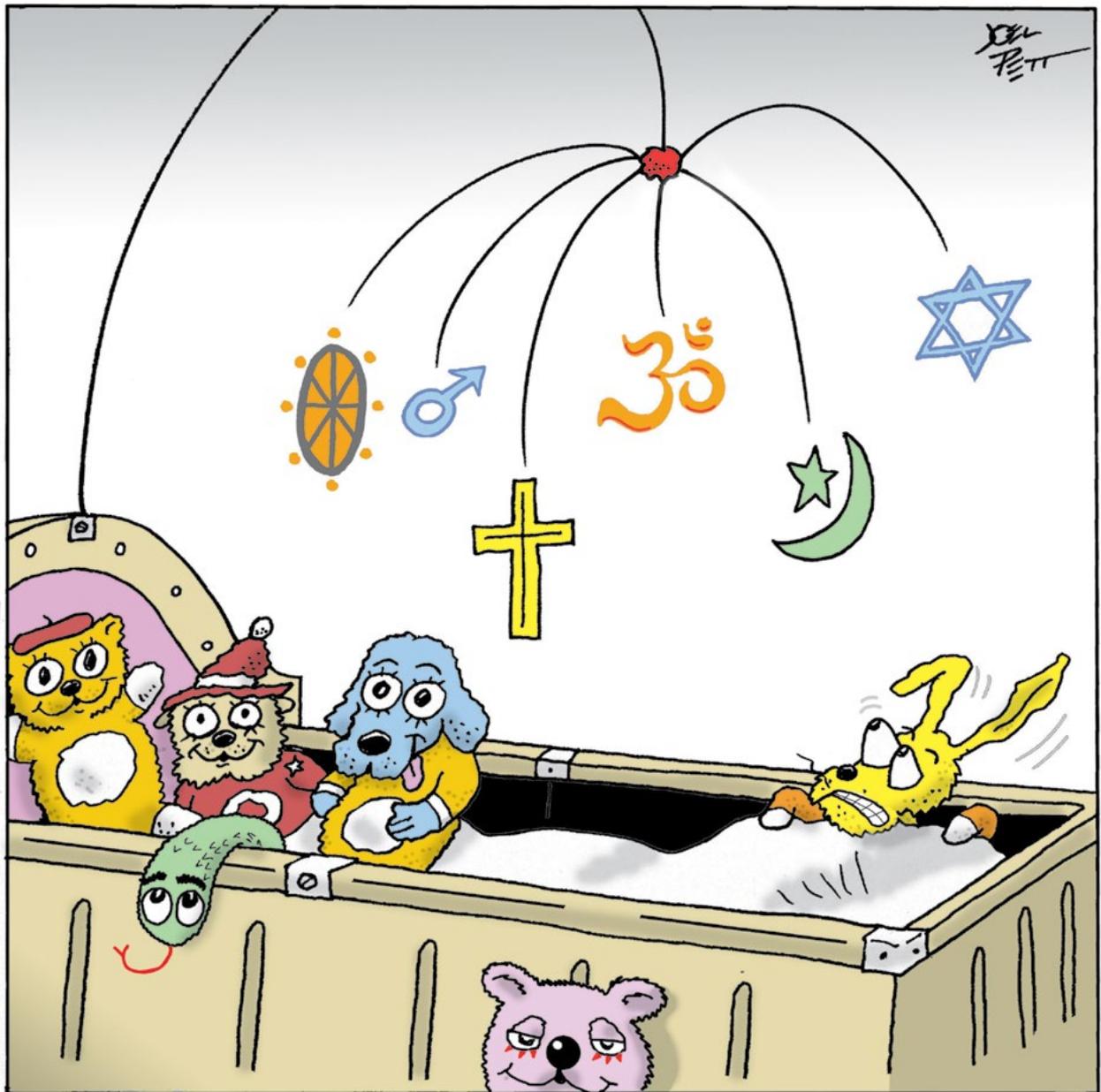


POPULATION CONNECTION

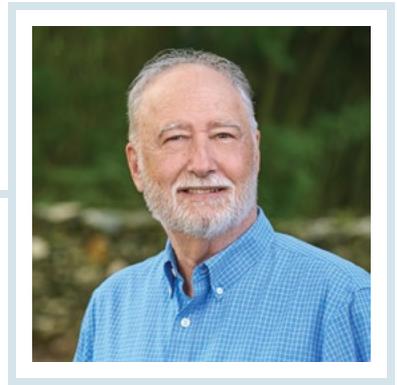
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March 2026



President's Note

John Seager
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Our feature article provides deep context regarding relationships between population and religion. Hope that theologically driven control of women was finally abating is undermined by a sharp rise in authoritarianism. Around the world — and increasingly in the United States — there is an alarming patriarchal reassertion of authority over women's bodies, labor, and public participation. This is frequently justified through religious frameworks fused with ethnonationalism — providing fertile ground for authoritarian governance.

This strikes directly at conditions that allow fertility to decline sustainably: women's autonomy, reproductive health care, education, and political voice. Diminished rights threaten demographic trajectories with higher unintended births and stalled fertility decline. This worsens maternal and child health outcomes and increases pressure on ecosystems and public resources.

Belief systems are selectively mobilized to justify social control. This includes theological domination of reproduction, demographic theology, "replacement" panic, and delegitimization of vital reproductive health services.

UN Women reports that nearly one-quarter of governments acknowledge backlash against women's rights, citing pressure from religious or "traditional values" organizations. The World Health Organization links restrictions on reproductive health care to increases in unsafe abortion and maternal mortality.

In a growing number of economically advanced nations, conservative religious forces are rolling back reproductive rights. Under Donald Trump (who ironically has no fixed principles, religious or otherwise, other than retribution and self-aggrandizement), policies reflect sanctimonious pronouncements. Defunding of domestic and international family planning programs by the Trump administration is applauded by right-wing religious groups that define "family" and "life" according to their own theological doctrines.

The Heritage Foundation, source of the heinous Project 2025 blueprint used by the Trump administration, wants taxpayer funding of church-run "marriage boot camps," complete with communal weddings that would turn the US into a pronatalist cult — positioning women primarily as wives and mothers in service of population growth and theologically defined social stability.

Where theocratic patriarchy impedes women's ability to control their own fertility, overpopulation will continue to plague high-vulnerability regions. Environmental stress on water, land, and food systems will intensify. Addressing the climate crisis will become harder and more expensive. Development gains in the poorest places on earth may stall or reverse.

Authoritarians cite divine authority to control women and their reproductive lives. Cancellation of rights portends dire consequences for people and for our overcrowded planet. Battles that once seemed won must be fought anew by those of us who value science, reason, rights, and nature. 🌍

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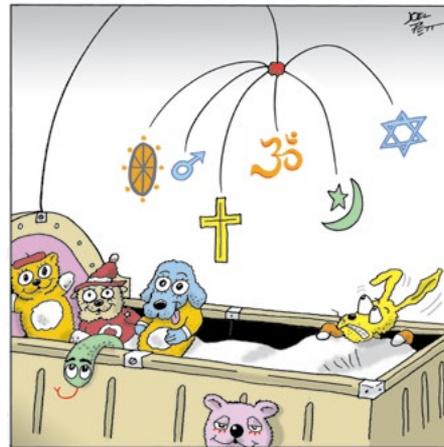


Feature

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Religion and Fertility: A Connection Rooted in Patriarchy

By Kirsten Stade



Cover image: Custom cartoon by Joel Pett featuring the symbols of the world's largest religions. According to Pew Research Center, in 2020, there were 2.3 billion Christians, 2 billion Muslims, 1.2 billion Hindus, 300 million Buddhists, 10 million Jews, 200 million practitioners of other religions, and 1.9 billion people with no religious affiliation.

