

Statement on Reproductive Equity

from the Population Working Group of Quaker Earthcare Witness

"Parents have a basic human right to determine freely and responsibly the number and the spacing of their children."

– Proclamation of Teheran 1968

Members of the Population Working Group of Quaker Earthcare Witness affirm that:

1. All people have the right to thrive in a safe, healthy environment and to have access to reproductive health services.
2. We decry the immoral and illegal efforts, past and present, to restrict the rights and freedom of access to reproductive health services, including voluntary family planning.
3. We support the rights and the freedom of people to choose reproductive health services (including contraception, permanent sterilization, and abortion) and to enjoy the benefits family planning provides for individuals, especially mothers and children.
4. We applaud the benefits that voluntary family planning provides for humanity and the global environment.
5. Our goal is to extend the opportunity for all people to enjoy these benefits by exercising their right to determine freely and responsibly the number, if any, and spacing of their births.

We study population concerns and provide education about these concerns to Friends and others. In addition, we try to assist people to have the number of children they want both by education and with funding nonprofits working in the fields of human population, family planning, and education of girls and women. We donate money to selected North American nonprofits because our high consumption is harmful and because the unintended pregnancy rate here is high. We also give money to selected nonprofits in low-income countries because many people there do not have access to family planning services.

We are clear that often the most effective and least expensive solution to environmental problems is with family planning.