



## **STUDENT ORGANIZING KIT TO CHALLENGE ANTI-CHOICE HATE EXHIBITS ON CAMPUS**

Thank you for contacting the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and its youth and young adult program, Spiritual Youth for Reproductive Freedom (SYRF) about the anti-choice hate group that is coming to your campus. We share your outrage at these extremists and want to help you expose their campaign to deprive women of their right to choose.

Anti-choice groups are traveling throughout the nation, setting up deeply offensive displays at colleges and universities, clinics, religious congregations, and even busy sidewalks. We have compiled this packet to help pro-choice groups and individuals counter these groups and express the meaning of choice—respect, tolerance, justice, and dignity.

We will not allow these groups to go unchallenged in their attempt to impose their narrow anti-woman, anti-freedom agenda, veiled in appropriated human rights language. Please feel free to use this kit to counter hate groups on your campus. Please visit <http://www.rcrc.org> and <http://www.syrf.org>, for publications, theological papers, and other resources about religious support for reproductive choice. If you would like assistance, please contact us at [info@syrf.org](mailto:info@syrf.org).

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## Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

# **Anti-Choice Propaganda Aims to Shock and Manipulate**

### **Hideous Comparisons to Holocaust, Lynching Try to Discredit Reproductive Health Services**

Extreme anti-abortion groups are putting forth the appalling notion that abortion is the moral equivalent of the Holocaust, lynching, and other horrendous acts.

They compare people who are pro-choice to Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan. They compare women who make a conscientious decision to have an abortion to murderers, racists, and terrorists.

Many of these groups admit that their purpose is to shame and frighten women, discredit reproductive health services, and end the right to choose.

The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice hopes this information will help in understanding the unscrupulous nature of those who manipulate humanity's greatest tragedies to undermine the basic right to choose.

#### **The Holocaust and Abortion: An Appalling Analogy**

By Rabbi Charles D. Mintz

*Rabbi Mintz is spiritual leader of Temple Emanuel in North Dallas.*

I believe the analogy between abortion and the Holocaust inhibits reasonable and civilized discussion on the issue of abortion and thoroughly twists the salient lessons to

be learned from the Holocaust so as to force them into an utterly alien context.

The most obvious parallel drawn by opponents of abortion is that, as the Nazis murdered millions of innocent Jews, so do we murder 4,000 babies a day. To begin with, such an assertion presupposes that the fetus is a baby. Reasonable men and women hold differing opinions on the question of when human life begins and will not agree

to the proposition that the early fetus is a baby. They will agree that there are vast differences between terminating an unwanted pregnancy, especially in its early stages, and murdering millions of their fellow human beings.

**What are these differences?** The most important of them is that a woman, using her own best judgment, and aided by her physician, her clergy person, her family and whomever else she chooses to use as counselors, *freely* opts to terminate a pregnancy or to carry it to term. Neither church nor state can force her to have an abortion or to mother a child.

**Was that the case with the victims of the Holocaust?** Were they not murdered by the power of the state? And was not the genesis of that mass murder in large measure a function of the willingness of the German people to give up their right to make moral choices in favor of the totalitarian will of the Fuhrer?

**Hitler murdered 6 million Jews. No woman is forced to abort a pregnancy in this country,** and every woman is afforded the opportunity to exercise her own powers of moral decision-making.

**Many Americans have very strong feelings about abortion.** Some, for religious or conscientious reasons, believe the fetus to be a person and therefore are unalterably opposed to abortion. Millions of other Americans for equally conscientious and religious reasons believe that abortion is a permissible option and that human life does not begin at the moment of conception. We believe that the decision to terminate or not terminate a pregnancy is an issue of conscience to be determined by the convictions and religious beliefs of one individual. That respect for individual

liberty is essential to our American way of life.

**Those who use this analogy maintain that the proponents of freedom of choice have dehumanized** the unborn child, just as the Nazis dehumanized the Jew. That is not true. While millions believe that the fetus is not to be equated with a human being, few will argue against the... thesis that we ought to do all in our power to educate both men and women about methods of avoiding unwanted pregnancies.

Those who love to use the Holocaust analogy point out that, as the Nazis cared not a whit for the sanctity of human life, so too are those who would permit medically safe abortions bereft of any belief in the sanctity of human life. The opposite is in fact the case.