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Editor's Note

Marian Starkey
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Our members have written! The flood of letters and emails I've received about religion's role in population growth since I published Konrad Kumkli's letter to the editor in the June 2025 issue exceeds the number of letters I've gotten about any magazine subject I can recall. I replied to each writer about the nuanced connections between religion, birth control, and fertility, and many of them responded that we should dedicate an issue of the magazine to the topic. Here's that issue.

Kirsten Stade researched and wrote a compelling feature article that details the pressures various religious doctrines and leaders place on women to bear children, and also points to the abundant examples of countries with strong religious identities — of all faiths — that have very low fertility rates. The common denominator in all these examples is access to a range of affordable modern contraceptive methods.

The United States has a higher total fertility rate (TFR) than most other high-income countries, at 1.6 births per woman. One widely accepted explanation is the elevated levels of religiosity here compared to many other industrialized countries. A 2022 study found that US women who attend religious services at least weekly have a TFR of 2.1 while women who never attend religious services have a TFR of 1.3. Of course, confounding factors such as higher rates of unintended pregnancy and more restrictive abortion bans in states with more religious residents play a role.

Meanwhile, according to 2023 CDC data, nearly every woman who had ever had sexual

intercourse with a male partner had used modern contraception at some point in her life. That goes for Catholic women (98.8%) and Protestant women (99.3%) alike. And, perhaps most surprisingly, for 98.6% of women who said that religion is “very important” in their daily lives.

I want to underscore a crucial point here: Even the most devoted religious women in the United States have replacement-level fertility, on average. In other words, women know better than their pope, priest, or pastor, or their rabbi or imam, whether and when they should have children and how many they can manage physically, emotionally, and financially. And when they have access to family planning information, services, and supplies, they tend to postpone childbearing and limit their family size in ways that women without access cannot.

Some countries that previously supported and even encouraged contraceptive use have done an about-face and now discourage or even penalize people's use of contraceptives. Still, fertility rates in those countries — e.g., Iran, China, Russia, the US — remain low. Once small families become the norm, regardless of how hard religious, business, and political leaders try to reverse the trend, people often still find a way to make their own best decisions about parenthood. It's only in the poorest, most underserved, and least gender-equal regions that people continue, at the population level, to have large families. Religious dogma, it seems, is no match for women's empowerment. 🌐

Letters to the Editor

As a 30+ year member of Population Connection, a physician, a lifelong advocate of sustainable human population and planetary stewardship, and a co-executive producer of the off-Broadway indie comedy musical and streaming film, *Dictator for a Day: A MAGA Musical for the Masses*, I applaud the “I Want a Baby Boom” infographic and the article “There Are Many Threats to Humanity. A Low Birth Rate Isn’t One of Them,” in the September 2025 issue. This is one of several missives Population Connection has recently launched against the medieval Project 2025 agenda of the Trump administration, now in its improbable second coming.

To that end, I appreciate the purpose and effectiveness of Population Connection’s sense of irony and humor in tackling MAGA’s delusional, right-wing assault on Planet Earth and its inhabitants. I urge the organization’s leadership and members to watch the side-splitting satirical monologue “Trump Sperm Bank” — delivered by the world’s best Trump impersonator, J-L Cauvin — and the hilarious song “Let’s Have a Couple Trump Babies” in *Dictator for a Day*, plus many other outrageously funny, ad hominem satirical monologues and songs whose subject happens to be the chosen leader of the Free World. Laughter is the new resistance![™]

Jim Craner, MD, MPH

This is in response to the letter by George Redden in the December 2025 edition of *Population Connection*. Like so much else, for good or bad, religion (or lack thereof) is not hard-wired from birth — it is learned, acquired, taught, accepted, adapted, and/or rejected on an individual basis. Religious “leaders” could and should do their part in not dictating to the flock, but instead work to change what is being taught and told to their parishioners and their community at large. Population management is everyone’s problem, and we are, and can and should be, instead, a meaningful part of its solution.

David Daugman

You have such a neat organization, helping to make a better world. I really enjoy your quarterly magazine. So many people to reach. It is all in the education. I’m thrilled to know what a forward-thinking institution you are.

Helen Kettle

If you’d prefer to read the quarterly *Population Connection* magazine online, please visit our website at popconnect.org/magazine to see archives going back to 2020. The digital version of each issue contains links to sources, staff authors’ email addresses, and suggestions for further reading.



UNMET NEED + UNINTENDED PREGNANCY

714 million women are currently using modern contraception.



214 million women

have an unmet need for contraception—they want to avoid pregnancy but **aren't using a modern method.**

in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)

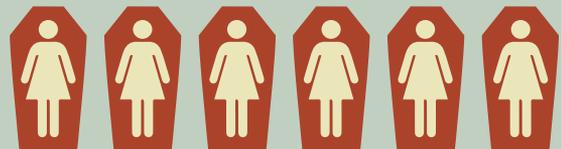
96 million unintended pregnancies

occur each year in LMICs, accounting for **47% of all pregnancies** in those countries.

59% of unintended pregnancies **end in abortions** and **29% end in unplanned births.**

34 million women

have unsafe abortions each year.



247,000 women die

each year from causes related to pregnancy, abortion, and childbirth.



IN THE NEWS

By Olivia Nater, Communications Manager

UN report highlights need to tackle overpopulation and overconsumption

A recent report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is surprisingly honest regarding the fundamental drivers of our planetary crises — population growth, overconsumption, and growth-dependent, extractivist systems — and the urgent need to profoundly transform our economies and societies.

The Global Environment Outlook, Seventh Edition: A Future We Choose (GEO-7) is a whopper of a report — 1,242 pages long and produced by 287 scientists from 82 countries. It is arguably the most important UN report in recent years, providing the latest detailed information on the state of air, land and soils, oceans and coasts, and fresh water, and on all environmental crises, as well as their interconnections.

GEO-7 notes that the majority of the world is likely overpopulated, and that projected population decline in countries with high consumption rates

creates “a natural and social ‘depopulation dividend’ — provided that unsustainable consumption does not increase simultaneously.”

Alongside laying out detailed “solution pathways” for transforming energy, food, financial, material, and environmental management systems, the report states that removing barriers to contraception and encouraging smaller family sizes (through media outreach as well as tax and benefits policies) are “a moral duty that also yield environmental benefits for both nature and people.”

The usual process for major reports like this is to publish an accompanying summary for policymakers — a brief document outlining key conclusions and recommendations. The content of this summary document, however, has to be approved by UN member state representatives. Unfortunately, there was so much resistance to the findings by some countries that no agreement could be reached.

