmental sustainability, reproductive rights, demography, and more throughout the year. This fall, we invited two professors with unique, insightful perspectives to speak with our members and staff. You can find recordings of each presentation, along with supplemental resources each speaker shared, at popconnect.org/virtual-events/fall-2021/.

Professor Elizabeth Esekong Andrew-Essien from the Department of Environmental Resource Management at the University of Calabar in Calabar, Nigeria, presented to Population Connection members in October. Professor Andrew-Essien spoke passionately on how population growth impacts ecology in her native Nigeria and across the African continent.



Professor Kyle Whyte, Willis Pack Professor of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan, presented the day after Indigenous Peoples' Day, in October. An enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Professor Whyte covered Indigenous peoples' action to address climate justice.

We encourage you to contact us at engage@popconnect.org with questions about how to join any of our events, as well as to offer your own ideas for future events. We love hearing from you!

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Sample Bequest Language:

After fulfilling all other provisions,
I give, devise, and bequeath ____%
of the remainder of my estate
[or \$____ if a specific amount]
to Population Connection
(Tax ID #94-1703155), a charitable
corporation currently located at
2120 L Street NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20037.

*For more information, contact
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EXCERPTS

The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times

By Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams

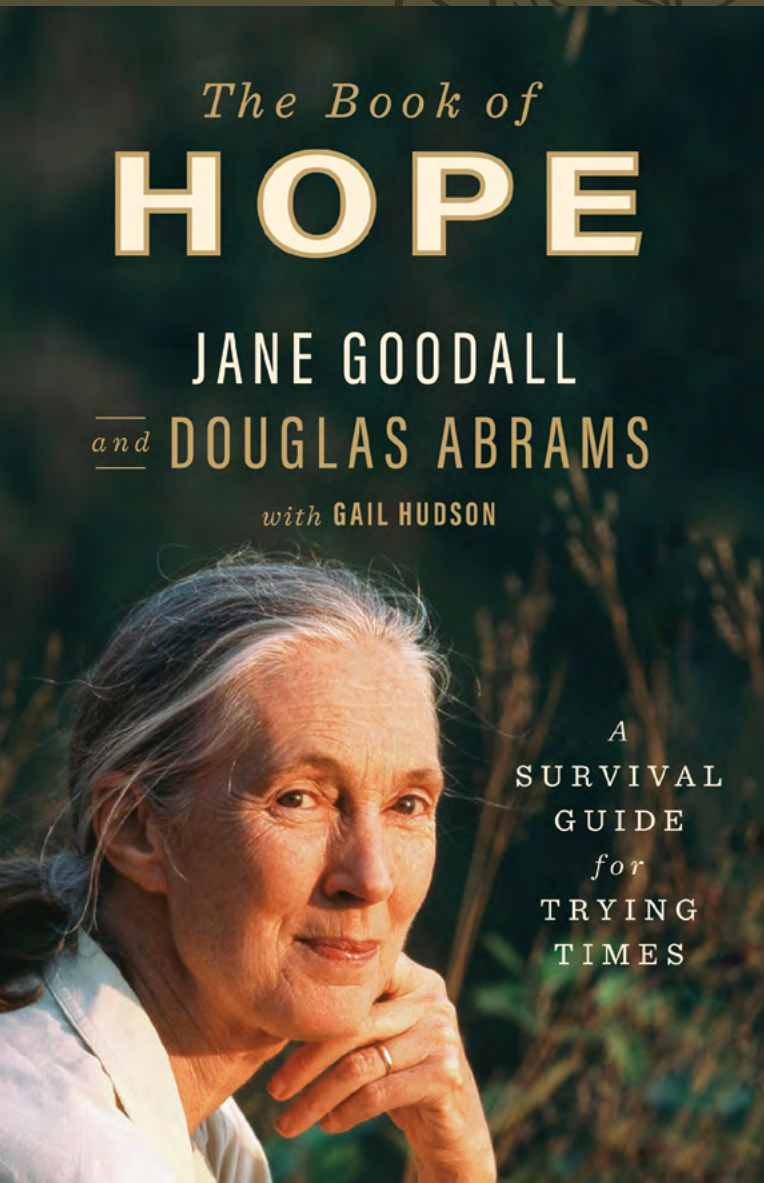
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The Book of Hope is largely a transcript of several long-form interviews that author Douglas Abrams conducted with Jane Goodall over the course of several months—in Tanzania, in Belgium, and over Zoom, once the pandemic prevented them from continuing to meet up in person. I read it quickly, over a few hours on a Sunday evening, my mind's eye picturing the stories Dr. Jane told of her breathtaking encounters with wild animals in East Africa. From the seminal experience of witnessing a male chimpanzee use a long piece of grass to fish termites out of a hole in the ground, which taught us that humans aren't the only animal that uses tools, to the poisonous snake that slithered over her legs when she was first living in what later became Gombe Stream National Park, to the embrace from a female chimp as she was being released from rehabilitation, Dr. Jane's stories inspire awe and reverence.

She is endlessly dedicated to mitigating the intergenerational injustice she [rightly] feels we are committing against today's youth as we destroy nature and threaten the planet to the point of uninhabitability. And through her Roots & Shoots program, which asks kids to take on projects that make the world a better place for people, animals, and the environment, she empowers hundreds of thousands of young people across 68 countries to help reverse the damage their elders have inflicted on the earth. I think she'd really like our Population Education program, which is similarly dedicated to empowering young people to be better planetary stewards than the generations that came before them.

Please enjoy the following selected excerpts from her new book and purchase your copy in time to read it before our January Page Turners book club meeting! We'll be discussing *The Book of Hope* as a group on Zoom on January 27, 2022. Details and the link to register are on our website at popconnect.org/virtual-events/book-club/. See you there!

—Marian Starkey



“During my early days in Gombe I was in my own magical world, continually learning new things about the chimpanzees and the forest. But in 1986 everything changed. By then there were several other field sites across Africa and I helped to organize a conference to bring these scientists together.”

It was at this conference that Jane learned that in every place where chimps were being studied across their range their numbers were dropping and their forests were being destroyed. They were being hunted for bushmeat, caught in snares, and exposed to human diseases. Mothers were shot so their infants could be taken and sold as pets or to zoos, or trained for the circus, or used for medical research.

Jane told me how she secured funding to visit six different countries across the chimpanzee range in Africa. “I learned a great deal about the problems facing the chimps,” she said, “but I also learned about the problems facing human populations living in and around chimpanzee forests. The crippling poverty, lack of good education and health facilities, degradation of the land as their populations grew.