**It is because we believe in the sanctity of human life that we believe a child has the right to enter the world wanted and loved.** It is because we believe in the sanctity of human life that we are sensitive to the effects of an unwanted pregnancy upon individual women, upon their loved ones and their families, and we recognize that they, not we, must determine what is best for those directly concerned and involved. It is because we believe in the sanctity of human life that we stand ready to assist our fellow human beings regardless of whether or not we might handle our own life problems in a different manner.

**Individual liberty has been sustained throughout the long years of the abortion debate,** despite the efforts of the anti-choice groups. Americans have not been stampeded by the strident and inflammatory rhetoric of those to whom theological and moral certainty leads to political bullying.

The hideous analogy drawn between the Holocaust and abortion... will win no support from reasonable Americans who, whatever their views on abortion, know better than to equate their fellow citizens with Hitler's minions.

## **African American Perspectives**

*Marjorie Signer, Communications Director of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, compiled this essay. The sources are "African-American Women and Abortion," by Loretta J. Ross, in *Abortion Wars, A Half-Century of Struggle, 1950-2000*, edited by Rickie Solinger and published by the University of California Press, Berkeley, 2000, and *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty*, by Dorothy Roberts, Pantheon Books, New York, 1997.*

**In the 1970s, the anti-abortion movement began to manipulate African American fears about genocide in order to silence the voices of Black women who believed in reproductive freedom.** African American women have consistently countered these opponents of family planning and reproductive choice. Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman in Congress, flatly rejected the argument equating genocide with birth control:

"To label family planning and legal abortion as 'genocide' is male rhetoric, for male ears. It falls flat to female listeners and to thoughtful male ones. Women know, as so do many men, that two or three children who are wanted, prepared for, reared amid love and stability, and educated to the limit of their ability will mean more for the future of the Black and brown races from which they come than any number of neglected, hungry, ill-housed and ill-clothed youngsters."

**Black feminists argued that birth control and abortion are, in themselves, revolutionary**—and that African American liberation in any sense cannot be won without women controlling their lives. Frances M. Beal, head of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Black Women's Liberation Group, wrote, **"Birth control [and abortion] is the freedom to fight genocide of Black women and children."** [Frances M. Beal, "Double Jeopardy: To Be Black and Female," in *Sisterhood Is Powerful* (ed. Robin Morgan, Random House, New York, 1970), as quoted by Loretta Ross.]

**Dorothy Roberts warns of the danger posed by equating family planning with racial genocide.** "Opposition to all forms of family planning for Blacks leads to an unacceptable restriction of Black women's control over their own procreative decisions... Although some Blacks believe that white-controlled family planning literally threatens Black survival, I take the position that... the chief danger of these policies is the legitimization of an oppressive social structure."

## **Twisting The Language**

**By Helen I. Howe**

*Ms. Howe holds the Master of Divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary and was a consultant on lay ministries to the Presbytery of Detroit.*

**Hitler's government prohibited abortions and ordered the death penalty for Aryan women who aborted their pregnancies.** At the same time the Nazis forced abortions and sterilizations upon Jewish women before exterminating them. Nothing of this kind must happen in the United States. The police power of the state must not be used either to compel women to bear children, nor to compel them not to

bear children. Furthermore, women of limited means must have the same real choices as other women.

**It is an insult to African American women to make the generalized claim that abortions performed on Black women are genocide.** To imply that Black women and other women of color do not know their own minds, that they are incapable of making their own informed decisions, is an affront to their dignity.

**Our federal government refuses to finance abortion services for poor women,** forcing them to bear unwanted children and to suffer unnecessary health hazards, unless a state government chooses to assume the full cost. At the same time the federal government will finance 90% of the cost of a sterilization procedure for a Medicaid recipient. If genocide is the aim, sterilization is apparently a much more effective procedure to use. It is more easily coerced, and the coercion is easily concealed....

**No one claims that there have never been coerced abortions and sterilizations** in the United States. We do not know how many women have been pressured, while delivering a baby, to have their tubes tied

before leaving the hospital. It is the responsibility of government and providers to bring an immediate halt to any such practices.

**However, this fact must not be the basis for taking away all choices from all women.** Women and couples should be provided the spiritual, social, and economic supports necessary to make sound moral judgments when faced with a crisis pregnancy. Churches and synagogues should openly and actively offer help, guidance, and resources for persons in difficult circumstances.

We must not countenance state interference in the right of a pastor or a rabbi to counsel according to his or her theological and ethical understanding of the issues involved in individual circumstances.

**The First Amendment doctrine of the separation of church and state and the freedom of religious expression must be protected.** The power of potential parents to make critical decisions affecting their entire lives and the lives of their families must be protected. It is the responsibility of government to assure these protections.