The state of global fresh water reserves: from “crisis” to “bankruptcy”

Another UN report, this one by the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment, and Health (UNU-INWEH), warns that the world has entered a state of “water bankruptcy.” Overextraction of fresh water has reached such severe levels that past hydrological and ecological baselines cannot realistically be restored. This irreversible damage to water sources, including rivers, lakes, aquifers, wetlands, soils, and glaciers, differentiates water bankruptcy from a water “crisis,” which suggests a temporary emergency followed by a return to normal through mitigation efforts.

The state of water bankruptcy is a result of governments failing to act on water overuse for too long. Three-quarters of the world’s population lives in countries classified as water-insecure or critically water-insecure, while almost half the population is now experiencing severe water scarcity for at least

one month a year. The authors state that water bankruptcy management requires preventing further irreversible damage while adapting systems to a smaller hydrological budget.

The report notes, “Population growth, urbanization, and economic expansion have increased water demand for agriculture, industry, energy, and cities.” Agricultural use alone accounts for 70% of all fresh water withdrawals.

Dr. Jonathan Paul, a geoscientist at Royal Holloway, University of London, told *The Guardian*,

“The elephant in the room, which is mentioned explicitly only once, is the role of massive and unequal population growth in driving so many of the manifestations of water bankruptcy. Addressing this growth would be more useful than tinkering with outdated, non-inclusive, and top-down water resource management frameworks.”

Trump administration restores suspended Title X funding

The Trump administration has quietly restored federal family planning funding to Planned Parenthood clinics under the Title X program, which provides grants to help low-income Americans access essential reproductive health services, including contraception and

cancer screening. The funds had been unlawfully suspended since last spring, with the clinics accused of “possible violations” of Trump’s executive orders condemning diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) sued the US Department of Health and Human Services following the funding freeze, which had left approximately 865 family planning clinics across the country unable to provide Title X-funded services to around 842,000 patients.

The ACLU dropped the lawsuit following the Title X funding restoration, but the fight is far from over. Planned Parenthood had already lost the majority of its funding following the passage of a law in Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which blocks Medicaid payments to reproductive health care entities that provide abortion.

China taxes family planning in bid to boost births

The Chinese government has placed a new 13% value-added tax (VAT) on contraceptive drugs and condoms, a move widely interpreted as another misguided attempt to increase the country’s birth rate.

Official government data released in January revealed that China’s birth rate dropped to

5.63 births per 1,000 people in 2025 — the lowest level on record since the founding of the People’s Republic in 1949. The country’s population peaked in 2021 at 1.4 billion and has since been slowly shrinking. In 2025, 7.92 million babies were born in China, down from 9.54 million in 2024.

Pronatalist policies so far have included baby bonuses, tax incentives for larger families, and controversial campaigns to encourage women to return to more traditional childrearing roles.

Rather absurdly, instead of scrapping all coercive policies altogether, the government replaced its previous one- and then two-child limit with a three-child policy in 2021. China’s total fertility rate remains well below that, at just 1.0 birth per woman. 🌐

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PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE MEMBER PROFILE

Wayne Martinson

By Kimberly Dexter, Philanthropy Officer

When Wayne Martinson first started thinking seriously about population growth, he was standing at the edge of the Great Salt Lake, watching the wetlands shrink. It was the early 1990s, and he was working with the National Audubon Society. “We were focused on birds, on habitat, on water,” he says. “But the deeper we looked, the more we saw that the pressures we were facing — development, sprawl, water shortages — were all linked to population growth.” It wasn’t abstract. It was visible. Tangible. And it was happening fast.



That realization sparked the beginning of something new. Alongside a group of like-minded colleagues, Wayne helped found the Utah Population & Environment Council (UPEC) in 1997. Though it wasn’t an official ZPG chapter, the group was rooted in shared values and closely followed Population Connection’s national

work. “From the start, we used Population Connection’s materials at our outreach tables,” he remembers. “We’d go to Utah Education Association conventions and hand out resources to teachers. We knew education was where the change had to start.”

At the time, Utah had the highest fertility rate in the country, at 2.6 births per woman. “And it wasn’t from immigration,” Wayne points out. “It was internal, within the state’s predominantly white population. We were trying to start a conversation about sustainability in a place where the default assumption was that growth was good.”

Three decades later, that conversation is still evolving. Utah’s fertility rate has dropped below replacement level, to 1.8 births per woman, which Wayne sees as progress. But population pressures haven’t disappeared, they’ve just shifted. “Now, Utah’s growth is largely driven by people moving to the state. Nearly 50,000 new residents a year, more than half of them through migration. So, we keep asking: Why must growth be constant? Why can’t we plan for stability, or even decline, if we care about sustainability?”



“We were focused on birds, on habitat, on water. But the deeper we looked, the more we saw that the pressures we were facing – development, sprawl, water shortages – were all linked to population growth.”

Wayne is still engaged with UPEC, as Vice Chair of the Board, and is still deeply connected to the future of Utah, even though he now lives in Montana, nestled near the Bitterroot and Sapphire Mountains. “My daughter lives next door,” he says, smiling. “She keeps chickens, which is lovely. There’s something grounding about being close to family, sharing land, sharing time. It reminds me why this work matters.”

Wayne often returns to a familiar framework in his thinking: the I=PAT equation (impact equals population times affluence times technology), developed by Paul Ehrlich. “It’s been a guiding principle for me for decades,” he says. “And I think it still holds. Population Connection plays such a critical role in addressing that first piece — P for population. If we ignore that, we’re only tackling part of the problem.” He adds, “It’s not about blame. It’s about understanding. If we want a livable future, we have to look at the full picture.”

When asked what he hopes to see from Population Connection moving forward, Wayne doesn’t hesitate. First, he wants the organization

to continue its global education efforts, always with humility. “We need to support communities, not impose on them. The goal is empowerment, not control.” Second, he hopes Population Connection continues pushing back against the rising tide of pronatalist messaging. “There’s a narrative out there that more babies equals more success, more prosperity. We know that’s not sustainable. We need to offer another vision.”

Wayne’s voice is calm but clear, reflective but urgent. He’s not chasing headlines. He’s focused on the long view, the kind of legacy built not in sweeping moments, but in steady work, rooted in care. 

We’re honored to count Wayne as part of our President’s Circle. His years of advocacy, his thoughtful leadership, and his deep commitment to future generations remind us that meaningful change often comes from the quiet determination to stay with the work. To find out how you can join the President’s Circle, or to share your story with us, please email giving@popconnect.org.

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RELIGION AND FERTILITY

A Connection Rooted in Patriarchy

By Kirsten Stade

The world's religions: traditions steeped in pronatalism

“Be fruitful and multiply.”

“Women were created to bear children,
and men to carry on the line.”

“Children are a heritage from the Lord,
the fruit of the womb a reward.”

We are all familiar with these and similar exhortations from world religions for which procreation by the faithful has long been seen as the surest means to grow their flocks. The majority of the world's religious traditions are marked by pronatalist teachings, which are contained in scripture, promulgated by religious leaders, and enforced by social conventions that exalt parenthood and stigmatize those who do not or cannot partake in it.