“When I went to Gombe in 1960,” Jane said, “it was part of the great equatorial forest belt that stretched across Africa. By 1990, it had become a tiny oasis of forest surrounded by completely bare hills. More people were living there than the land could support, too poor to buy food from elsewhere, struggling to survive. Trees had been cleared to grow food or make charcoal.

“I realized that if we couldn’t help people find a way of making a living without destroying the environment, there was no way we could try to save the chimpanzees.”

(pp. 23-24)



JANE GOODALL, INTERACTING WITH A CHIMP IN GOMBE STREAM NATIONAL PARK, TANZANIA, APPEARS IN THE TELEVISION SPECIAL “MISS GOODALL AND THE WORLD OF CHIMPANZEES,” ORIGINALLY BROADCAST ON CBS ON DECEMBER 22, 1965 (CBS VIA GETTY IMAGES)

“So, yes,” Jane continued, “I honestly think it was the explosion of the human intellect that took a rather weak and unexceptional species of prehistoric apes and turned them into the self-appointed masters of the world.”

“But if we’re so much more intelligent than other animals, how come we do so many stupid things?” I asked.

“Ah!” said Jane. “That’s why I say ‘intellectual’ rather than ‘intelligent.’ An intelligent animal would not destroy its only home—which is what we have been doing for a very long time. Of course, some people are indeed highly intelligent, but so many are not. We labeled ourselves *Homo sapiens*, the ‘wise man,’ but unfortunately there is not enough wisdom in the world today.”

“More people were living there than the land could support, too poor to buy food from elsewhere, struggling to survive.”

(p. 46)

“So it is really strange, isn’t it, that this amazing human intellect has also gotten

us into this mess we’re in,” I said. “This very same intellect has created a world out of balance. One could argue that the human intellect was the greatest mistake in evolution—a mistake that is now threatening all life on the planet.”

“Yes, we have certainly made a mess of things,” Jane agreed. “But it’s the way we have used the intellect that

has made the mess, not the intellect per se. It’s a mixture of greed, hate, fear, and desire for power that has caused us to use our intellect in unfortunate ways. But the good news is that an intellect smart enough to create nuclear weapons and AI is also, surely, capable of coming up with ways to heal

the harm we have inflicted on this poor old planet. And indeed, now that we’ve become more and more aware of what we’ve done, we have begun to use our creativity and inventiveness to start healing the harm we’ve caused. Already there are innovative solutions, including renewable energy, regenerative farming

and permaculture, moving toward a plant-based diet, and many others, that are directed toward creating a new way of doing things. And, as individuals, we are recognizing that we need to leave a lighter ecological footprint and we are thinking of ways to do it."

"So our intellect in itself is neither good nor bad—it depends on how we humans choose to use it—to make the world better or to destroy it?"

"Yes, that's where our intellect and our use of words makes us different from other animals. We are both worse and better, because we have the ability to choose." Jane smiled.

"We're half sinner and half saint."

(pp. 47-48)

"I think that wisdom involves using our powerful intellect to recognize the consequences of our actions and to think of the well-being of the whole. Unfortunately, Doug, we have lost the long-term perspective, and we are suffering from an absurd and very unwise belief that there can be unlimited economic development on a planet of finite natural resources, focusing on short-term results or profits at the expense of long-term interests. And if we carry on like this—well, I don't like to think

"There are over seven billion of us today, and already, in many places, we have used up nature's finite natural resources faster than nature can replenish them."

what will happen. And it is most definitely not the behavior of a 'wise ape.'

"When making decisions most people ask, 'Will it help me or my family now or the next shareholders' meeting or my next election campaign?' The hallmark of wisdom is asking, 'What effects will the decision I make today have on future generations? On the health of the planet?'"

"And it's the same sort of lack of wisdom shown by those in power who suppress certain sections of society—I mean, in America and the UK it is shameful the way certain sections of society are deliberately kept undereducated and underserved. And then the time comes when the resentment and anger of those people finally erupts, and they demand change. They want

better wages or better health care or better schools. And this can lead to violence and bloodshed. Think of the French Revolution. And it was people fighting to end slavery that led to the American Civil War. Well, you and I both know of many stories of angry people coming together throughout history and using violence to overthrow oppressive political or social structures."

(pp. 58-59)

JANE GOODALL AT THE CHIMPANZEE ENCLOSURE AT TARONGA ZOO ON MAY 29, 2014, IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA (JEREMY PIPER/NEWSPIX/GETTY IMAGES)



EXCERPTS from **THE BOOK OF HOPE: A Survival Guide for Trying Times** by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams



LAKE TANGANYIKA, TANZANIA, WHICH FORMS THE WESTERN BORDER OF GOMBE STREAM NATIONAL PARK, WHERE JANE GOODALL FIRST STUDIED CHIMPANZEES IN 1960; SHE STILL HAS A HOME IN GOMBE, ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF LAKE TANGANYIKA, THAT SHE VISITS EACH YEAR. (HANNAH JANE, COURTESY OF FLICKR)

How could we use this amazing human intellect wisely?

I put this question to Jane.

"Well, if we are ever going to do that—and I've already said that I think head and heart must work together—now is the time to prove that we can. Because if we don't act wisely now to slow down the heating of the planet and the loss of plant and animal life, it may be too late. We need to come together and solve these existential threats to life on Earth. And to do so, we must solve four great challenges—I know these four by heart because I often speak about them in my talks.

1

"First—we must alleviate poverty. If you are living in crippling poverty, you will cut down the last tree to grow food. Or fish the last fish because you're desperate to feed your family. In an urban area you will buy the cheapest food—you do not have the luxury of choosing a more ethically produced product.

2

"Second, we must reduce the unsustainable lifestyles of the affluent. Let's face it, so many people have way more stuff than they need—or even want.

3

"Third, we must eliminate corruption, for without good governance and honest leadership, we cannot work together to solve our enormous social and environmental challenges.

4

"And finally, we must face up to the problems caused by growing populations of humans and their livestock. There are over seven billion of us today, and already, in many places, we have used up nature's finite natural resources faster than nature can replenish them. And by 2050 there will apparently be closer to ten billion of us. If we carry on with business as usual, that spells the end of life on Earth as we know it."