The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, founded in 1973, is the national organization of pro-choice people of faith, comprising Protestant, Jewish, and other denominations and faith groups, the Clergy for Choice Network, state affiliates throughout the country and Spiritual Youth for Reproductive Freedom (SYRF), our nationwide youth and campus program.

For more information, contact:

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**An anti-choice hate group is coming to campus**  
**Here's what you can do to counter the anti-choice notion that**  
**abortion is genocide...**

1. Organize a peaceful pro-choice counter demonstration (aka, "Peaceful Presence" and ask religious students, chaplains, Hillel Rabbis and other clergy from local campus ministries and nearby congregations affiliated with Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice member denominations (<http://www.rcrc.org/about/members/index.htm>) to participate and help you plan.
2. Contact the Black Student Union, Jewish student alliances, feminist student groups, gay lesbian bisexual and transgender student groups, women's studies departments, sexual assault and prevention offices, environmental justice groups, economic justice groups, and local domestic violence shelters. Ask them to mobilize their networks to participate in and plan a Peaceful Presence.
3. Ask the local Religious Coalition affiliate ([http://www.rcrc.org/get\\_involved/affiliates/index.htm](http://www.rcrc.org/get_involved/affiliates/index.htm)) for assistance. They might be able to identify possible speakers and pro-choice clergy in your community. Most affiliates have experience challenging anti-choice rhetoric, and could be a significant source of help.
4. Make sure that counseling and student support services are available for students who are emotionally disturbed by the anti-choice demonstration. Contact the chaplain(s) and counseling center to give them the heads up.
5. Write letters to the student newspaper to refute the notion that abortion is genocide. Use the sample letter included in this packet as an example.
6. Start a Spiritual Youth for Reproductive Freedom (SYRF) group on your campus. For more info, contact the SYRF Coordinator at [info@syrf.org](mailto:info@syrf.org) and visit [www.syrf.org](http://www.syrf.org).
7. After the anti-choice hate group leaves, send your feedback on the effectiveness of this packet to [info@syrf.org](mailto:info@syrf.org). Your comments will help us to better assist students at other campuses confronted by this hateful anti-choice rhetoric.

## Sample Letters to the Editor

These letters can be sent to campus and/or local press as is or adapted to fit your needs.

To the Editor,

Our campus/community will soon be visited by (OR: is currently being visited by) an offensive and hurtful extremist group called the \_\_\_\_\_ that students/residents should know about.

\_\_\_\_\_ (group) sets up a horrific display that suggests that supporters of a woman's right to choose are similar to the Nazi killing machine that claimed over 11 million victims during World War II and the white supremacists who led lynch mobs against African Americans. I cannot understand the connection. The atrocities of the World War II Holocaust and hate crimes of lynching are results of the systematic targeting of a race or religion. The abortion decision involves a woman making a personal, private decision about what is best for her and her family, based on her beliefs, conscience and personal circumstances.

\_\_\_\_\_ 's (group) hateful agenda goes far beyond the abortion debate. They exploit the Holocaust that claimed 6 million Jewish lives and the systematic lynching of African Americans to provoke Jewish and black students. Its lack of compassion for true human suffering should concern all who hate oppression, regardless of their stance on a woman's right to choose. While this hate group does have the right to express its beliefs, a community of learning such as ours should refute these ignorant and intolerant beliefs.

A group of students who are disgusted by this propaganda will stage a peaceful protest (OR hold a community forum) to let students know the true nature of \_\_\_\_\_. We want to stop the spread of hate generated by \_\_\_\_\_ and hold these extremists accountable for their sexism and racism. To learn more, please contact \_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,  
Your Name

## Misapplying the Term ‘Holocaust’

Dr. Paul Simmons

Printed as a Letter to the Editor in *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, KY, April 23, 2002

Ironies never seem to cease in the campaign to ban abortion, as evidenced in the recent display of “Holocaust” pictures on the University of Louisville and University of Kentucky campuses. The display was an exercise in free speech, which is rightly protected. But it also showed bad taste, bad ethical judgment and advocated unjust public policy.

The zealots for fetal sacredness displayed pictures in gory detail. The pitch was that abortion should be legally banned because all these “people” or “babies” were “butchered.” Bad taste was on display in the extreme. Why not show pictures of excised cancers and black lungs and argue such surgeries should be banned? Pictures may nauseate a viewer but they make no ethical point. Nausea is not a revelation of moral duty.