At first glance, it would seem that religion is a consistent and unidirectional force toward high fertility, one among the many that exert pressure on people to have children. Of all these pronatalist forces, including parental pressures

for grandchildren, marital pressures to produce heirs, and political pressures to expand the base of consumers, laborers, and taxpayers to grow a nation's economy and power, pressures issuing from one's religion are some of the most powerful. For most people in the world, religion is a deeply personal and a social aspect of their lives, with religious teachings imparted through a relationship with a respected religious leader and reinforced through social networks around places of worship.

In the world's largest religion, Christianity, messages about the virtue and paramount importance of childbearing are ubiquitous. For women, motherhood is portrayed as the ultimate fulfillment of life's purpose. To be a mother is to embody the ideal purity of Mary, to have been cleansed through the ordeal of childbirth of the sinfulness that is otherwise innate to womanhood. Women of Christian faith learn that they “will be saved through childbearing” (1 Timothy. 2.15); Roman Catholic women are told that motherhood is the “fundamental contribution which the Church and humanity expect from [them]” (*Evangelium Vitae*). These two messages testify to the continuity of pronatalist messaging in Christianity across millennia: The first is from a letter written by the Apostle Paul in the mid-60s AD, the second written by Pope John Paul II in 1995.

And Christianity is not alone in this messaging. In the world's second-largest and fastest-growing religion, Islam, children are seen as gifts from God. In Hinduism,

In the world's largest religion, Christianity, messages about the virtue and paramount importance of childbearing are ubiquitous. For women, motherhood is portrayed as the ultimate fulfillment of life's purpose.

bearing children is considered a duty whose fulfillment is in the interests of the family, the community, and one's own salvation. Judaism has a deeply pronatalist tradition, with its commandment to 'be fruitful and multiply' along with its depiction of infertile women as experiencing keen suffering. This is balanced by rabbinical precepts that support the use of contraception and abortion to protect women's wellbeing.

No separation of church and state: when pronatalist theology becomes policy

Pronatalist religious teachings are for the most part inscribed in texts by men long gone. And they are intended for the primarily male audiences of the bishops, cardinals, ministers, rabbis, and swamis charged with propagating them and instilling them among their faithful. But they have profound impacts on the lives of women within these traditions, and many women outside these traditions, today.

Catholic and conservative Protestant denominations give expression to their pronatalist ideology through bans on abortion and modern forms of birth control. For the 1.4 billion Catholics of the world, those who wish to control their fertility must contend with the fact that their faith considers birth control inherently evil, and has prohibited artificial forms thereof since 1968.

The lobbying power of the Vatican, meanwhile, seeks to ensure that these proscriptions transcend the church and are enforced by the state. The Vatican's power as an international lobby group has been instrumental in the development of the "pro-life" movement in the United States and its efforts throughout the past several decades, many successful, to make abortion difficult or impossible to obtain.

The Vatican lobby has also played a decisive role in the decline in international funding for family planning over the past 30 years. At the UN International Conference on

Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt, in 1994, a seismic shift occurred that derailed the international development community's focus on population stabilization. It also delivered a mortal blow to international investment in the overwhelmingly voluntary, rights-based family planning programs that had been so successful in lowering birth rates in preceding decades. At ICPD, some actors — including the Vatican, right-wing politicians, economists, and other growthist interests — actively worked to sabotage family planning programs. Lobbying by some feminist groups and other



Vatican representative Archbishop Renato Martino speaks to reporters on September 13, 1994, at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo. (Photo by Rabih Moghrabi/AFP via Getty Images)



Newborn babies are pictured inside a government hospital ward for women and children in Chennai, India, on July 11, 2023 (World Population Day). (Photo by R. Satish Babu/AFP via Getty Images)

NGOs concerned with rare but egregious coercive population control efforts (including China's one-child policy and India's forced sterilization campaign) also had a suppressing effect on family planning as funders withdrew support out of fear of stoking controversy. The combined pressures from these disparate but powerful interests succeeded in leaving overall donor funding far short of addressing the unmet need for contraception in low- and middle-income countries to this day.

The machinations of the Vatican at Cairo are an example of the momentous impact religious entities have had on reproductive rights and, ultimately, on birth rates. In recent years there have been efforts to reinforce this

influence. In the United States, an alliance among conservative Christianity, white supremacy, and ethnonationalism holds powerful sway over politics, giving rise to bans on abortion in a growing number of US states, threats to the availability and legality of birth control, and social trends such as the trad wife movement that exalt traditional roles for women centered around motherhood. Elements of right-wing nationalism, populism, traditional conservatism, and religious fundamentalism have joined forces and gained political power in countries such as the Philippines and Hungary, where they have enacted strict anti-abortion and other pronatalist policies.

In many parts of the world, similar alliances among

religion and ethnocentrism have arisen to create powerful pressures toward procreation for preferred groups. In Modi's India, popular stereotypes of uniformly high birth rates among Muslims are used to pressure the Hindu majority to maintain its predominance through procreation. In the Middle East, among Jewish and Palestinian populations, religious pronatalism has been politicized and harnessed to serve militaristic and nationalistic ends.

Religion and fertility: how close is the connection?

It is clear that many religions incorporate powerful pronatalist traditions, and that these teachings may influence the creation of laws and policies



Dildar Ali Sheikh, 31, sits beside his eldest daughter, Mehtab (second from right), who nearly became a “monsoon bride” when she was 10 years old. At the time, in 2022, the family was living in an aid camp after being displaced by catastrophic floods in the Dadu district of Sindh province, Pakistan. The NGO Sujag Sansar intervened and enrolled Mehtab in a sewing workshop so that she could earn a small income. She was able to continue her education and postpone marriage. (Photo by Asif Hassan/AFP via Getty Images, taken on August 4, 2024)

that govern reproductive rights. How do these traditions, laws, and policies translate into people’s choices regarding family size and their use of contraception and abortion? And how do these choices translate into birth rates within religious populations?

Some ways in which religious affiliation impacts birth rates are exactly as we might expect. In the United States and globally, across all religious denominations, those for whom religion is more important have more children than those for whom it is less so.

The effect is most pronounced for Muslims. Those Muslims who regularly attend religious services, engage in prayer, and believe in god or hell — all indicators of strong religious conviction — tend to have higher fertility. Yet fertility rates among Islamic countries vary widely. In Pakistan, which is among the most conservative Islamic countries, fertility is projected at 3.4 births per woman in 2026. Despite the existence of a

family planning program since the 1950s, many women live in *purdah*, restricted to the home unless accompanied by a chaperone, and with very low levels of literacy and education. Amid these cultural barriers, a family planning program would have to be well governed and adequately funded to succeed — and Pakistan’s has been neither.

Yet although the religious conservatism of Pakistan’s government no doubt plays a role in its lackluster delivery of family planning services, Islam is not itself hostile to contraception. Despite its pronatalism, Islam also places a high value on independent interpretation of religious teachings — a value that allows for and even encourages family planning when it is in the interests of the family and any children born into it.