(pp. 59-60)

EXCERPTS from **THE BOOK OF HOPE: A Survival Guide for Trying Times** by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams



JANE GOODALL SPEAKS FROM HER FAMILY HOME IN BOURNEMOUTH, ENGLAND, AT THE GREENTECH FESTIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2020, IN BERLIN, GERMANY (GETTY IMAGES FOR GREENTECH FESTIVAL)

“So the big challenge faced by many species today is whether or not they can adapt to climate change and human encroachment into their habitats.”

Of course, a great deal of our onslaught on Mother Nature is not really lack of intelligence but a lack of compassion for future generations and the health of the planet: sheer selfish greed for short-term benefits to increase the wealth and power of individuals, corporations, and governments. The rest is due to thoughtlessness, lack of education, and poverty. In other words, there seems to be a disconnect between our clever brain and our compassionate heart. True wisdom requires both thinking with our head and understanding with our heart.”

(p. 60)

A 2019 study published by the United Nations reports that species are going extinct tens to hundreds of times faster than would be natural and that a million species of animals and plants could become extinct in the next few decades as a result of human activity. We’ve already wiped out 60 percent of all mammals, birds, fish, and reptiles—scientists are calling it the “sixth great extinction.”

I shared these fears with Jane.

“It’s true,” she acknowledged. “There are indeed a lot of situations when nature seems to have been pushed to the breaking point by our destructive behavior.”

“Yet,” I said, “you still say you have hope in nature’s resilience. Honestly, the studies and projections about the future of our

planet are so grim. Is it really possible for nature to survive this onslaught of human devastation?”

“Actually, Doug, this is exactly why writing this book is so important. I meet so many people, including those who have worked to protect nature, who have lost all hope. They see places they have loved destroyed, projects they have worked on fail, efforts to save an area of wildlife overturned because governments and businesses put short-term gain, immediate profit, before protecting the environment for future generations. And because of all this there are more and more people of all ages who are feeling anxious and sometimes deeply depressed because of what they know is happening.”

“There’s a term for it,” I said. “Eco-grief.”

(pp. 72-73)

“The trouble is that not enough people are taking action,” I said. “You say more people are aware of the problems we face—so why aren’t more trying to do something about it?”

“It’s mostly because people are so overwhelmed by the magnitude of our folly that they feel helpless,” she replied. “They sink into apathy and despair, lose hope, and so do nothing. We must find ways to help people understand that each one of us has a role to play, no matter how small. Every day

we make some impact on the planet. And the cumulative effect of millions of small ethical actions will truly make a difference. That's the message I take around the world."

"But sometimes don't you feel that the problems are so huge that you are too overwhelmed to act, or else feel that anything you do is insignificant in the face of such enormous hurdles?"

"Oh, Doug, I'm not immune to all that's going on and sometimes it hits me. When, for instance, I return to an area that I remember as a peaceful patch of woodland with trees and birds singing—and find that in just two years it's been razed to the ground for yet another shopping mall. Of course I feel sad. But I feel angry, too, and try to pull myself together. I think of all the places that are still wild and beautiful and that the fight to save them must intensify. And I think of the places that have been saved by community action. Those are the stories that people need to hear; stories of the successful battles, the people who succeed because they won't give up. The people who, if they lose one battle, gear up for the next."

"Can these community actions win the overall battle, though?" I asked. "So many species are being lost. So many habitats destroyed—seemingly beyond repair. Is it not too late for us to prevent a total collapse of the natural world?"

Jane's eyes looked into mine, and her gaze was level and direct.

"Doug, I honestly believe we can turn things around. But—yes, there is a 'but'—we must get together and act now. We only have a small window of opportunity—a window that is closing all the time. So each of us must do what we can to start healing the harms we have inflicted and do our bit to slow down biodiversity loss and climate change. I have seen or heard about hundreds of successful campaigns and met so many wonderful people. And



BABY CHIMP IN GOMBE STREAM NATIONAL PARK, TANZANIA (BRIAN HARRIES, COURTESY OF FLICKR)

sharing these stories gives people hope—hope that we can do better."

(pp. 78-79)

"It's our extraordinary success in adapting to different environments that has allowed humanity—and cockroaches and rats!—to spread across the world. So the big challenge faced by many species today is whether or not they can adapt to climate change and human encroachment into their habitats."

(p. 84)

"The chimps in Gombe make a nest and go to bed at night, which is what most chimpanzees do. But the chimps in Senegal, where the temperatures are soaring and getting ever hotter, have adapted. They often forage on moonlit nights because it's much cooler. And they will even spend time in caves, which are very unchimp-like habitats.

"And chimps in Uganda have learned to forage at night for a different reason. Their forest is being increasingly

encroached upon as villages expand and people need more land for farming. And so, with their traditional foods becoming scarcer, the chimps have learned to raid farms adjacent to the forest and make off with farmers' crops. That in itself is remarkable, as chimpanzees are typically very conservative in their

habits and almost never experiment with new foods at Gombe. And if an infant tries to do so, the mother or elder sibling will hit it away! But the Ugandan chimps have not only developed a taste for foods such as sugarcane, bananas, mangoes, and papaya, but they've learned to make their raids in the moonlight—when they are less likely to encounter humans.

(pp. 85-86)

"And chimps in Uganda have learned to forage at night for a different reason. Their forest is being increasingly encroached upon as villages expand and people need more land for farming."

"With so many people on the planet—and the vast majority of animals being humans and our livestock, including our pets—we must set some areas aside for wildlife. And the thing is, this rewilding is really beginning to work!"

(p. 88)



JANE GOODALL HOLDS A BABY CARIBLANCO MONKEY DURING HER VISIT TO THE CENTER FOR RESCUE AND REHABILITATION OF PRIMATES, IN PEÑAFLO, CHILE (HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES)



BEATRICE IS THE LEADER OF HEROES, A GROUP OF YOUNG GIRLS AND BOYS WHO ARE EDUCATING THEIR PEERS ON FAMILY PLANNING AND AVOIDING TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN TANZANIA. (SHEENA ARIYAPALA/DFID, COURTESY OF FLICKR)

"And it's not just about benefiting animals. I try to make people understand how much we humans depend on the natural world for food, air, water, clothing—everything. But ecosystems must be healthy to provide for our needs. When I was in Gombe I learned, from my hours in the rain forest, how every species has a role to play, how everything is interconnected. Each time a species goes extinct it is as though a hole is torn in that wonderful tapestry of life. And as more holes appear, the ecosystem is weakened. In more and more places, the tapestry is so tattered that it is close to ecosystem collapse. And this is when it becomes important to try to put things right."

