



PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

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North American Martyrs Parish

UN: Child Marriage Soars in Yemen as Famine Looms



Child marriage has soared in Yemen as families struggle to feed their children amid a conflict that has left the country on the brink of famine, the U.N. children's agency said Monday. More than two-thirds of girls in Yemen are married off before they reach 18, compared to half of girls before the conflict escalated, UNICEF said in a report to mark the second anniversary of the war.

It said parents struggling with deepening poverty were increasingly marrying off their daughters to reduce costs and the number of mouths to feed or because they believed a husband's family could offer better protection. Around 80 percent of families in Yemen are in debt or are borrowing money to feed their children, the agency said.

Dowry payments — paid by the husband's family in Yemen — are an additional incentive for poor parents to marry off daughters early, it added. There is no minimum age of marriage in Yemen, where campaigners say girls are sometimes wed at eight or nine. Some die from rape injuries or childbirth complications after becoming pregnant before their bodies are fully developed.

Yemen's hunger crisis follows two years of civil war pitting the Iran-allied Houthi group against a Saudi-backed coalition, which has caused economic collapse and severely restricted food and fuel imports. More than 10,000 people have been killed in the conflict and around 3 million people have fled their homes, although some are now returning.

"One of the first casualties when families are displaced and lose their incomes is girls," UNICEF's spokesman in Yemen, Rajat Madhok, told Reuters. Initial results from a new UNICEF study on child marriage suggest around 44 percent of girls and women are married under the

Canada is Harvesting the Organs of Euthanasia Patients

Opponents argue the practice pressures patients to be euthanized, and makes it harder for them to change their mind.

A recent push in Canada to encourage euthanasia patients to donate their organs is working. In Ontario, the first province to report data, 26 people who died by lethal injection decided to donate tissue or organs since the [Medical Aid in Dying Act](#) (MAID) came into effect last June, according to the National Post. A total of 388 people have chosen to die by lethal injection in Ontario, over half of the 744 total Canadians who have been euthanized.

Proponents of linking organ harvesting to euthanasia point to the shortage of organ transplants readily available and the lower cost associated with euthanasia than with end-of-life care. Canadian ethicists Julie Allard and Marie-Chantal Fortin encouraged the joining of euthanasia with organ harvesting in an article in December's *Journal of Medical Ethics*.

But even supporters acknowledge the potential unintended consequences. Allard and Fortin warned in their article that encouraging organ harvesting could put pressure on those diagnosed with terminal illness to consider assisted suicide as an alternative sense of purpose.

<https://world.wng.org/2017/03/>

ACLU Waging All-Out War to Prevent Women From Seeing Ultrasound of Their Baby Before an Abortion

Lawyers for the ACLU urged a judge on Thursday to block a Kentucky ultrasound law that requires abortion practitioners to describe the unborn baby and show the mother its image and heartbeat.

Attorney for the state Steve Pitt said the information may help women realize the fact that their unborn child is a living human being. He said these facts may prompt them to reconsider going through with the abortion.

This information is bad for business in the abortion industry. Planned Parenthood, the ACLU and other abortion advocacy groups routinely fight against laws that require abortion clinics to show women the ultrasound images of their unborn babies, lobbying against them before they become law and filing legal challenges when they do.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2017/03/24/aclu-waging-all-out-war-to-prevent-women-from-seeing-ultrasound-of-their-baby-before-an-abortion/>

With Vice President's Vote, Senate Passes Anti-Planned Parenthood Measure



Mike Pence was tiebreaker to advance bill allowing states to once more have the freedom to avoid funding abortion

giant.

At issue is a rule created by the Obama administration last December, which forbade states to withhold Title X "family-planning" grants to Planned Parenthood on account of the fact that it performs abortions. States had been instead looking to fund other health clinics.

The measure now goes to President Trump, who is expected to sign the resolution into law.



PROJECT MUSTARD SEED

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Mr. Steven M Raimeriz
Chairman
Ronald McDonald House Charities
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www.rmhc.org

While not on the boycott list per se, Ronald McDonald House is noted as donating to Planned Parenthood and supporting their agenda.

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Tear-Jerking Ad Attracts 1.5 Million Views with Pro-Life Message

In a world where abortion is celebrated, one company is rebelling with a powerful message – a message that Americans can overcome their circumstances to champion life. And it's going viral.

Earlier this month, **Principal Financial Group**, an investment management company based in Iowa, released an ad titled "Graduation." Embedded with pro-life themes, the touching commercial already boasts more than 1.5 million views.

The video follows a man and woman as they develop a relationship, encounter a surprise pregnancy and alter their lives to keep their baby.

"Life doesn't always go according to plan," the words on the screen conclude. "We can help you plan for that."



Planned Parenthood Can Break the Law, But Undercover Journalists Can't Expose It

In California you can flout federal law in the most gruesome way imaginable and still be tolerated—as long as your name is Planned Parenthood. Expose a practice as foul as selling baby body parts, however, and you've crossed the line of "tolerability."

In an announcement March 28, California indicated 15 felony charges against undercover journalists David Daleiden and Sandra Merritt, whose three-year project blew the cover off Planned Parenthood and others' clandestine and illegal sale and transfer of body parts it harvests from aborted babies.

Calling the "right to privacy" a "cornerstone of California's Constitution," the state's attorney general, Xavier Becerra went on to state California "[will] not tolerate the criminal recording of confidential conversations."

Virgin Airline's Decision Flies in the Face of the Left's Logic



If North Carolina tourism is suffering from HB 2, you could have fooled us! People aren't just coming to the Tar Heel State, they're flocking to it. So much so that Virgin Airlines is actually adding *more* direct flights to and from Raleigh-Durham International (RDU). And in what can only be described as irony, the biggest demand has been from a city no one would have guessed: San Francisco. Turns out, the LGBT community isn't exactly shunning the state for its privacy law.

One of the biggest lies of the Left is to suggest that protecting the safety of women and children will cost states billions of dollars in business. As PolitiFact and others have pointed out, that's simply not true. Lt. Governor Dan Forest (R-N.C.) continues to point out that North Carolina has not only weathered the storm over HB 2 -- but thrived in it. For the second consecutive year, the state was ranked #2 on Forbes's top states for doing business. The ranking was given late last year, so there would have been ample time to assess the impact of the privacy law on the economy. In fact, more businesses seem to be moving to North Carolina than away from it.

Still not convinced? Despite the NCAA and ACC pulling championship games, travel to the state was also up. In North Carolina's annual hospitality report, there wasn't one mention of HB 2. That's probably because the year-end hotel and motel occupancy was up 3.4 percent statewide from 2015 -- a state record. And when you compare it to the rest of the U.S., the statistic is even more impressive. In the rest of the country, occupancy was up only 0.1 percent, and South Atlantic states' occupancy was up 1.1 percent from 2015. Room demand was up 5.1 percent, the largest boost in six years. If that's



United States Ends Funding for United Nations Population Fund

The United States has ended funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), saying the agency's support for Chinese population-control programs violates an amendment banning funds for partners of coercive abortion or sterilization programs.

"This determination was made based on the fact that China's family-planning policies still involve the use of coercive abortion and involuntary sterilization, and UNFPA partners on family-planning activities with the Chinese government agency responsible for these coercive policies," the U.S. State Department said in a letter to U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker.

The move ends \$32.5 million in funds for the 2017 fiscal year, Reuters reports. The money will instead go to the State Department's Global Health Programs fund. Those moneys are used by the U.S. Agency for International Development to support family planning and maternal and reproductive health.

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/united-states-ends-funding-for->