Bad ethics follows bad reasoning. The display gave no information about why the abortions were done. Was there a lethal defect? Was the woman raped or incestuously impregnated? What was the burden and threat to the woman? The woman nowhere figures in this faulty moral calculus except as the one accused as evil. She is invisible, a non-person, of no worth; given neither respect nor protection. The claim that a fetus (much less a fertilized ovum) is a “person” poses a major problem for ethical reasoning. Moral logic flies out the window when potentialities are treated as if they were actualities. An acorn is not an oak tree no matter how much the acorn is necessary to the growth of a tree.

The display is also offensive to Jews, a people victimized by the anti-Semitism of the Nazis and others. The Holocaust has special and tragic meaning for them. To apply the term to abortion is to trivialize the Nazi demonism. Many Jews accept abortion on religious grounds as one way to deal with lethal fetal burdens. So this display is a double-edged sword. The Holocaust killed real people—men, women and children. Some survivors are living among us.

The display, thus, insults the dead and threatens the living. Women who have terminated problem pregnancies know the duplicity and sham morality at stake. This is the stuff of which the real Holocaust was made.

## Sample Letter to Your School Administration

Dear Administrators,

As you may know, an extreme anti-abortion group will be coming to our campus soon. The group [(insert name of the organization)] has been on a number of campuses and some students have been disturbed by their analogies of abortion and the Holocaust and lynching. Based on this fact, we are writing to suggest that psychological and/or chaplain services be available for students exposed to \_\_\_\_\_ on our campus.

To illustrate the strong negative reaction to this group, we include an essay by a female student from another university. Students like this young woman may seek on-campus assistance when confronted with the graphic character of the posters and the use of emotionally charged historical periods to evoke emotions.

We request that psychological, health, and chaplain services and departments be prepared to assist students who view the \_\_\_\_\_ display. Regardless of their stance on abortion, students will have questions and concerns. While we recognize \_\_\_\_\_'s right to freedom of speech, we also believe the university must acknowledge the disturbing nature of this speech and respond accordingly.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,  
Your Name

## **A Student's Reaction to the Anti-Choice Display**

### **A Student's Reaction to the Anti-Choice Display**

The tears flooded my eyes. I was trying to digest what I had just read and seen—the propaganda and pictures of an anti-choice hate group linking abortion with genocide.

The hate flowed. As a pro-choice activist on my college campus, I am educated about anti-choice groups, but I have never seen anything like these hate-filled materials. As a woman, I was offended. As the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, I was outraged. Afterwards, I was emotionally jarred by the images I had seen and haunted by what I had read.

The accusations flew. From what this organization was implying, my support for a woman's right to choose has somehow turned me into something similar to the Nazi killing machine that had targeted my Jewish family 50 years ago. I could not—and still cannot—understand the connection. The hate crime of lynching and the atrocities of the Holocaust are results of the systematic targeting of a certain race or religion. Abortion is a woman's legal right to control her *own* destiny.

People cringed. Without any consideration for the views and beliefs of students and faculty, the organizers of this organization have displayed posters and distributed literature that are intended to create emotional turmoil and irrational responses. Rather than tactfully engage the campus in an effective dialogue, they tried to force those supporting a woman's right to choose to feel guilt and those who faced the serious decision themselves to feel shame. As a Jew, I felt victimized by this abuse of my heritage. As a student, I was shocked by the ignorance of the claims. As an activist, I was disturbed by the regressive nature of their hateful rhetoric.

Students searched. With the images of the hate-filled propaganda still in their minds, students on some of the campuses targeted with these displays sought psychological, health, and chaplain services and found they were not available or ready to handle a wave of students.

Students can try to prevent such horrible displays from appearing on campus but that is only half the battle. If one of these exhibits does make it to your institution, be sure that you are ready to provide information and counsel to your students and faculty. The debate over a woman's right to choose is difficult enough without the infusion of hatred. Be there for the women and for the survivors of generations of prejudice, for the activists and the newcomers, for all of your campus community.

## **Sample Press Release**

Date:

Contact:

For immediate release

### **Pro-Choice Students to respond to Inflammatory Anti-Choice Propaganda Charges of 'Genocide' Calculated to Shock, Horrify and Manipulate**

(Name of your organization, i.e., Students for Choice) will set up a table on the (place) to provide accurate information about the extremist group [insert name], which will be on campus next week. The table will be staffed from (times).

“This group openly admits that their purpose is to shame and frighten women, discredit reproductive health services, and ultimately end the right to choose,” said the spokesperson of your group. “Their claim that abortion is genocide is hateful propaganda that has been deliberately calculated to shock, horrify and manipulate people and has no basis in fact.”