(p. 96)

I asked Jane if she was ever asked if the money spent on conserving animals should be better used to help all the people in desperate need.

"You bet, I get asked that a lot," Jane said.

"How do you reply?"

"Well, I point out that I personally believe that animals have as much right to inhabit this planet as we do. But also that we are animals as well, and JGI, like many other conservation organizations today, does care about people. In fact, it has become increasingly clear that conservation efforts will not be successful and sustainable unless the local communities benefit in some way and become involved. They must go hand in hand."

"And you initiated this kind of program around Gombe," I said. "Can you tell me how that work began?"

"In 1987 I went to six countries in Africa where people were studying chimpanzees to find out more about why chimpanzee numbers were declining and what might be done about it. I learned a lot—about the

"With so many people on the planet—and the vast majority of animals being humans and our livestock, including our pets—we must set some areas aside for wildlife."

destruction of forest habitats, the beginning of the bushmeat trade—that is, the commercial hunting of animals for food and the killing of mothers to sell their infants as pets or for entertainment. But during that same trip I began to realize also the plight faced by so many of the African people living in and around

chimpanzee habitats. The terrible poverty, lack of health and education facilities, and degradation of the land.

"So I went on that trip to find out about chimp problems and realized they were inextricably linked to people problems. Unless we helped people, we could not help chimps. I began by learning more about the situation in the villages around Gombe."

Jane told me that she thought most people found it hard to believe the



KASHAULILI SECONDARY SCHOOL IN TANZANIA HAS 815 STUDENTS (405 BOYS AND 410 GIRLS) IN 14 CLASSROOMS AND A TEACHER-TO-PUPIL RATIO OF 1:65. (GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION/KELLEY LYNCH, COURTESY OF FLICKR)



JANE GOODALL POSES WITH CHILDREN FROM THE JGI ROOTS & SHOOTS PROGRAM DURING A VISIT TO THE CHIMPANZEE RESCUE CENTER IN ENTEBBE, UGANDA (SUMY SADURNI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES)

level of poverty that existed then. There was no appropriate health care infrastructure, and no running water or electricity. Girls were expected to end their education after primary school to help in the house and on the farm and were married off as young as thirteen. Many older men had four wives and huge numbers of children.

"There was a primary school in each of the twelve villages around Gombe. The teachers had canes that were freely used, and much of the children's time was spent in sweeping the bare earth of the schoolyard. Some villages had a clinic, but there were few medical supplies.

"And so, in 1994, JGI began Tacare. At the time it was a very new approach to conservation. George Strunden, who was the mastermind behind the program, selected a little team of seven local Tanzanians who went into the twelve villages and asked them what JGI could do to help. They wanted to grow more food and have better clinics and schools—so that's where we started, working closely with Tanzanian government officials. We did not even

talk about saving chimpanzees for the first few years.

"Because we started with local Tanzanians, the villagers came to trust us, and gradually we built a program that included tree planting and protecting water sources."

"I heard you also set up microcredit banks?"

"Yes, I think this has been one of the really successful things we did. It was kind of magic that soon after Tacare began, Dr. Muhammad Yunus—who won a Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 and is one of my heroes—invited me to Bangladesh and introduced me to some of the women who had been among the first to receive tiny loans from his Grameen Bank. Dr. Yunus started this lending program because the big banks refused to give out small loans. The women told me it was the first time they had actually held money in their hands and the difference it had made. And that now they could afford to send their children to school. I was immediately determined to introduce this program to Tacare.

"On one of my subsequent visits to Gombe, the first recipients of the microloans that Tacare helped them obtain were invited to come and talk about the small businesses they had started. They were almost all women. One young woman—only about seventeen years old—was very shy but so eager to tell me how her life had changed. She had taken out a tiny loan and started a tree nursery, selling saplings for the village reforestation program. She was so proud. She had paid back her first loan; her business was making money; she was able to hire a young woman to help her; and she had actually been able to plan when she would have her second child, thanks to Tacare's family planning information. And she told us she did not want more than three children because she wanted to be able to afford to educate them properly."

"I know you see voluntarily curbing population growth," I said, "and increasing access to education—especially for girls—as one of the keys to solving our environmental crisis."

"Yes, absolutely essential. On a visit to



PHOTOS, TOP TO BOTTOM: STUDENTS FROM KASOLWA, TANZANIA, TRAVEL 90+ MINUTES ON FOOT TO AND FROM MANGA PRIMARY SCHOOL. (GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION/KELLEY LYNCH)

STANDARD 6 GIRLS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEANING THE LATRINES EVERY SIX HOURS AT NYERERE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN TANZANIA. (GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION/KELLEY LYNCH)

WORKSHOPS IN VILLAGES IN TANZANIA BRING LOCALS TOGETHER TO DISCUSS INCLUSIVE AGRICULTURE. (NKUMI MTINGWA/CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY RESEARCH)

another village," Jane continued, "I gave a talk at the primary school and met one of the girls who had been awarded a Tacare scholarship that would enable her to move on to secondary education. She was very shy but excited at the idea of going to a secondary school in town where she would be a boarder."

Laughing, Jane told me how, at the start of this program, which was specifically designed to enable girls to stay in school during and after puberty, she had learned of a major problem. The girls were not going to school during their periods because the school latrines were stinky holes in the ground with no privacy whatsoever. Nor did they have any sanitary towels.

"So we planned to introduce 'ventilator improved pit latrines.' In America I suppose you would say VIP bathrooms. In the UK we'd say VIP loos!" She laughed again. "So that year I was asking for the money to build one of these as my birthday present. I raised enough for five! When they were built, I went to one of the schools for an official opening. It was a splendid event—parents in their smartest clothes, a few government officials, and a lot of excited children.

"The building had a cement floor, five little cubicles with doors that latched for the girls and, separated from these by a wall, three for boys. They had not yet been used. With great ceremony I cut the ribbon—then was escorted into the girls' area by the headmistress and a photographer. I went into a cubical and, to do the thing properly, sat on the seat. But I didn't pull my trousers down," she ended with a mischievous grin.

"So you see," she added, "these girls are now empowered to elevate their lives out of poverty and now understand that without a thriving ecosystem their families cannot thrive.