And in other Islamic countries, family planning programs have been enormously successful. In Indonesia, a majority-Muslim country with substantial religious and cultural diversity, the



In the ultra-orthodox (Haredi) Jewish neighborhood of Mea Shearim in Jerusalem, Israel, women walk with their children on August 2, 2022. Haredi women in Israel have a fertility rate of 6.45, compared to 3.88 for Dati (modern orthodox) women and 2.0 for secular Jewish women. (Photo by Laurence Geai/Paris Match via Getty Images)

government documented the acceptance of family planning by its major religions prior to initiating its family planning program in 1970. Thirty years later, fertility had dropped from 5.6 to 2.6 births per woman. In 1989, Iran began offering a full range of contraceptive options free of charge to men and women. The government's effort to ensure the buy-in of hesitant clergy helped make the program so successful that Iranian fertility plummeted from 5.6 births per woman in 1985 to 2.0 in 2000. While this program ended in the early 2010s, and a subsequent turn toward pronatalism has made contraception, abortion,

and sterilization difficult or impossible to obtain, Iran's fertility rate remains low, at 1.7 births per woman.

These examples are testament to the power of well-crafted family planning programs — programs that provide access to contraception as well as the education and empowerment that allow women to use it. And, throughout the Middle East and North Africa, fertility has declined dramatically over the past half-century due to a number of factors, including the availability of family planning services as well as delayed marriage and increased education of women and girls. This is consistent

with the global trend across all religions. An exception is Israel, whose projected 2026 fertility rate at 2.7 is the highest among industrialized countries. This is the result of deliberately pronatalist policies that historically focused on maximizing birth rates among Ashkenazi Jews. The goal of these policies is both to restore the global population of Jews following the devastation of the Holocaust, and to compete demographically with Palestinians (the fertility rate is 3.1 in Gaza and 3.4 in the West Bank), Israeli Arabs, and non-European Jews.

Although the global Christian fertility rate is higher than the global average (2.6 versus 2.4 births per woman in the period 2015-2020), some of the lowest birth rates in the world are in strongly Catholic countries. Many theories have been advanced to explain the extraordinarily low fertility of countries like Spain (1.2 births per woman), ranging from the poor economic prospects of young people who cannot afford to form a household and family of their own, to growing secularization and associated cultural developments such as declining rates of marriage. But it is worth noting that most of the European Catholic countries have established public health systems that make contraceptives widely available



Catholics congregate at Nôtre Dame Cathedral in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), on February 9, 2025. The Mass was organized by Catholic students praying for peace and for those affected by the war in eastern DRC. (Photo by Hardy Bope/AFP via Getty Images)

and largely free, bringing family planning within reach for citizens of all religious backgrounds. While Italy is an exception, with limited financial coverage and continued stigmatization of contraception and abortion, couples are still managing to avoid pregnancy. Despite extensive use of methods with high user error, like condoms and withdrawal, and low use of modern hormonal methods, Italy's fertility remains at the exceptionally low rate of 1.2 births per woman.

Declining birth rates are not limited to European Catholics; many heavily Catholic Latin American countries have extremely low fertility rates and populations that support liberalization of Church doctrine on birth control. Countries like Colombia have government-sponsored family planning programs that support a low fertility rate of 1.6 births per woman. Costa Rica's hugely

successful family planning program originated with a grassroots movement concerned about deforestation, and has been promoted by an Episcopalian minister and institutionalized under a conservative Catholic president.

Around the world, it is clear that even in deeply religious countries, the trend in birth rates is down as contraception becomes more widely available. In fact, of the 10 countries in the world with the largest Catholic populations, only the Democratic Republic of the Congo has an above-replacement fertility rate (of 5.8 births per woman). This is of course consistent with continued high fertility across sub-Saharan Africa, a region that will account for most of the world's population growth this century. Roughly 95% of the population of sub-Saharan Africa identifies as religious. Birth rates are highest among Muslim populations



A girl waits while her parents light candles on Visakha Bucha Day at Lat Phrao Temple in Bangkok, on May 22, 2024. Visakha Bucha, one of Thailand's most important Buddhist holidays, commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and passing of Gautama Buddha, all on the same date. (Photo by Nathalie Jamois/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images)

and among followers of African Indigenous Religions; these populations also have high levels of polygyny where women's status among several wives, as well as their financial prospects, are enhanced by having more children. Religion can also sharply limit opportunities for women and girls to obtain an education: The Apostolic tradition practiced in Mozambique and Eswatini encourages subjugation of women and girls, so those opportunities are at a minimum and birth rates are high. This is just one example of how religion and deeply entrenched patriarchy have effects on women and girls that are far-reaching and difficult to disentangle.

At the other end of the spectrum from practitioners of deeply conservative religious traditions are those whose religion has no pronatalist teachings, or who are unaffiliated

with any religion. Buddhism, which is practiced by roughly 4% of the world's population, does not particularly encourage childbirth. Buddhists believe that while a new life is an opportunity to spread the joy of enlightenment, this joy must be balanced against inevitable suffering which is even more likely in an overpopulated world. According to the Dalai Lama:

“From a Buddhist viewpoint every human being is precious, and one should avoid family planning and birth control. But then if we look from the global level, that precious human life is now overcrowding the world. As a result, not only is it a question of survival of a single human being but that of the entire humanity. Therefore, the conclusion is that family planning is necessary provided it is based on non-violent principles.”

Buddhists have a fertility rate of 1.6 births per woman and are projected to decline as a percentage of the world's population. Those who are unaffiliated with any religion also have a relatively low global fertility rate, although this group has grown to more than 24% of the global population. This group of religious “nones” is projected to continue growing, not due to its fertility but due to people leaving their religions behind.

Surmounting religious obstacles to reproductive rights: the power of family planning

There is no doubt that pronatalist religious teachings have profound impacts on the way people live their lives, and that these influences in turn make for significant differences in birth rates. But drilling down into the details of these relationships reveals some surprising realities. Many of the most religious populations in the world, who follow traditions marked by deeply pronatalist teachings, have fertility rates that are well below replacement and continuing to drop. These tend to be populations where despite strong religious affiliation, there is also a high degree of gender equality as well as education and career opportunity for women. In short, where a strong positive correlation exists between religiosity and fertility rates, it may often be a function not of religion per se but of cultural forces often attendant upon religion. These forces, like more traditional roles for women and less opportunity outside the home, can be summed up in one word: patriarchy.

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For anyone familiar with the powerful connection between the education of women and girls, access to family planning, and birth rates, this correlation is not so surprising. Across the world, in rich countries and poor, deeply religious and relatively secular, almost everywhere that women have the ability to limit childbirth and are free to pursue education and careers, they do so. The potential of family planning programs to reduce birth rates, slow population growth, protect the environment, and empower women and girls is not constrained so much by the religious and cultural practices of the people who would use them. Their potential depends, instead, on the political will of the leaders who must invest in them. The time is overdue for a redoubling of that investment. 

Kirsten Stade is a writer, editor, and advocate working toward a just, livable planet. For nearly three decades, she has worked at nonprofit organizations focused on the linkages between reproductive rights, population growth, and ecological overshoot; on protecting public lands from extractive industries; and on safeguarding the integrity of regulatory science. She has published extensively in outlets such as *Newsweek*, *The Hill*, *The Guardian*, *Counterpunch*, and *Ms. Magazine*, and in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Population and Sustainability*. She has also coauthored book chapters on reproductive responsibility, ecological overshoot, and animal liberation in published volumes. She has a BS in Earth Systems from Stanford University and an MS in Conservation Biology from Columbia University.