The fringe group travels from campus to campus with a huge display comparing abortion with the Jewish Holocaust and lynching of African Americans. Using shock tactics, they compare pro-choice supporters to Nazis, the Ku Klux Klan, and, most recently, the terrorists who attacked the United States. “The shameless exploitation of the Holocaust and lynching is a calculated attempt to aggravate and provoke Jewish and black students,” said your spokesperson.

Webster's New World Dictionary defines genocide as "the systematic killing or extermination of a whole people or nation." An individual woman's decision to have an abortion does not constitute genocide. Abortion is a decision that women make after careful thought and when their beliefs and circumstances tell them it is the best possible decision at that time. Most people of faith believe women must be free to make reproductive decisions, including abortion, according to their own conscience and faith, said your spokesperson.

“Comparing other peoples' suffering to the life-saving option of legal abortion is an insult to the real victims of genocide and to 70,000 plus women who die every year from illegal abortion,” your spokesperson said.

For more information, please contact the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice at 202-628-7700 or visit [www.rcrc.org](http://www.rcrc.org)

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## Clergy Comments

### **Reverend Carlton W. Veazey, National Baptist Convention, President of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice**

An individual woman's decision to have an abortion does not constitute genocide. Abortion is a decision that women make after careful thought and when their beliefs and circumstances tell them it is the best possible decision at that time. Most people of faith believe women must be free to make reproductive decisions, including abortion, according to their own conscience.

### **Rabbi Daniel Fink, Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel, Boise, Idaho**

Even if one is strongly anti-abortion, the notion that a woman who chooses to abort an 8-week-old fetus (or a doctor who performs such an abortion) is in any way analogous to Nazis or white supremacist lynch mobs is abhorrent. This demonizes women and doctors, creating the kind of environment that makes for clinic bombings and terror... The Nazis systematically destroyed Jewish individuals, communities and cultures. Southern white supremacists did the same to Black southerners. To say that abortion is no different is to trivialize the suffering of Blacks and Jews.

### **Rabbi David Saperstein, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism**

The use of the term 'Holocaust' to evoke emotional support for anti-abortion legislation is conducive neither to clear thinking on abortion and abortion legislation nor to a proper understanding of the Holocaust. Usurping the Holocaust for such purposes...allows the shame and historical responsibility for the Holocaust to be blurred, and thereby, more easily forgotten.

### **Reverend Robert McAfee Brown, Presbyterian Church (USA), Professor Emeritus of Theology and Ethics, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley**

...It is particularly unfortunate that leaders and members of Christian churches have been in the forefront of (creating the analogy—vivid but terribly misleading—between abortion and the Holocaust). Without challenging for a moment their right to espouse anti-abortion views, I feel that we are not only entitled, but obligated, to press them to withdraw this analogy as repugnant, incorrect and divisive

### **The Reverend Dr. Franklin H. Littell, United Methodist Church, Professor of Religion, Temple University, Philadelphia**

...the 6 million Jews were murdered by government intervention. Government intervention is now advocated to override family privacy and group conscience. To have a true parallelism, you would have to have government enforcement of a program to abort *all* fetuses.

### **Rabbi Charles D. Mintz, Temple Emanuel, North Dallas**

There is no analogy to be drawn between abortion and the Holocaust. Whether one favors or opposes abortion, it must be stated as fact that mass murder is not taking place, that no one is forced to submit to an abortion, that the power of the state has not been used in a coercive manner and that Americans have not been forced or propagandized into supporting that which offends their religious beliefs or their moral convictions.

# **The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice**

## **PEACEFUL PRESENCE: A Guide for Volunteers**

Peaceful Presence is a pro-choice, non-violent, non-confrontational, law-abiding, volunteer-based program of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. Peaceful Presence offers solace and moral support to patients, families and providers of comprehensive reproductive health care services and support pro-choice students at campuses targeted by anti-choice protests.

Welcome to the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice training in Peaceful Presence! Thank you in advance for being part of this important program.

### **About the Religious Coalition**

The Religious Coalition FOR Reproductive Choice ([www.rcrc.org](http://www.rcrc.org)) was organized in 1973 as a temporary project to deal with the controversy created when abortion became legalized. The coalition, created under the auspices of the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society with clergy from the Clergy Consultation Service (the pre-Roe clergy underground to get women to safe albeit illegal abortions) continues today with membership of organizations from 15 denominations and faith traditions, and affiliates in 21 states. Having entered its third decade, the Religious Coalition and its affiliates are recognized for their sound, reasonable views and their representation of the religious community and its views on abortion and reproduction.