"Almost all of these villages have a forest reserve that needs protecting—but by 1990 most of them had been

severely degraded—for firewood, for charcoal, and clear-cutting for growing crops. As most of Tanzania's remaining chimpanzees live in these reserves, the situation was not very promising. But now everything has changed. Our Tacare program is now in one hundred and four villages throughout the range of Tanzania's two thousand or so wild chimpanzees.

"Last year I went to one of these villages and met Hassan, one of their two forest monitors who had learned how to use a smart phone. He was eager to take us into 'his' forest and show us how he used the phone to record where he had found an illegally cut tree and an animal trap. He pointed out where new trees were now growing. He told us that he was seeing more and more animals—three days before he had seen a pangolin on his way home in the evening. And most exciting of all, he had seen traces of chimpanzees—three sleeping nests and some feces."

(pp. 97-102)

Jane told me that the Tacare method is now operating in the six other African countries where JGI is working; and as a result, the chimpanzees and their forests, along with the other wildlife, are being protected by the people who live there, in whose hands their future lies.

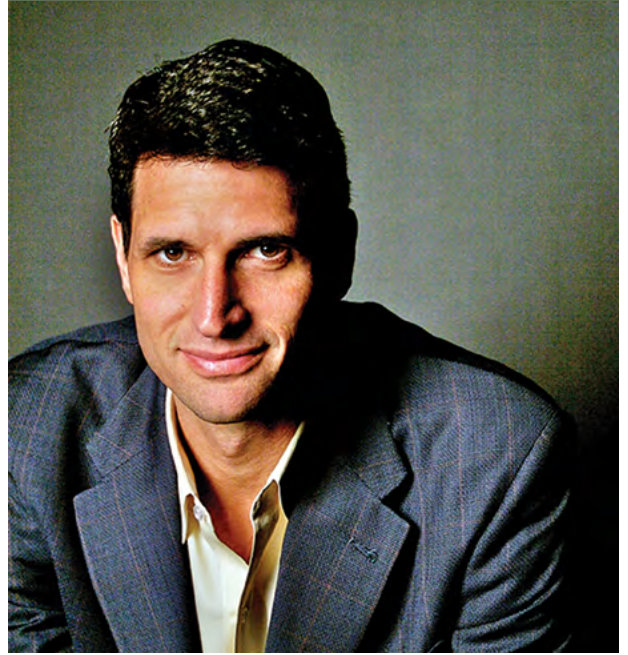
"I see what you're saying about the link between nature's resilience and human resilience," I said. "How addressing human injustices like poverty and gender oppression makes us better able to create hope for people and the environment. Our efforts to protect endangered species preserve biodiversity on the Earth—and when we protect all life, we inherently protect our own."

(pp. 103-104)

"The tragedy is that a pandemic such as this one has long been predicted by those studying zoonotic diseases. Approximately 75 percent of all new human diseases come from our interactions with animals. COVID-19 is



JANE GOODALL



DOUGLAS ABRAMS

“And as the human population grows, people and their livestock are penetrating ever deeper into remaining wilderness areas, wanting more space to expand their villages and to farm.”

likely one of them. They start when a pathogen, such as a bacteria or virus, spills over from an animal to a human and bonds with a cell in a human. And this may lead to a new disease. Unfortunately for us, COVID-19 is highly contagious and it spread rapidly, soon affecting almost every country around the globe.

“If only we had listened to the scientists studying zoonotic diseases who have long warned that such a pandemic was inevitable if we continued to disrespect nature and disrespect animals. But their warnings fell on deaf ears. We didn’t listen and now we are paying a terrible price.

“By destroying habitats we force animals into closer contact with people, thus creating situations for pathogens to form new human diseases. And as the human population grows, people and their livestock are penetrating ever deeper into remaining wilderness areas, wanting more space to expand their villages and to farm. And animals are hunted, killed, and eaten. They or their body parts are trafficked—along with their pathogens—around the world. They are sold in wildlife markets for food, clothing, medicine, or for the trade in exotic pets. Conditions in almost all of these markets are not only horribly cruel but usually extremely unhygienic—blood, urine, and feces from stressed animals all over the place. Perfect opportunity for a virus to hop onto a human—and it is thought that this pandemic, like SARS, was created in a Chinese wildlife market. HIV-1 and HIV-2 originated from chimpanzees sold for bushmeat in wildlife markets in Central Africa. Ebola possibly started from eating gorilla meat.

“The horrific conditions in which billions of domestic animals are bred for food, milk, and eggs have also led to the spawning of new diseases such as the contagious swine flu that started on a factory farm in Mexico

and noninfectious ones like E. coli, MRSA (staph), and salmonella. And don’t forget that all the animals I’ve been talking about are individuals with personalities. Many—and especially pigs—are highly intelligent, and each one knows fear, misery, and feels pain.”

(pp. 226–227)

“...I have something very important I want to convey: we must not let this distract us from the far greater threat to our future—the climate crisis and the loss of biodiversity—for if we cannot solve these threats, then it will be the end of life on Earth as we know it, including our own. We cannot live on if the natural world dies.”

(pp. 231–232)

“Together we CAN! Together we WILL! “Yes, we can, and we will—for we must. Let us use the gift of our lives to make this a better world. For the sake of our children and theirs. For the sake of those struggling in poverty. For the sake of the lonely. And for the sake of our brothers and sisters in the natural world—the animals, the plants, the trees.”

(p. 234)



As the Biden Administration Continues to Repair the Damage, New Threats Emerge

By Stacie Murphy, Director of Congressional Relations

As each year draws to a close, there's a lot lawmakers want to get done before time runs out. This year is no exception, with some things moving faster than others.

Appropriations Process Stalls

The Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations process continues to move forward, albeit at a lurching pace. As a reminder, the House passed a bill back in July that covered funding and policy provisions for international family planning. Those provisions included:

- increasing funding for bilateral family planning to \$760 million (\$185 million above the prior year);
- a U.S. contribution for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) of \$70 million (\$37.5 million above the prior year);
- Global HER Act language to permanently repeal the Global Gag Rule; and,
- removal of the Helms Amendment (though it remains part of permanent statute).

The Senate had not yet taken up its version of the bill by the September 30 end of FY 2021, so late that night, President Biden signed a Continuing Resolution extending funding at current levels through December 3.

On October 18, the Senate Appropriations Committee released a draft funding bill proposing \$705 million for family planning programming, including \$55 million for UNFPA. Neither level is as high as the level proposed by the House, but it's a considerable increase over current levels—and it's actually higher than the amount requested by the Biden administration. Notably, the bill also contains the Global HER Act language to permanently repeal the Global Gag Rule, an enormous victory for those of us who oppose the policy.

