

## Planned Parenthood: A Scandal at Inception

### Racist and Eugenic Roots

Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger was a dedicated eugenicist<sup>1</sup>, someone who believed the human race could benefit from limiting the reproduction of people considered to have undesirable traits. In a piece titled “Birth Control and Racial Betterment,”<sup>2</sup> Sanger described the role of the eugenicist as “seeking to assist the race toward elimination of the unfit.” She described the unfit in a paper titled “Human Conservation and Birth Control”<sup>3</sup> as those who suffered from “congenital feeble-mindedness; schizophrenia, circular insanity; heredity epilepsy; hereditary chorea (Huntington's) hereditary blindness or deafness; grave hereditary bodily deformity and chronic alcoholism.” She particularly took aim at non-whites, helping establish The Negro Project<sup>4</sup> to bring birth control to a greater number of African Americans and referring in 1926 to immigrants as “idiots” and “morons.”<sup>5</sup>

### Minority Neighborhoods Targeted

*“We don’t want the word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population, and the minister is the man who can straighten out that idea if it ever occurs to any of their more rebellious members.”<sup>6</sup>*

—Margaret Sanger

Census data from 2010 by an initiative called Protecting Black Life showed that 79 percent of Planned Parenthood abortion clinics are located within walking distance of minority neighborhoods. Sixty-two percent were within two miles of primarily African American neighborhoods, and 64 percent the same distance from Hispanic/Latino neighborhoods.<sup>6</sup> In 2009, the Centers for Disease Control reported that black women accounted for 35 percent of abortions in the U.S., despite only making up 13 percent of the population.<sup>7</sup> It is estimated that since 1973, the African American population in the United States has been reduced as much as 30 percent by abortion.<sup>8</sup>

## **Abortions vs. Adoption Referrals:**

According to its own statistics, from October 1, 2011, to September 30, 2012, Planned Parenthood performed 327,166 abortions (nearly a third of the national total for that time period) and made 2,197 adoption referrals. That equates to approximately 149 abortions per every one adoption referral.<sup>9</sup> According to a Spring 2014 report from the organization Live Action, Planned Parenthood generates nearly \$150 million in annual revenue from abortion procedures.<sup>10</sup>

## **Public Funding:**

Planned Parenthood receives government funding from two sources – the Title X Family Planning Program and Medicaid. The Department of Health and Human Services website states that “by law, Title X funds may not be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning.” Although Medicaid funding for abortions is restricted by the Hyde Amendment to only cases involving rape, incest, or endangerment to the life of the mother, some states use their own funds under Medicaid to provide “medically necessary” abortions.<sup>11</sup> Planned Parenthood has been investigated for fraud in several states, including Texas, Iowa, New York, and California.<sup>12</sup>

## **Scandal Involving Selling Aborted Fetus Body Parts:**

In a series of undercover videos released by the Center for Medical Progress, a group of citizen journalists dedicated to monitoring and reporting on medical ethics and advances, Melissa Farrell, director of research for Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast, describes how the organization harvests organs from the bodies of aborted fetuses. Farrell also explains how Planned Parenthood manipulates prices to accommodate specific fetal tissue harvesting requests, including delivering fully intact fetuses, which is a violation of federal law.<sup>13</sup>

## **Statutory Rape and Child Abuse Cover-up:**

The organization Live Action released an extensive report in Spring 2014 detailing how Planned Parenthood had participated in a number of unethical practices, including covering up instances of child abuse and statutory rape. Posing as 13- and 15-year-old girls, impregnated by older men, Live Action investigators were sent to various Planned Parenthood facilities. Staffers at those facilities were willing to provide secret abortions to the girls, despite the obvious legal ramifications of their pregnancies. In particular Tucson, Arizona, facility, authorities were not alerted when a 15-year-old girl reported becoming impregnated by a 27-year-old man, but they did threaten to call the police when a Live Action reporter visited the center without pretense to obtain information for a story.<sup>14</sup>

- 1) Sanger, Margaret. *Woman and the New Race*. Kessinger Publishing, LLC, 2010. <http://www.bartleby.com/1013/6.html>
- 2) Sanger, Margaret. “Birth Control and Racial Betterment.” *Birth Control Review*, February 1919. Library of Congress Microfilm 131:0099B. [www.nyu.edu/projects/sanger/webedition/app/documents/show.php?sangerDoc=143449.xml](http://www.nyu.edu/projects/sanger/webedition/app/documents/show.php?sangerDoc=143449.xml)
- 3) Sanger, Margaret. *Margaret Sanger Papers, Sophia Smith Collection*. Margaret Sanger Microfilm S71:0977. [http://cisupa.proquest.com/ksc\\_assets/catalog/2682.pdf](http://cisupa.proquest.com/ksc_assets/catalog/2682.pdf)
- 4) Sanger, Margaret. “A Plan For Peace.” *Birth Control Review*. April 1932, pp. 107-108. [http://www.issues4life.org/pdfs/1932\\_peaceplan\\_margaretsanger.pdf](http://www.issues4life.org/pdfs/1932_peaceplan_margaretsanger.pdf)
- 5) [www.protectingblacklife.org](http://www.protectingblacklife.org)
- 6) [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6108a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6108a1.htm)
- 7) [www.abort73.com/abortion/abortion\\_and\\_race/](http://www.abort73.com/abortion/abortion_and_race/)
- 8) Planned Parenthood Annual Report 2011-2012. [https://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/4913/9620/1413/PPFA\\_AR\\_2012\\_121812\\_vF.pdf](https://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/4913/9620/1413/PPFA_AR_2012_121812_vF.pdf)
- 9) Live Action. “Lies Corruption, and Scandal: Six Years of Exposing Planned Parenthood.” *Spring 2014 Investigative Report*. <http://plannedparenthoodexposed.com/wp-content/uploads/PP-Investigative-Report.pdf>
- 10) [www.npr.org/sections/itsallpolitics/2015/08/05/429641062/fact-check-how-does-planned-parenthood-spend-that-government-money](http://www.npr.org/sections/itsallpolitics/2015/08/05/429641062/fact-check-how-does-planned-parenthood-spend-that-government-money)
- 11) Live Action. “Lies Corruption, and Scandal: Six Years of Exposing Planned Parenthood.” *Spring 2014 Investigative Report*. <http://plannedparenthoodexposed.com/wp-content/uploads/PP-Investigative-Report.pdf>
- 12) *Ibid.* p. 18-20
- 13) [www.centerformedicalprogress.org](http://www.centerformedicalprogress.org)
- 14) <http://plannedparenthoodexposed.com/wp-content/uploads/PP-Investigative-Report-No-Bleed.pdf> p. 40-41