In October 1988 the Religious Coalition began "Operation Respect," calling on people of faith to participate as a peaceful, religious opposition to clinic harassment and so-called rescue attempts. Based upon the general principles of non-violence, non-confrontation, and loving support of patients, families, and providers, the Oklahoma Religious Coalition organized its Peaceful Presence task force in 1989. They brought together volunteer pro-choice clergy and lay people to calmly counteract those who would deny women and their families' access to clinics through harassment and intimidation. The New Jersey Religious Coalition brought Peaceful Presence to New Jersey in 1996, and since then it has spread to many states across the nation.

Religious Coalition affiliates provide some of the most effective responses to the organized effort to deny access to abortion, family planning, and family life education. Besides Peaceful Presence, we train clergy to provide All Options Clergy Counseling and provide the technical assistance and resources to start up new affiliates and campus chapters. The affiliates publish newsletters, provide statewide educational efforts, and coordinate legislative advocacy.

## **What is Peaceful Presence?**

Peaceful Presence is a peaceful, respectful, law-abiding interfaith response to anti-choice harassment, intimidation, and picketing against those who seek, support or provide reproductive health care services. Peaceful Presence lessens the stress for providers and their families, and it helps women feel safer when arriving at the medical site. Peaceful Presence also diffuses tension in the often-hostile protest environment. Plus, we help to spread the word to the general public that people of faith support choice!

## **Things to remember...**

Keep in mind ways that you can keep cool and silent when anti-choice demonstrators are trying to aggravate you. Some people find it helpful to count to one thousand, sing a song or prayer under breath or to self, visualize yourself in another place, hold hands with a neighbor, look at the person, smile, look away from the person. Find what works for you.

Bring warm/cool clothing depending on the weather, sunscreen if you tend to burn, water, umbrellas.

We are not martyrs! In most cases there will be security there! Often there are clinic escorts there to protect the entrance to the clinic. The most important thing is to be safe and not put ourselves or others at risk. If you feel threatened or uncomfortable at any moment do not remain in the situation. Before leaving tell the coordinator.

Peaceful Presence is not for everyone! If you prefer to do the chants or protect the entrance to the clinic then perhaps volunteering with another group would be a better fit for you. Coalition work is important. Our strength as a pro-choice movement is in our ability to work together!

Also, if you are not comfortable doing Peaceful Presence there are other ways to put your faith into action for choice! You can work the phones, fundraise, write letters, be the photographer, legal observer, drive, or provide pastoral care! We appreciate your support and assistance no matter how you decide to help out!

## **If Peaceful Presence is for you, then:**

Review, sign, make a copy for yourself, and return the attached contract and know that we thank you for becoming a Peaceful Presence volunteer!

RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE  
1025 Vermont Ave. NW  
Suite 1130  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-628-7700

AGREEMENT FOR OUR PEACEFUL PRESENCE VOLUNTEERS

1. As an invited guest, I will co-operate with the spirit and goals of this reproductive choice support effort.
2. I will follow the instructions of the designated supervisor. When I arrive for duty I will sign in, including my local or cell phone number.
3. I commit to being peaceful and law-abiding. I will not raise my voice in anger or make threatening gestures or statements. I will not touch anyone without their permission unless in self-defense.
4. I will immediately remove myself from any dangerous or confrontational scene. If I am witness to an altercation involving the protestors, I will write an account of the incident and appear in court if necessary.
5. I understand that I cannot hold Religious Coalition FOR Reproductive Choice nor those whose home, church, synagogue, clinic or office I am helping through my participation in this volunteer effort responsible for any physical injury, medical expense, damage to personal property, or legal expenses incurred as a result of my volunteer support of this effort.
6. I will respect patients' and staffs' rights to confidentiality by refraining from making any reference to the identity of any patient, client, or staff member whom I see while being part of the Peaceful Presence, whether while serving as a volunteer or at any other time.
7. Should there ever be an extraordinary event at a site where I am providing Peaceful Presence, after I have left and sought safety, I will call the Religious Coalition 202-628-7700, to let them know that I am safe.

**I promise to abide by these policies that are established to provide spiritual and emotional support to those who seek and those who provide reproductive health care services and to reduce the risk of violence to anyone.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please print your name too

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or legal guardian signature for volunteers under age 18