Given the time constraints, it's unlikely the Senate bill will go through the full mark-up and floor vote process. More likely, the draft bill will go to the conference committee along with the House-passed bill. The final funding number will likely fall somewhere between the two bills. And while the fact that the Global HER Act language is in both bills *should* mean it's automatically included in the final bill, there are no guarantees. Advocates are working hard to ensure that provision isn't stripped as part of any policy compromise.

We don't expect to see the ultimate conclusion to this process until late December.

Biden Reverses Title X Rule

On October 4, the Department of Health and Human Services released a final rule revoking regulations imposed on Title X family planning providers by the previous administration. Under that policy, which went into effect in August 2019 after months of legal challenges, Title X providers were forbidden from referring patients for abortion services unless a patient explicitly asked for such a referral and were allowed to refuse to provide one on "moral grounds." Providers were also no longer required to comprehensively discuss all pregnancy options, were allowed to pick and choose which family planning options they wanted to offer their patients, and were required to attempt to involve family members in decisions made by minors. Additionally, clinics were required to draw a "bright line" between abortion services and all other services: separate accounting, physical spaces, staff, contact info, patient health records, etc. Previously, clinics that received Title X grants for family planning services were able to offer abortion services with separate, non-federal funding, in the same facility, by the same staff.

The consequences to the program in the wake of the rule were devastating. An estimated 981 clinics left Title X

in 2019 alone, slashing the program's capacity by half and jeopardizing care for 1.6 million patients. Six states (Hawaii, Maine, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, and Washington) were left with no remaining Title X-funded providers.

The rule was an obvious and blatant attack on Planned Parenthood, which withdrew from the Title X program the day it went into effect. Until that point, Planned Parenthood clinics covered the family planning needs of 41 percent of women who rely on Title X.

The new language revoking the previous rule took effect on November 8, which means that Planned Parenthood and other providers forced out of the program may begin applying to re-enter. Patients will once again have access to the full range of options when they choose a Title X clinic for their care.

House Passes Women's Health Protection Act

In the wake of the Supreme Court's shocking refusal to block the blatantly unconstitutional Texas abortion "bounty" law (SB 8), the House of Representatives voted to pass H.R. 3755, the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA), on September 24.

Sponsored by Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA), the bill establishes a statutory right to abortion access free from medically unnecessary restrictions. It invalidates many of the state-level restrictions that have been enacted over the last decade, including six-week bans, 20-week bans, biased or inaccurate "counseling" requirements, mandatory ultrasounds, hospital admitting privileges requirements for doctors, and waiting periods.

WHPA passed 218-211, with only Texas Democrat Henry Cuellar joining all House Republicans to vote against it. Passing the bill in September was intended as a direct response to the Texas law, which empowers private citizens to sue anyone who "facilitates" an abortion after cardiac activity can be detected—at around six weeks into pregnancy. Although the Justice Department has stepped in to litigate the law (see *In the News*, page 6), there is little that Congress can do about it at the moment.

There is a Senate version of the Women's Health Protection Act (S. 1975), led by Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), but as long as the upper chamber continues to hold to the 60-vote threshold to defeat the filibuster and pass legislation, there's no chance of the bill becoming law in the current Congress.

Supreme Court to Hear Challenge to *Roe v. Wade*

After postponing its private conference on the case for months, the Supreme Court has announced that it will hear oral arguments on December 1 in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, a case centering on Mississippi's attempt to ban abortion after 15 weeks. The law contains exceptions only for life-threatening emergencies and fetal abnormalities, and state legislators have been clear about wanting to use it as a vehicle to challenge the central holding of *Roe v. Wade*.

Although Chief Justice John Roberts voted with the Court's liberal bloc last year in a case about a Louisiana law requiring doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at local hospitals, he did use that case to signal that he would be willing to consider restrictions or bans based on other grounds. Additionally, since that case, the composition of the Court has changed, with Justice Amy Coney Barrett replacing the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

This case is the most significant threat to *Roe* in decades. A ruling is expected in June 2022.



Meet Yasmeen Silva, Our New National Field Manager!

By Rebecca Harrington, Senior Director of Advocacy and Outreach

When Yasmeen Silva was five or six, she told her mother that she wanted to volunteer at a soup kitchen for the holidays. Her mom wasn't sure where Yasmeen had learned about this opportunity, but honored her young daughter's request—that year, the whole family served meals to unhoused people on Christmas.

This is one of Yasmeen's earliest memories of the foundation of her vision for a socially just world in which everyone has “a roof over their head, isn't hungry, and has health care.”

A few years later, during seventh grade homeroom, the students in the class began talking about abortion. The group was split about fifty-fifty between being “staunchly pro-choice” and opposing abortion on religious grounds. As she and her classmates engaged in a hearty debate, she responded to claims that abortion is always wrong, in all circumstances, with her contention that “it's always acceptable and always a woman's choice.”

Her commitment to reproductive freedom has strengthened since that spontaneous debate during seventh grade homeroom—through



college, through her early years organizing professionally, and now that she is Population Connection's new National Field Manager.

Yasmeen is a progressive organizer through and through, having worked on causes from prison reform to anti-militarism to reproductive rights. In college, she worked closely with a professor and the Vassar College Prison Initiative to advocate for “banning the box”—an effort to end the discriminatory practice by employers in the state of including a section on job applications asking about prior arrests or convictions.

She also worked with her local Planned Parenthood affiliate to organize a series

of teach-ins on Vassar's campus to educate the community about the ongoing erosion of reproductive rights and the urgent need for everyone to use their vote to support reproductive rights for all.

Prior to joining our team, Yasmeen spent the bulk of her organizing career working for Beyond the Bomb, organizing on anti-militarism and anti-nuclear initiatives. She began her work there as an organizer and transitioned to a role in which she was tasked with building partnerships with like-minded groups.

In 2017, Yasmeen worked as an organizer for the #Fight4HER campaign in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania, where she organized a well-publicized petition

drop to Senator Pat Toomey (R), as well as a pro-choice rally that received strong press coverage.

In this role, Yasmeen learned the power of building coalitions. She learned that “the real power of showing up for people authentically is that they’ll show up for you” and that “all issues are extremely intersectional and have a cultural effect—if something happens at the global level, it’s either already happening at the local level, or will trickle down.”

