

International Programs

The National Right to Life Educational Trust Fund supports international pro-life educational and service programs and activities with special attention to the United Nations.

Beginning with the participation in the 1994 Cairo Conference on Population and Development, the Trust Fund has played a major role as a non-governmental organization (NGO) at numerous critical United Nations forums in New York, Geneva, and in other venues throughout the world such as Beijing, Bali, Bangkok, Istanbul, Johannesburg, Nairobi, Mexico City, Rome, and San Juan.

In addition to the Cairo Conference, these include the 1995 Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women; the World Summit on Social Development; the Istanbul Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the Rome World Food Summit in 1996; the 2002 World Summit for Children; the five- and ten-year General Assembly reviews of these and other conferences (such as the 2002 Johannesburg Summit for Sustainable Development and the 2005 review of the 2000 Millennium Development Goals); treaty negotiations on the International Criminal Court, cloning, and disability; as well as the yearly meetings of the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission on Social Development in New York, the Human Rights Council (formerly the Commission on Human Rights), and the World Health Assembly in Geneva.

National Right to Life Vice President for International Affairs and UN Representative Jeanne E. Head, R.N., is a leading pro-life representative working to promote the pro-

life cause in the so far successful struggle to prevent the UN from establishing abortion as a fundamental human right worldwide—a struggle that is becoming increasingly more difficult since the January 2009 dramatic reversal in U.S. policy. A hostile U.S. delegation, led by President Obama's Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, appears determined to pursue President Bill Clinton's unfulfilled 1994 goal of making abortion a fundamental human right worldwide through the UN.

As a part of the Pro-Life and Pro-Family Coalition at the UN, Ms. Head played a central role in assisting the Bush Administration and other pro-life countries in the over three-year battle that culminated in the adoption of the historic UN Declaration calling on member states to ban all forms of human cloning (March 8, 2005) and in the adoption in December 2006 (after four years of negotiations) of the UN International Convention (Treaty) on the protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.

Wayne Cockfield, an NRLC at-large director, was particularly effective with his expertise and personal testimony during negotiations for the Disability Convention. Hispanic Outreach Director Raimundo Rojas and director of American Victims of Abortion Olivia Gans have been especially effective representatives at these UN meetings. Scott Fischbach, executive director of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, has provided invaluable assistance and is focusing particularly on the pro-life African countries that are being pressured to legalize abortion. NRL President Wanda Franz, Ph.D., also, plays a major role in National Right to Life's international programs in meetings with leaders from around the world.



Wayne Cockfield and Jeanne Head, R.N., with members of the Qatar delegation.



Jeanne Head, R.N., with UN delegates from Africa and from Nicaragua.