



# Vida Humana Internacional

Human Life International Hispanic Division

## The “Culture” of Death Attacks Hispanics in the U.S.

### 1. Introduction

This is a brief report on Hispanics and abortion in the U.S. Its purpose is to raise awareness to the magnitude of the threats against life, faith and family the vulnerable Hispanic population is facing.

### 2. Demography

There are 44 million Hispanics in the U.S. [1]. It is estimated that by 2050 Hispanics will comprise 24% of the U.S. population [2]. This rate of growth is four times as great as the rest of the population, which is at 6%. The rate of population growth of Hispanics constitutes 50% of the national rate. [3]. This may be one of the main reasons why anti-life U.S organizations are targeting Hispanics.

The birth rate in the U.S. is approximately 22% compared to a death rate of 4%. This fact contributes to the population growth of Hispanics [4]. A slight decline in the rate of population growth has been observed in the Hispanic sector since the 1990's [5].

Also, “according to a recent study, 73 percent of Hispanics living in the United States—close to 26 million— are Roman Catholic. Sixty-four percent of all Hispanics attend church services regularly. [6]

In the year 2000, the rate of induced abortion was higher for non-Hispanic black women (57.4) than for non-Hispanic white women (11.7). The rate for Hispanic women (30.6) was intermediate” [7]. These figures do not include abortions caused by abortifacient contraceptives.

According to recent surveys, 40% of all Hispanics say abortion should never be legal. Others say

abortion should be illegal except when the life of the mother is in danger (11%) or illegal except in rare instances when the woman is a victim of rape or incest (27%)” [8]. We want to make it clear that direct abortion should not be performed under any circumstances. When the life of the mother is in danger, doctors should do all they can to save both mother and child. If the unborn child dies as an effect not directly willed and not directly caused by a life-saving medical intervention, then such a medical act is not immoral and it should not be labeled a “therapeutic” abortion, an act which is always as illicit as any other direct abortion [9].

Regarding the resistance against abortion that still prevails among Hispanics, the following has been commented: “Latin Americans live in countries where abortion goes against the Hispanic culture, Hispanic morals, and Hispanic laws. These pro-abortion groups see this as backwardness, and they are shocked and awed by Hispanic resistance to pro-abortion propaganda” [10]. Moreover, even though it has been observed that Hispanics identify themselves more as “conservatives” than as “liberals”, they most frequently vote for the political candidates they think will help them the most with their immigration problems. “In a 2006 poll by the Latino Coalition, 57% of registered Hispanic voters said they identified with the Democratic Party. But the same group more often labeled themselves ‘conservative’ than ‘liberal’” [11]. The strategy of the anti-life movement seems to be to create a false conflict of interest in Hispanics, and then to take advantage of it to obtain their support, as it was observed in one of their marches: “A selling point for Latinos was the idea that they would march not just for abortion rights but for a range of issues that affect immigrant women, including the need for better prenatal health care, medical insurance and

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access to birth control, march organizers and participants said” [12].

The New York-based Center for Reproductive Rights, a pro-abortion organization of lawyers that provides legal help to the international anti-life movement, interprets the statistics on Hispanic population growth in the U.S. in the following way: “The rate of unintended pregnancy is another key indicator of women’s access to health care, including the accessibility of contraceptives, as well as their access to medically accurate sexuality education.....Latinas have a 75% higher unintended pregnancy rate than non-Hispanics, and low-income Latinas are nearly twice as likely to have an unintended pregnancy as low-income white women” [13].

### 3. Anti-Life Hispanic Organizations in the U.S.

There are anti-life organizations in the U.S. that target Hispanics. The organizations listed are those that primarily target Hispanics. These organizations foster an anti-life and anti-family mentality and receive funding from U.S. foundations.

1. Catholics for a Free Choice (CFFC), whose main objective is to promote the so-called “sexual and reproductive rights” among Catholics, which inevitably includes Hispanics [14]. In 2006, CFFC reported almost \$10 million in earnings to the Internal Revenue Service. CFFC has affiliates in Latin America [15] and has published books and other “educational” materials in Spanish, including videos. CFFC has one of the videos, titled “No estás sola” (“You Are Not Alone”), on Internet in six parts. All of them are directed towards Catholic Hispanics around the world, with the purpose of confusing them regarding the clear teachings of the Catholic Church against abortion. CFFC describes these videos as follows: “In the form of a soap opera, ‘You Are Not Alone’ presents six stories that explore moral, ethical and spiritual dilemmas *taken from real life*, that women and their loved ones face when they have to make a decision about abortion” [16].

2. The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health/NLIRH, whose purpose is to ensure access to abortion as a “fundamental right” through activism and “education.” [17] In one of its studies, NLIRH indicates that although the medical doctor is the first source of information on birth control (67% of the

time); the second source of information is Planned Parenthood Federation of America or PPFA (57% of the time) [18]. NLIRH has close ties of collaboration with Planned Parenthood [19]. Planned Parenthood is well known for its promotion of abortion and contraceptives (including those that are abortifacient). Its “clinics” are mainly located in areas heavily populated by Hispanics and African-Americans [20]. NLIRH has a new initiative called National Coalition for Immigrant Women’s Rights/NCIWR [21]. NLIRH began as an independent organization in 1994. Its predecessor, The Latina Initiative, began five years before under the sponsorship of CFFC. “The Latina Initiative was created in direct response to the lack of Latina visibility on reproductive rights and health issues. After a successful five year track record at Catholics for a Free Choice, the Latina Initiative was renamed NLIRH and opened its doors as the first independent national organization and voice for Latinas on health and reproductive rights issues. In 2003 NLIRH reopened its doors in New York City. To this day, NLIRH is the only national Latina health and reproductive rights organization representing an increasingly diverse and growing Latina population” [22].