When she was talking to people on the ground in 2017, she realized that while she was talking about a global issue (the Global Gag Rule) she could frame it as something that could very well happen here in the United States. Indeed, just two years later, the Domestic Gag Rule was imposed, disqualifying reproductive health clinics across the country from receiving Title X grants for family planning for low-income Americans if they also provided or counseled patients about abortion.

In her role as National Field Manager, Yasmeen is most looking forward to the opportunity to work directly with volunteers again because there’s something “really powerful about working with people who—whether it’s time or

money—are giving of themselves for a cause.”

Like all of us, Yasmeen has spent the last 21 months working against the backdrop of Covid-19. She has seen, and continues to see, opportunities for virtual organizing, including the ability of local organizing efforts to expand, and for organizing and engagement opportunities to become more accessible to more people. “A lot of great local or hyperlocal organizing is happening—and when we can unite around a broader message, that’s when we build a lot of power.”

Yasmeen says the best organizing advice she ever received is that “organizing is 90 percent follow up.” It’s not enough to send out an initial invitation for a gathering to friends and family, or to ask your congressperson to sign on as a cosponsor of a bill one time. Everyone is juggling many responsibilities, so “nudging people is necessary, compassionate, and considerate.”

Yasmeen walks this walk in her own organizing work—for example, she called her former congressperson’s office so frequently that they knew her by name. Her best advice for aspiring organizers and activists is to push through the initial discomfort. She says, “The first

action is always the hardest, but once you do it, it gets easier, and you can build from there.”

She stays motivated by celebrating small wins. “Wins don’t always look like wins, but that doesn’t mean that you shouldn’t celebrate the progress you’ve made, or the line that you’ve held, or the people you’ve educated and activated.”

Yasmeen also keeps herself going with non-work-related pursuits like horseback riding, baking, and devouring dystopian novels. She loves visiting art museums and believes that art is critical to social justice work because “if we can’t visualize it, how can we get there?”

In her short time with us, she’s jumped right in to write compelling communications, manage our databases, and bring her creativity and insight to determine how best to engage our activists and volunteers, who are the fuel and fire of our #Fight4HER campaign.

We look forward to all Yasmeen will accomplish with us and are grateful to have her as part of our team!

If you’d like to get involved in our advocacy work, you can reach Yasmeen at ysilva@popconnect.org.



Teachers Give High Marks for PopEd Workshops

Results From Our Biennial Evaluation

By Pamela Wasserman, SVP for Education, and Lindsey Bailey, Education Network Director

Assessing performance is integral to a teacher's job. Every other year, we ask those educators who have participated in our PopEd workshops to appraise our work. How do they rate the quality of our teaching materials and overall presentation? How have they used the materials since their PopEd training? How many students have they reached, and what do they think their students are gaining from engaging with our PopEd curricula?

While we've been gathering this data from teachers for 30+ years, our latest assessment was somewhat different thanks to our altered workshop format since the start of the pandemic. This year, we surveyed participants from 2019 and 2020 workshops. While all of the 2019 events were conducted in person, 88 percent of the 2020 events were virtual.

We wanted to know whether educators valued these online presentations as they have the in-person presentations in years past.

Even though teachers and students are back in classrooms this fall, online learning is here to stay, and we want to continue offering workshops in both formats in a compelling way that ultimately makes a difference in students' understanding about population issues.

Between 2019 and 2020, we trained 23,980 K-12 educators through 1,266 workshops in 48 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and four Canadian provinces. Sessions were held for student teachers at colleges and universities and for current teachers at conferences and professional development events run by school districts

One of the best [workshops] I've attended in 30 years of teaching!

and the College Board (for AP teachers). Our data is based on anonymous responses to over 1,000 surveys returned in June 2021.

Workshop Experience

Whether participating in person or online, educators rated our workshops highly compared to professional development sessions from other organizations. Nine out of 10 educators considered PopEd workshops "superior" or "above average" in terms of content, usefulness, and presentation quality. Similar scores were given for how well the curriculum integrates into their teaching and for the quality of our virtual delivery methods (Figure 1).

Figure 1: In comparison to other professional development workshops you've attended, how did the Population Education workshop compare in terms of...

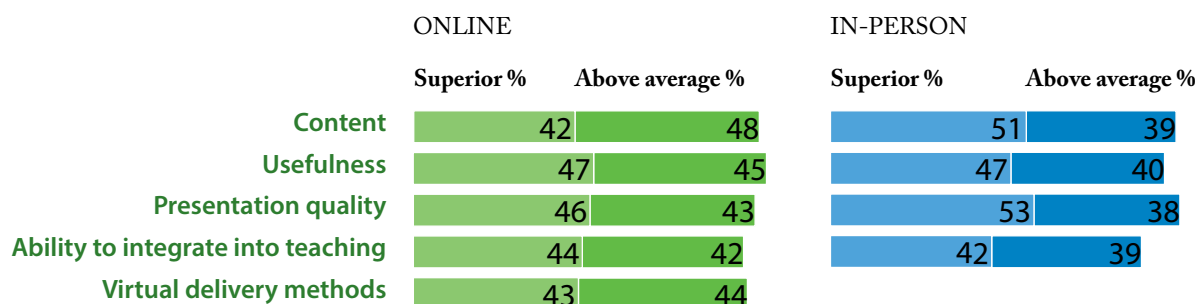
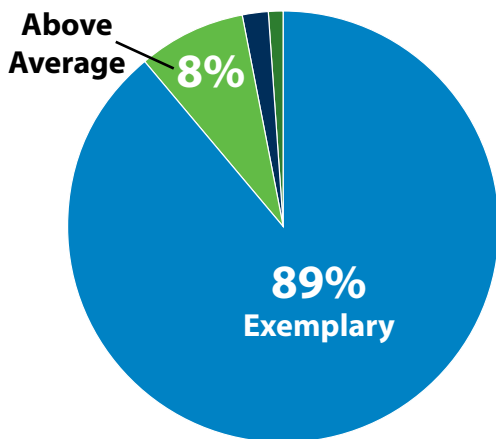


Figure 2: How would you rate the quality of the trainer's presentation?



Over half (59 percent) of PopEd workshops take place in teacher preparation courses. Education faculty, who invite PopEd facilitators to present in their classes, indicated being very satisfied with their workshop experiences—97 percent of surveyed professors rated the quality of the presentations as “exemplary” or “above average” (Figure 2), and 96 percent responded “very well” or “good” when asked how the workshops fit their course syllabuses.

