

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

Human Coalition
P.O. Box 5052
Frisco, TX 75035

The Honorable Roy Cooper
Governor of North Carolina State
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Cooper:

We at Human Coalition are a life-affirming healthcare organization that fights for the dignity of all human life. We serve tens of thousands of women each year and have rescued over 17,300 children from abortion.

Since George Floyd's tragic death while in police custody, our nation has wrestled openly with America's legacy of racism. In the face of racialized police violence and disproportionate harm to Black communities by our criminal justice system, we are all called to affirm and defend the inherent dignity and worth of every Black life. The day after protests began in your home state, you answered this call by publicly proclaiming that Black Lives Matter. You expressed your willingness to fight racism in whatever form it takes.

Are you willing to fight racism when it targets Black lives in the womb?

Planned Parenthood was founded by the [eugenicist and white supremacist Margaret Sanger](#). Sanger wanted to use abortion to cull Black populations and keep Black families from living full, healthy, and thriving lives. Her legacy of hatred and violence lives on today in the disproportionate impact of Planned Parenthood's abortion program on minority communities.

[Seventy-nine percent](#) of Planned Parenthood's surgical abortion facilities are located in or near minority communities. Despite constituting only 13% of the female population, Black women represent [36%](#) of all abortions. Black women are five times more likely than white women to receive an abortion. By ratio, 474 Black preborn lives are [terminated in the womb](#) for every 1000 live births. Since 1973, 19 million Black babies have been killed by abortion. Without hyperbole, Planned Parenthood's abortion program in America today is fulfilling Margaret Sanger's racist vision of genocide against Black life.

Today, Planned Parenthood operates surgical abortion facilities in too many minority communities in North Carolina. Just last year, Planned Parenthood opened a [new facility in Charlotte](#), specifically targeting Black communities there. This is a straightforward continuation of North Carolina's [racist history of selective sterilization](#). But while North Carolina has acknowledged the Black victims of sterilizations, it has not acknowledged the disproportionate targeting of the Black community for abortions. The United Nations' definition of genocide includes "imposing measures to prevent births within a (national, ethnic, racial or religious) group." By this definition, abortion of Black babies, just like selective sterilization of Black men and women, is a form of genocide.

Governor Cooper, it's time to reckon with the white supremacist legacy and racist reality of Planned Parenthood. **We ask you to close the nine Planned Parenthood clinics in your state while an official investigation of its practices to determine if they target Black women is implemented.** It is the least you can do to demonstrate you take all allegations of genocide seriously. Analyze their clinic locations, marketing techniques and client demographics. Pore over their employee handbooks and internal memos and interview their employees, both past and present, to ascertain the mission and culture of the organization. Follow the money trail to see the spending priorities of the organization. Planned Parenthood would have you believe it has parted ways with its racist founder's views -- though the national organization has never publicly disavowed her, or her eugenics vision for Planned Parenthood.

Systemic racism impedes, injures, and kills Black lives. But no Black life is as vulnerable as the life of a preborn child. Mr. Governor, if you truly want to fight racism, uphold human dignity, and defend Black lives, then you have to protect the unborn from the racist abortion targeting of Planned Parenthood. Racist policing that targets and harms Black lives is evil. And so are racist abortion politics that target and terminate unborn Black lives.

Sincerely,
Reverend Dean Nelson
Executive Director of Human Coalition Action