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★ “I can’t thank you enough for today’s lecture. It was really so wonderful and informative and helped us gain clarity and perspective on so many things that we’ve been exploring in this course this semester. Your generosity of time and the depth of your knowledge and understanding is so incredible and I really [want to] thank you on behalf of my students and myself for a wonderful lecture today.”

★ “Thank you so much for talking to my class yesterday. Your talk was so informative and so inspiring. I will share more information with the class about Population Connection on Thursday and also share information about your talk with our committee on environmental sustainability when we meet tomorrow. Again, thank you for taking the time to talk to us yesterday.”

★ “We truly enjoyed your visit to our class last week. The students [...] were really excited about what you shared with them. I think it helped them pull together a lot of themes and better understand how interconnected issues of environment, climate, human rights, and women’s rights can be.”

★ “Thank you for your time, and [for] sharing with us such a thoughtful talk. My students loved it! I did too!”

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If you’d like to invite Hannah to speak to your college or university class, please get in touch with her!

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African Education Program (AEP)

By Julie-Anne Savarit-Cosenza, Co-founder and Executive Director of AEP

I grew up in what many would consider a suburban bubble outside of Philadelphia. Never one to conform to the norm, I always had my heart set on leaving the bubble to work and become a part of a community far different from my own. My passion and respect for diverse communities, as well as awareness of the world's inequalities, particularly for young Africans, stemmed from my early exposure to the African expatriate community through my Zambian soccer coach growing up.

In 2002, during my sophomore year of high school, three friends and I decided to start a service project for students living in communities that were under-resourced and affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. We were focused on having a personal connection to the community we would serve and pinpointed Kafue, Zambia, where my soccer coach's brother Amos lived.

At the time, we were outraged by the waste in our school and decided the project would

be to collect used books, school supplies, computers, and clothes and ship them to Kafue. We founded the African Education Program in 2004, and the container shipped out the spring of 2005, weeks before high school graduation.

With college on the near horizon, my co-founders and I did not have a clear vision for the future of AEP. We were fortunate to receive a grant to fund a trip to Kafue so that we could meet the community that would be receiving the goods we sent. Inspired by our Zambian peers, and responding to their plea for a space that would provide an educational, creative, and safe environment, AEP volunteers (myself included) and members of the Kafue community opened our flagship Learning & Leadership Center, named the Amos Youth Centre, in 2006.

Over the last 20 years, we have honed this unique community-led model. In 2025, over 5,000 children, youth, and women were

reached through holistic empowerment programs at the center and through rural outreach and peer-to-peer initiatives in local schools.

Our Reproductive Health Access Initiative has weekly programming, which focuses on improving reproductive, menstrual, and emotional health, preventing pregnancy, building self-esteem, and ending HIV stigma and gender-based violence. Thanks to these comprehensive programs, less than 2% of young women at the center become pregnant before turning 18, compared to 15–20% of young women locally.

AEP is currently building a first-of-its-kind Learning & Leadership Center that includes a dedicated Health & Wellness Hub, where our existing empowerment programs will expand to provide family planning, reproductive health education, and access to essential services for adolescents, women, and families.

Today, each young woman at the center receives a pack of reusable cloth pads and a menstrual cup to ensure she never misses a day of school or a day at the center due to menstruation. In 2022, we received a USAID Youth Excel Research-to-Change grant that allowed us to evaluate our approach distributing menstrual cups to the mothers and guardians of the girls in our program in order to combat stigma and taboos while increasing usage. In 2024, this grant was expanded through the creation of an

inclusive and sensitive open source educational storybook, *My Period, Our Story*, available in print, audiovisual, and braille formats. The storybook addresses critical barriers to menstrual health education and is tailored to the unique needs of Zambian youth, fostering a safer, more supportive environment for all students.

The majority of the team running the Amos Youth Centre are alumni of the program. To have seen them grow over the years from

children to young adults and now to leaders in their community is incredible.

Zambia has one of the world's fastest growing and youngest populations, with 68% of Zambians under the age of 25. At the African Education Program, we believe that Zambia is filled with a generation of youth ready to create change for their families, their communities, and their nation. We are incredibly grateful for Population Connection's support. 

Visit africaneducationprogram.org to learn more about the African Education Program and its many projects and programs!



Girls receive reusable menstrual cups through the Reproductive Health Access Initiative
Photo courtesy of African Education Program

VIRTUAL EVENTS

We Want Your Feedback and Participation

By Natalie Widel, Director of Digital Marketing

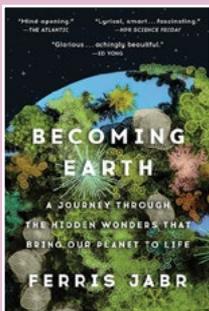
Did you know that we host an average of 20 virtual events throughout the year, open to all Population Connection members and supporters? These informative and interactive events are free to attend and offer special opportunities to learn more about population issues and connect with Population Connection staff and fellow members. To help with our programming, we would love to hear from YOU about what types of events you'd be most interested in joining. Whether you're a regular attendee, or have only been curious about our virtual events, we're interested in your input. Go to popconnect.org/virtual-events-survey to share your thoughts with us! The survey will stay open until June 1.

Page Turners Book Club Turns Five

Since early 2021, our Page Turners book club has offered a unique opportunity to discuss population issues and associated topics with other members. The first meeting of 2026 was held in February, where we discussed *Post Growth: Life After Capitalism*, written by ecological economist and professor of sustainable development Tim Jackson. The book explores what a future beyond capitalism, competition, and corrosive self-interest can look like — to the benefit of both humanity and the natural world.

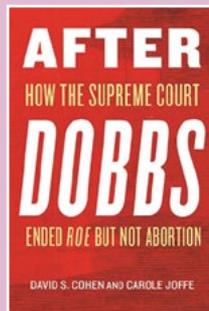
If you'd like to join us for an upcoming discussion, add the following books to your reading list and register for the corresponding meetings at popconnect.org/book-club!

May



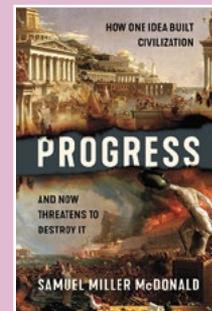
Becoming Earth: A Journey Through the Hidden Wonders That Bring Our Planet to Life
By Ferris Jabr

August



After Dobbs: How the Supreme Court Ended Roe but Not Abortion
By David S. Cohen and Carole Joffe

November



Progress: How One Idea Built Civilization and Now Threatens to Destroy It
By Samuel Miller McDonald

Celebrate Earth Day with Population Connection

Spring weather and Earth Day are just around the corner. In addition to hosting virtual events throughout the month of April, the Membership Relations team is available to facilitate member tabling at your local Earth Day events. Check out popconnect.org/earth-day-2026 to see what's in store and to find information on how you can get involved! 🌍



Janice Carr at the 2025 Los Altos Hills Pathways Run/Walk in Los Altos, California



Middy Streeter at the 2025 Earth Day event in New York City

WASHINGTON VIEW

Year 1 of Trump 2.0 Worse Than Imagined

By Brian Dixon, Senior Vice President for Governmental and Political Affairs

It's been a full year now of chaos and needless suffering inflicted on people around the world by a United States president.