OUTSTANDING! Your folks provide an excellent demonstration of evidence-based practices, enriched with content and skills that my students will teach in their future classrooms.

Teaching Materials and Classroom Use

PopEd classroom resources reliably receive positive reviews from educators. A full 98 percent of survey respondents rated the materials presented at their workshops as “excellent” or “good” (Figure 3). At the time of the survey, most respondents had either already used the materials with students or had plans to use them.

Teachers reported using an average of three to four PopEd lessons with their students. Of those who had used the materials, 53 percent teach science, 45 percent teach social studies, and 41 percent teach human geography or environmental science (AP or regular).

Other subjects taught by teachers who use PopEd lessons include math (12 percent), language arts (7 percent), and gifted and talented (5 percent).

“I love the interdisciplinary components and real-world application pieces that allow students to ‘see’ what they are learning.”

Figure 3: What is your overall rating of the materials presented in the workshop?



Teaching standards are a significant part of today's education system, and we work to ensure that PopEd materials align seamlessly with national and state-level frameworks. Our data show that teachers notice—95 percent of respondents indicated that PopEd lessons fit well with their required standards (Figure 4). This alignment allows for easy and frequent integration of PopEd lessons throughout the year to teach a variety of topics and skills. Two-thirds of respondents indicated using PopEd lessons two or more times each year (Figure 5).

Educators who use our materials reported working with an average of 64 students each annually. They confirmed that the PopEd lessons effectively engage their students and promote increased awareness of population issues. Moreover, teachers noted students' improvements in important skills like critical thinking and problem solving, as well as increased activism (Figure 6).

Figure 4: How well do Population Education materials align with your teaching standards?

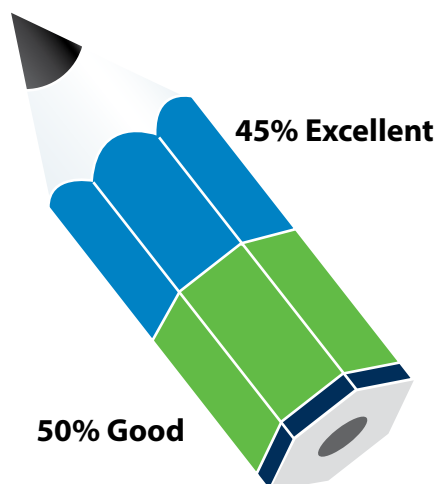


Figure 5: How frequently do you use Population Education materials?

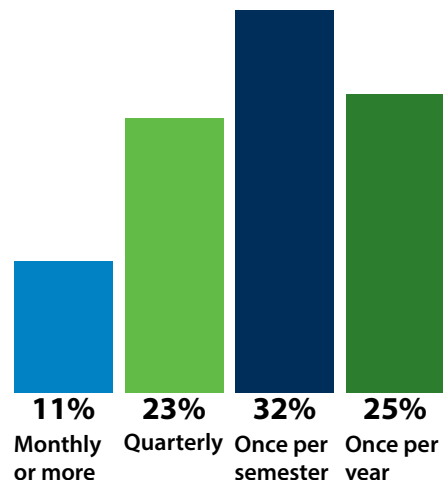


Figure 6: The Population Education materials I used in my classroom ...



Effectively engaged my students

37%
STRONGLY
AGREE

58%
AGREE



Increased my students' awareness of population issues

47%
STRONGLY
AGREE

48%
AGREE



Increased critical thinking and/or problem solving skills

34%
STRONGLY
AGREE

56%
AGREE

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kids' too!)”**

For more information about PopEd's teacher workshops, visit populationeducation.org.

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EDITORIAL EXCERPTS

San Antonio Express-News

...

Texas' newest abortion law allows any private citizen to sue an abortion provider or any other person, including a driver, who helps a woman obtain an abortion. If successful, they can collect a bounty.

It's a blatantly unconstitutional law, upending decades of precedent. The law bans abortions after about six weeks of pregnancy—before most women even know they are pregnant. There are no exceptions for rape or incest. The Supreme Court erred in allowing it to take effect and should quickly overturn it.

...

SB 8 has created an unprecedented vigilante system that provides incentives for anyone to sue abortion providers, who then must defend themselves in court at enormous cost. The chilling effects aren't hypothetical. It's virtually impossible for a woman to have a legal abortion in Texas.

U.S. Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar called the statute “unprecedented, extraordinary, and extraordinarily dangerous for our constitutional structure.”

Prelogar explained the law was designed to “thwart the supremacy of federal law in open defiance of our constitutional structure. ...”

As the Department of Justice argued, under such a structure, no constitutional right is safe.

...

The Supreme Court should never have allowed this law to take effect. While the line of questioning from a majority of justices suggests the Texas law will be overturned, the fate of abortion rights is still precarious.

—November 9, 2021

Los Angeles Times

Texas officials essentially and unconstitutionally banned abortion by way of a bizarre state law, and it sounds like the Supreme Court isn't buying into the state's scheme.

On Monday, justices heard nearly three hours of oral arguments in two cases brought by the U.S. Department of Justice and by a group of abortion providers challenging the Texas law. The state has banned abortion at six weeks of gestation—but the law is enforced only by private citizen lawsuits. This diabolical tactic is designed to render federal courts powerless to block the law.

...

Under the law, known as Senate Bill 8, an individual who helps a woman obtain an abortion—the doctor, the nurse, the ride share driver who took her to the clinic—can be sued in court by any Tom, Dick or Harry. If the person who gets sued loses, he or she pays legal fees for the other side. And win or lose, that person can be sued again and again by someone else for the exact same instance of helping a woman get an abortion. The law, in effect since Sept. 1, has effectively halted abortions in the state.

...

The most disturbing thing about the cases against Texas and another case concerning a Mississippi abortion restriction—which the court will hear next month—is just how precarious the situation is for abortion rights in the U.S. The Supreme Court guaranteed women the right to an abortion in its landmark *Roe vs. Wade* decision. Nearly 50 years after that decision, abortion rights advocates are back at the Supreme Court still fighting for it. A decade ago that would have been inconceivable.

The Supreme Court should make this decision quickly. ... It's past time to restore to Texas women their right to a safe and legal abortion.

—November 2, 2021



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Photo: Iguazu Falls seen from the National Park in Argentina | ivotheeditors

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