3. Hispanas Organized for Political Equity/HOPE, purports to help Hispanic women “develop leadership and social activism. “For 18 years, Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) has been working to provide a critical voice to Latinas, to develop their personal growth, prosperity, and political clout. Throughout the years, HOPE has served the Latina community with innovative programming that provides leadership development, statewide networking opportunities, experiential learning, and one on one interaction with local, state, and federal officials and agencies.” [23] Unfortunately, HOPE has demonstrated support for abortion. [24]

4. Hispanic Federation (HF), whose mission is to ensure access to social and “health” services for Hispanics. “The Hispanic Federation is a service-oriented membership organization that works with over 90 Latino health and human services agencies to promote the social, political and economic well-being of the Latino community” [25]. HF makes the self-contradictory claim that it is “against abortion but in favor of choice” [26]. HF is in favor of abortion.

5. Hermana (MANA) used to be called Mexican American National Association, still holds to the

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acronym “MANA”. “MANA used to stand for the Mexican American National Association, named when it was originally founded in 1974 by Mexican-American women. In January 1994, members voted to become MANA, A National Latina Organization, to reflect the growing diversity of its membership. Today, MANA is the largest national pan-Latina membership organization” [27]. The objective of MANA is to “empower Latinas through leadership development, community service, and advocacy” [28]. Unfortunately, MANA has also adopted a pro-abortion stance. [29]

5. National Council of La Raza (NCLR), whose objective is to “defend” the civil rights of Hispanics [30] established the Institute of Hispanic Health with the purpose of “reducing” health problems among Hispanics. “The National Council of La Raza’s Institute for Hispanic Health is dedicated to reducing the incidence, burden, and impact of health problems in Hispanic Americans. The Institute works in close partnership with NCLR affiliates, government partners, private funding, and other Hispanic-serving organizations to deliver quality health interventions. These interventions focus on the improvement of access to and utilization of health promotion and disease prevention programs. “We are committed to providing technical assistance and science-based approaches that are culturally competent and linguistically appropriate” [31]. NCLR has explicitly supported organizations that promote hedonistic sex “education”, such as the LAMBDA Legal Defense and Education Fund (which belongs to the pro-homosexual activist movement), the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction, and Planned Parenthood [32].

#### 4. Conclusion

There are many anti-life organizations in Latin America, many of them based in the U.S. These organizations are dedicated to the introduction of anti-life mentality at the social and legal levels in these countries. It is necessary, to be aware of the presence of these Hispanic anti-life and anti-family organizations both in Latin America and in the U.S. and that they represent a double threat against Hispanics.

The deadly effect of this double threat is already evident among Hispanics in the U.S. in the small but growing decline of the birth rate and in the small but growing approval of abortion in certain

circumstances, evident in the participation in Planned Parenthood’s anti-life “services”. This deadly effect is also evident in their commitment to participate in pro-immigration activities that some anti-life organizations originate or promote. In this way, Hispanics are invariably bonded to such anti-life and anti-family organizations in the U.S.

It is therefore urgent that the Catholic Church and other pro-life and pro-family Hispanic Catholic organizations in the U.S., approach Hispanics to educate them about these issues, most importantly in the correct teachings of the Catholic Church. The Hispanic community is in danger of losing its faith and love for life and family.

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*This report was prepared in June of 2008 by Vida Humana Internacional (VHI – [www.vidahumana.org](http://www.vidahumana.org)), the Hispanic Division of Human Life International, with the help of Marlene Gillette, an attorney who is a member of the Centro Latinoamericano de Derechos Humanos (Latin American Center for Human Rights), which is an organization that is affiliated to VHI in Argentina (CLADH – [www.cladh.org](http://www.cladh.org)).*

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#### Notes:

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16. See "No estás sola Alicia" in <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQLI25ySzl4>, "No estás sola Violeta" in <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUSf0zMtuLc>, "No estás sola Sandra" in <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkx-j9iee>, "No estás sola Alejandra" in <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5do-cj15ik>, "No estás sola Lucía" in <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4coxnbyzyg>, and "No estás sola - [sobre] Oscar" in <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqwg9zwo1c>. The latter one presents a supposed priest giving pro-abortion support. To obtain more information (in English) about this anti-life organization, visit, at VHI website:  
[http://www.vidahumana.org/english/family/cffc\\_index.html](http://www.vidahumana.org/english/family/cffc_index.html).
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<http://www.latinainstitute.org/publications/links.html>.
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<http://www.nclr.org/>
31. Institute of Hispanic Health; National Council of La Raza; United States of America.  
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<http://www.ncsse.org/images/ncsse%20fact%20sheet%205.27.03.pdf>. To obtain more information (in English) on Kinsey's perverse sex ideology, visit, at VHI website:  
[http://www.vidahumana.org/english/family/sexed\\_index.html](http://www.vidahumana.org/english/family/sexed_index.html).

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