On the day he was sworn in, Trump froze all foreign assistance, including family planning and other global health and environmental aid. The impact was immediate and devastating.

In just the 14 months since the elimination of US investment in family planning programs in developing countries, around 50 million women and girls have lost their access to contraceptives. That means millions more unintended pregnancies, millions more unsafe abortions, millions more unintended births, and over 30,000 more preventable maternal deaths.

It is undercutting decades of progress in reducing maternal and child mortality. It's putting public health at risk. And it's leaving girls and women around the world without the services they need to ensure their health, their autonomy,

and their educational and economic opportunity.

But the administration wasn't done there. Later in his first week back in the White House, the President announced the reinstatement of the odious Global Gag Rule (expanded in January 2026, see below) and announced he was blocking congressionally appropriated funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

All this was soon followed by the complete dismantling of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), even though it was created by law and only Congress has the power to eliminate it. The administration also joined the Geneva Consensus Declaration, an international agreement by a small number of countries to limit abortion and other sexual

and reproductive health care services. It allies the United States with some of the most oppressive states in the world where women are denied the most basic rights.

In the summer, we learned that the State Department planned to incinerate some \$10 million worth of contraceptive supplies purchased by US taxpayers in 2024 for distribution to countries — mostly in Africa — where unmet need for family planning is high. The contraceptives have been stored in a warehouse in Belgium where local law prevents the intentional destruction of usable medical supplies. The administration has rejected multiple offers by private organizations and other governments to buy the contraceptives to distribute, instead remaining committed to their plan to destroy them.

The State Department soon announced that it would be classifying abortion as a human rights violation in its annual Human Rights Reports, and officials were asked to collect data on abortion incidence in each country — as well as data on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs.

This was all leading up to the unveiling of the America First Global Health Strategy, which seems to largely eliminate the role of NGOs in the delivery of health care and work on other foreign assistance priorities. Instead, the State Department will be making individual agreements with other governments and is using the promise of desperately needed assistance as a weapon to force the handover of abortion and other health care data and information.

Early in 2026, while Congress was still on its holiday recess, the White House announced that the President was withdrawing the United States from more than 60 international entities and commissions, including those that deal with reproductive health, gender equity, climate and other environmental issues, and renewable energy.

And then, on January 23, at the so-called March for Life hosted by opponents of reproductive freedom, Vice President JD Vance announced a massive expansion of the Global Gag Rule to cover more funding, more agencies, and more issues. He claimed it was the government's job to "promote families" and bragged about "turning off the tap for NGOs whose sole purpose is to dissuade people from having kids."

On the domestic side, the story is no better. The President acted to freeze Title X (ten) grants to Planned Parenthood clinics and other providers that offer legal abortion. Like the elimination of funds internationally, the impact has been dramatic. According to Planned Parenthood, 51 clinics in 18 states have closed as a result — half (26) of them in the Midwest. That's 20% of all the Midwest clinics that had been open. Those clinics provided care to 25,000 people annually. Those people have lost access to contraceptives, primary care, cancer screenings, STI testing and treatment, and safe abortion.

Nearly all the clinics forced to shutter provided primary care, and 48% of them were in areas

facing significant shortages of primary care providers. All told, the 51 closed clinics had provided some 48,000 people with contraceptive access and 21,000 people with abortion care. And while funding for Planned Parenthood and other providers was quietly restored in January to end a lawsuit, it won't magically reopen these clinics.

The administration also rolled back rules requiring hospitals to provide abortion in emergency situations, blocked states from using Medicaid waivers to reimburse patients forced to travel out of state for reproductive health care, and moved to prohibit VA health centers from providing abortion under any circumstance. The Secretary of Health and Human Services announced a review of the FDA's approval (more than two decades ago) of mifepristone, and the Department of Defense revoked a policy authorizing an allowance for active-duty military personnel if they or their dependents need to travel to access abortion care.

We're sorry if this was painful to read. It was perhaps more painful to write. But even more painful is the knowledge that there is more to come. 

FIELD + OUTREACH

Welcoming Two New #Fight4HER Organizers

By Rebecca Harrington, Senior Director of Advocacy and Outreach

Kat Stratford and Kyle DeVasier arrived at careers as organizers on different paths, but they share a passion for organizing that is evident from the moment you meet them. It was easy to see within minutes of interviewing her that Kat can talk to anyone (she describes herself as “insufferable” at airports, as the person who talks with all the other passengers). Equally charismatic, Kyle is deeply plugged into his adopted home of Las Vegas and is seemingly attuned to every political event happening throughout the city. As they begin their #Fight4HER work on the ground, we are excited to introduce them to you!

Kat Stratford, Tucson, Arizona



When Kat was a waitress, the Three Percenters were planning a rally at the park across the street from her restaurant. Kat planned a counterprotest that drew eight

people. The next time the neo-Nazi group came to town, she planned a protest and 250 people showed up, including circus performers, dancers, and marching and mariachi bands!

Kat got her first organizing job in 2019, working as a campaign aide for a mayoral candidate. From there, she went to work as a Regional Director for the Arizona Democratic Party, as well as a Field Director for Laura Conover’s successful campaign for Pima County Attorney.

After working the 2020 election cycle, Kat knew that being an organizer was her calling, and in

2022 launched her race for the Arizona House of Representatives. She ran her own campaign, which knocked on 15,000 doors, recruiting and managing her volunteer network as well as all campaign communications. She won the endorsement of Planned Parenthood and lost the race by only 700 votes.

Kat describes running for office as both the “worst and best thing ever.” While she acknowledges the brutal aspects, which included hateful rumors about her children and cruel internet content about her, she was energized by talking to so many voters and proud that so many people chose her to represent them. She learned about her own strengths and weaknesses and how far she was able to push herself, and while aspects of campaigning were hard, she says she would “1,000% do it again.”

Before joining Population Connection, Kat put her organizing skills to good use for three years as a homeless outreach coordinator for the city of Tucson. In this role, Kat canvassed “washes” (dry riverbeds) and talked to the unhoused people living in them about building a plan to move into stable housing.

When asked about what she most values about Tucson and what she's most looking forward to about engaging the community in the #Fight4HER, Kat calls Tucson "a bastion of liberal delight" in a purple state with very red pockets — a big city with a small-town feel and a commitment to art, music, and community engagement.

Kat's advice for someone just getting their activist start is to begin small, that "half of the work is showing up."

"Whether it's working directly with the unhoused or working with voters and educating them, it's all about trying to get people to understand that they are a part of something that's bigger than themselves and trying to connect and plug them in to a larger community."

Kyle DeVasier, Las Vegas, Nevada



Kyle's path to organizing was personal. He grew up in a working-class family in the oil refinery town of Texas City. Kyle saw firsthand the inequities

that people in his community faced — while his parents were very hard workers who always provided for their family, they faced persistent financial challenges.

As Kyle grew up, he was deeply inspired by Barack Obama, whose message of hope and change motivated him to get a degree in Political Science. Donald Trump's election in 2016 spurred Kyle into his first organizing job, working for Sri Preston Kulkarni's 2017 primary

campaign for the US House of Representatives (he won the primary but lost the general election). Since then, Kyle has worked on a dozen campaigns, both electoral and issue-based, and also did voter protection work for the Nevada Coordinated Campaign in 2024.

