

The "Hard Cases"

RESEARCHERS David C. Reardon, Julie Makimaa, and Amy Sobie completed a nine year study on pregnancy outcomes of sexual assault victims.

As part of their research the authors drew upon testimonies from 192 women who became pregnant as a result of rape or incest, and 55 children conceived in sexual assault. Following are excerpts from their book, *Victims and Victors*.

Pregnancy resulting from sexual assault is actually a contraindication for abortion. A doctor treating a sexual assault victim should advise against abortion precisely because of the traumatic nature of the pregnancy. The testimonies and studies quoted in this book confirm that both the mother and child are helped by preserving life, not by perpetuating violence.

Research shows that after any abortion, it is common for women to experience guilt, depression, feelings of being "dirty," resentment of men, and lowered self-esteem. These feelings are identical to what women typically feel after rape. Abortion only adds to and accentuates the traumatic feelings associated with sexual assault. Rather than easing the psychological burdens, abortion adds to them.

Kathleen DeZeeuw, whose son Patrick was conceived in rape when she was 16, writes: "I, having lived through rape,

and also having raised a child 'conceived in rape' feel personally assaulted and insulted every time I hear that abortion should be legal because of rape and incest. I feel that we're being used by pro-abortionists to further the abortion issue though we've not been asked to tell our side of the story."

"The abortion which was to 'be in my best interest' just has not been. As far as I can tell, it only 'saved their [my parents'] reputations,' 'solved their problems,' and 'allowed their lives to go merrily on.'"

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David C. Reardon, Julie Makimaa, and Amy Sobie. *Victims and Victors*. Acorn Books, Springfield, IL 2000. pp.15-17. For further information see www.afterabortion.org.

The case against abortion for incest pregnancies is even stronger. Studies show that incest victims rarely ever voluntarily agree to abortion. Instead of viewing the pregnancy as unwanted, the incest victim is more likely to see the pregnancy as a way out of the incestuous relationship because the birth of her child will expose the sexual activity.

For example, Edith Young, a 12-year-old victim of incest, writes twenty-five years after the abortion of her child: "The abortion which was to

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REPRODUCTIVE RACISM

THE VISION OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD, founded in 1916 by Margaret Sanger, became the working arm toward eugenic goals. The stated vision was "reproductive freedom" through legalization of contraceptives to be used by the wealthy and imposed Eugenic Sterilization Laws as "birth control" for everyone else.

The organization most responsible for propagating the bigoted concepts of "Social Darwinism" is the American Eugenics Society. Founded in the early 1900's, this organization was the sister organization of the British Eugenic Society which embraced the white—more specifically, the Anglo-Saxon race—supremacy doctrine. In the United States eugenics became more than an abstract philosophy. It degenerated into an active campaign to eliminate all those deemed inadequate and resulted in a worldwide crusade to abolish all human inferiority.¹ The American Eugenics Society fostered the Jim Crow Laws of the South and Eugenic Sterilization Laws nationally, the anti-Semitic doctrine that encouraged Nazi Germany during the Jewish Holocaust and defined South-African Apartheid.

Despite claims that Margaret Sanger was not a racist or an anti-Semite, the fact remains that "she openly welcomed the worst elements of both into the birth control movement."² Henry Pratt Fairchild who wrote, "Birth control and eugenics are by nature closely related,

and neither one can attain its complete fulfillment, or render its maximum service to society, without the other"³ and Lothrop Stoddard, author of, *The Rising Tide of Color Against White World Supremacy*, were two of many eugenicists who worked closely with Sanger.

Historical documents prove that Planned Parenthood acted as the willful arm of the American Eugenics Society and developed a plan, the *Negro Project*, as a propaganda program to infiltrate the black community with a "birth control for health" campaign through their civic leaders.⁴ Margaret Sanger expressed disdain for the poor and disabled whom she frequently dubbed "undeserving," "unfit," and "dysgenic." Her call for their sterilization and segregation⁵ is well known and is likely to have been the motive behind her "Negro Project."

Lest one think reproductive racism was merely an issue of the past, current numbers prove the problem persists. Racial targeting by abortion providers, Planned Parenthood being the foremost national provider of abortions, has demonstrably resulted in a disproportionate number of minorities obtaining abortions. In the year 2000, African Americans, numbering 34.7 million individuals, or 12.3 percent of the U.S. population obtained 32% of abortions in that year.^{6,7} "Black women are more than 3 times as likely as white women to have an abortion, and Hispanic women are 2 1/2 times as likely."⁸ Abortion and birth control have taken a devastating toll on the African American community. According to updated census reports, African Americans are no longer the largest U.S. minority population.⁹



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¹Black, Edwin, *War Against the Weak: Eugenics and America's Campaign to Create a Master Race*, New York, Four Walls Eight Windows, 2003. p. 19. | ²Ibid. p. 135. | ³Fairchild, Henry Pratt. "Programs and Wishes for 1933." *Birth Control Review*, Volume XVII, Number 1 (January 1933), p. 5. | ⁴Letter from Sanger to Dr. W. E. Burghardt DuBois, 11 November 1930, New York, MSGLC. DuBois served as director of research for the NAACP and as the editor of its publication, *The Crisis*, until 1934 | ⁵Sanger, Margaret, *The Pivot of Civilization*, Humanity Press, 1922, chapters 4, 5 | ⁶Jones, RK; Darroch, JE; and Henshaw, SK; "Patterns in the socioeconomic characteristics of women obtaining abortions in 2000-2001," *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 2002, 34 (5): 226-235 | ⁷www.prdc.org/summaries/blacks/blacks.html | ⁸www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_induced_abortion.html | ⁹www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0762156.html and U.S. Census Bureau