"I love organizing. I love going into a community and talking to everyday people. My guiding star is that real power always comes from the people. And most people want to improve their communities, but they may not know how to do it. That's how I see my role as an organizer: My job is to be a facilitator, to develop leaders so we can take that collective action."

Kyle recently connected with a lifelong activist from the area, who is already plugging him into events and connecting him with other activists in the city. At the beginning of his second week with Population Connection, Kyle went to an Indivisible Las Vegas monthly meeting, attended by a couple hundred people. Decked out in his #Fight4HER t-shirt and beanie, Kyle spoke to the crowd about the work he'll be doing with the #Fight4HER campaign, introducing our issues and goals to this important slice of the Las Vegas community.

When asked why he thinks it's important to continue organizing through these dreadful political times, Kyle said that after the Democrats' loss of the presidency in 2024, he realized organizers need to commit to year-round organizing. While Kyle acknowledges that a lot of people went into hibernation following Trump's second election, he notes that people are starting to come out of the woodwork, citing the success of the recent No Kings and anti-ICE rallies as examples.

"The energy is there. We just need to harness it. Organizing is where it's at. I'd rather do this than any other thing." 🌍

Join the #Fight4HER at popconnectaction.org/fight4her-2026

POPULATION EDUCATION

Activities for America's 250th Anniversary

By Pamela Wasserman, Senior Vice President for Education

This year's Independence Day is the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. To mark this Semiquincentennial, PopEd is promoting lesson plans to help high school students explore US demographic and environmental history, and the social and economic trends that have influenced demographic shifts.

We are updating *330 Million in the USA*, a curriculum developed following the 2020 Census for use in US history, civics/government, geography, economics, and environmental studies classes. The free, downloadable curriculum includes 14 classroom activities, six readings, and a set of infographics depicting historical trends in family

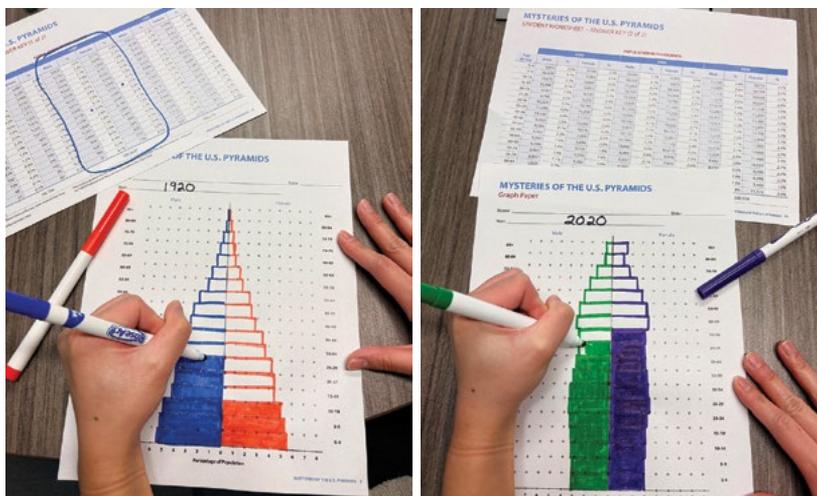
size, immigration, wealth distribution, and more.

Several of the lessons focus on changing population dynamics since the first Census in 1790. These include "Mysteries of the US Pyramids," where students create and analyze population age and sex distribution graphs for different points in history, and "Connecting the Dots," in

which they make population density maps that depict changing settlement and migration patterns.

Using historical Census data, students track fertility trends in a single community through the decades in "Family Counts." Historical documents are also used in "American HerStory," helping students consider changes in women's participation in the labor force and government.

US government is also the subject of "The People's House," where student teams debate the pros and cons of expanding the size of the US House of Representatives. Since 1929, the House has been capped at 435 members, resulting in ever larger congressional districts as the country's population has nearly tripled over the past century. Each debate team crafts its arguments after



Creating population pyramids for the years 1920 and 2020 in the activity "Mysteries of the US Pyramids"

reading primary and secondary sources on the subject (e.g., *The Federalist Papers* and newspaper commentary). This lesson also includes an exercise in gerrymandering, a process made easier with fewer representatives.

Other activities focus on US environmental history. In “Almighty Aquifers,” students represent states that draw water from the Ogallala, or High Plains, Aquifer in the eight states from Wyoming and South Dakota in the north to Texas and New Mexico in the south. In a board game, they experience the aquifer’s changing water levels as the population and water demands grow through the decades.

For “Our Shared Environmental History,” students research one of 36 environmental events in the US over the past century and then add their findings to a class timeline (either along the classroom wall or digitally). Timeline markers include catastrophic events (from the Dust Bowl to the Flint, Michigan, water crisis), citizen action (like the first Earth Day), and groundbreaking environmental legislation for clean air, water, and wildlife protection.

Economics is another theme in the lesson set. In “Making It in America,” students examine mathematical models on wealth distribution from the 1960s

to the present and assess the public’s changing perceptions of “The American Dream.”

Background readings focus on specific themes in US history — immigration, work life, transportation systems, food and agriculture, schooling, and environmental movements.

One of the readings, “America Pairs Up,” covers the history of love and marriage in the US, including contraception, sex education, and family size.

These US-focused lessons and readings aren’t just a look back at the past. They also give students an opportunity

to project where the country might be headed. “Looking to the Future” invites students to predict what life in the US will be like 50 years from now — when we approach the US Tercentenary!

In addition to this curriculum set, the PopEd website contains dozens of blog posts on national events and population trends throughout US history, such as the Great Migration, industrialization, and changing energy sources. All the resources are online at populationeducation.org. 

Workshop participants doing the “Almighty Aquifers” activity at the Appalachian Green Teachers Conference in South Bloomingville, Ohio, on November 6, 2025. (Photo by Cathy Knoop)



CARTOON





We are honored to include Julian and Kathy Donahue in our ZPG Society. In addition to having included Population Connection as a beneficiary of their trust, the Donahues have given through their IRA by making a **qualified charitable distribution** to Population Connection.

Contact us or your IRA administrator to find out if a QCD is right for you!

*Kathy and Julian Donahue
ZPG Society Members*

GIVE THROUGH YOUR IRA **TAX-FREE**

At 70 ½ years old, you may make **qualified charitable distributions** directly from your traditional IRA to Population Connection, up to \$111,000 per person in 2026! And if you're required to take a minimum distribution, then your QCD can reduce your taxable income for the year. You may also include Population Connection as a charitable beneficiary of your IRA! Contact us or your IRA administrator to find out how.



To learn more visit popconnect.org/support, email giving@popconnect.org, or call **202-974-7756**.



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*Rebecca Weiner,
ZPG Society Member,
and her husband, Mike,
in the Black Hills
of South Dakota*

PLAN FOR YOUR LEGACY

By including a gift to Population Connection in your will or trust, you can ensure our work continues as long as overpopulation threatens our world. After providing for your loved ones, you might consider designating a remainder gift, or a percentage, to Population Connection. Make your legacy one that protects people and our planet well into the future.

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To learn more visit popconnect.org/legacy,
email legacy@popconnect.org, or call **202-974-7756**.