



**R** *eclaiming*  
*Our Children's*  
*Future* ▶▶

*sponsored by*

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THE INTERFAITH COALITION

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THE INTERFAITH COALITION  
P.O. Box 201  
Carlisle, MA 01741

*Reclaim Our Children's Future — May 15*

1994

# **R**eclaiming Our Children's Future



A Conference sponsored by **THE INTERFAITH COALITION**

On Sunday, May 15, 1994 Catholics, Jews, Muslims and Protestants will come together in Boston to address the most important question facing our society:

*How can we restore family and social values for our children?*

*Will you be a part of the answer?*

Master of Ceremonies



Rev. Raymond Hammond  
Bethel AME Church, Boston

**Sunday, May 15, 1994**

1:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Sheraton Boston Hotel  
(Prudential Center)

Guest Speaker



Bernard Cardinal Law  
Archbishop of Boston



*"You're the smartest person I've ever talked to," I told Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, wrapping up a chat with the woman whose thinking and writing will reform family life in America — if we're lucky." New York*

*Newsday, April 7, 1993*

Keynote Address

**"Are We Really Putting Children First?"**

**Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, Ph.D.**

*Institute for American Values*

*Author, "Dan Quayle Was Right," Atlantic Monthly magazine*

*"This is a must-read article for liberals who dislike making any sort of social judgements. And for parents." USA Today, March 19, 1993*

## **A. Counter Revolution in Queens, N.Y.**

*Atty. John Hartigan*

When the New York City Board of Education sought to impose the validity of "alternative lifestyles" on all public school children beginning in the first grade, parents rebelled. Hear directly about the nation's biggest success story in restoring parental rights in public education from the attorney who represented New York parents — and won!

## **B. OBE: A Key Issue in Public Schools**

*Sandy Martinez, Concerned Women for America*

Why do increasing numbers of parents believe that "outcome based education" is the greatest threat to parental values in public education? What is "OBE"? Is it already a part of your local school's curriculum? Is there any relationship between "OBE" and misguided sex education programs?

## **C. Media Techniques for People the Media Doesn't Like**

*Don Feder, syndicated columnist*

*Jeanine Graf, TV and radio personality*

Well-known Boston Herald columnist Don Feder and talkshow host Jeanine Graf will share their experiences and offer practical suggestions on how parents can communicate a positive message despite a hostile media.

## **D. Teaching Kids the Values of Love, Respect and Character**

*Linda Thayer, author and public school teacher*

Learn from a Boston inner-city high school teacher how to identify values-based curricula that are being used in public schools with positive results. You'll be pleased to hear how young people respond.

## **E. Grassroots Organizing: How Parents Can Make a Difference**

*Sue Bush, Hingham School Committee member*  
*Nancy Sutton, Director, Family First*

Concerned parents need to organize. Learn practical tips on how to set up local parent organizations to impact policies which create unacceptable risks to children.

## **F. The Church's Response to Kids in the Age of Crack**

*Rev. Eugene F. Rivers, III, Azusa Christian Fellowship*  
*Rev. Gilbert A. Thompson, New Covenant*

There are positive alternatives to gangs and violence and drugs. Rev. Eugene Rivers is building a Christian community based on gospel values at the Azusa Christian Fellowship. Hear how young people can be offered real hope and vision for their futures.

## **G. Reclaiming Parental Control in Your Local Schools**

*Brian Camenker, Newton Citizens for Public Education*  
*Douglas Yeo, Lexington Concerned Citizens*

Listen to firsthand experiences and advice from parents who have fought to restore parental involvement in public education. You may be surprised to learn how well organized the anti-parent forces are and how your tax dollars are used to advocate against your parental rights.

## **H. Parents and Children's Legal Rights in Public Schools**

*Atty. Craig Parshells, NE Director, Rutherford Institute*  
*Atty. Greg Hession*

You don't have to roll over and play dead when proponents of value-free curricula attempt to impose their ideas on your children. Learn what legal rights parents and children have and how to exercise them.

## **Networking Forum\***

This session is designed to focus participants seeking to become more involved in their community. Built into the workshop schedule is a networking opportunity to meet other concerned parents and educators, find out about their organizations and become part of the broadest interfaith effort ever put together in Massachusetts to preserve and protect family values. A light snack will be provided.

*\*All conference participants attend this session*

# Schedule

- 12:30 p.m. Registration begins  
1:00 p.m. Welcome  
1:30 p.m. Keynote address  
*Barbara Dafoe Whitehead*  
2:40-3:40 Workshop Session I  
3:40-4:15 Networking Forum  
4:15-5:15 Workshop Session II  
5:30 p.m. Reflection  
*Bernard Cardinal Law*  
6:00 p.m. Closing Prayer  
*Rev. Raymond Hammond*

▶ *“The Talmud tells us where harmony dwells in the home with mother, father and children the Holy Spirit enters to join their company. For this reason I think the Interfaith Coalition is essential to bring us back to sanity and peace in our community.”*  
Rabbi David Neiman, Temple Beth Sion, Brookline

▶ *“Family values are the cornerstone of a healthy society and an important virtue of Islamic morality. I strongly support the efforts of the Interfaith Coalition which seek to sustain these values.”*  
Imam Talal Eid, Islamic Center of New England, Quincy

## THE INTERFAITH COALITION

is an ad hoc group of individuals in Massachusetts united in seeking to preserve, protect and reclaim the social environment for our children. Write PO Box 201, Carlisle, MA 01741 or call (617) 928-0800 for information.

## REGISTRATION FORM

*I/we will be there May 15 at the “Reclaiming Our Children’s Future.”*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Check One:

Individual Registration

- by April 30 \$20  
 after April 30 \$25

Married Couple

- by April 30 \$30  
 after April 30 \$40

Groups of 5 or more

- by April 30 \$15/each

Number of people in group \_\_\_\_\_

*No group rates after April 30*

*(Please attach names, addresses and workshop preferences for each group member.)*

*In order to facilitate seating arrangements, please indicate three workshop preferences. We will make every effort to accommodate your first two preferences.*

Workshops (indicate A-H)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

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THE INTERFAITH COALITION

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▼  
*a call for*  
Counter-Revolution

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PO Box 201  
Carlisle, MA 01741  
(617) 433-7106

# Reclaiming Our Children's Future

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## *A call to Counter-Revolution*

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# *What's the problem?*

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## *Why this pamphlet?*

To announce the founding of the Interfaith Coalition.

## *Why this organization?*

To coordinate grassroots efforts among parents and citizens of all ages, races and religions to "fight the good fight."

## *Fight? What fight? Are we at war?*

Yes, we are at war. And if you aren't aware of that yet, the most important task this pamphlet can do for you is to alert you to that fact.

The enemy is not people. The enemy is not humans, but dehumanization: the spectacular and unmistakable social, cultural, and above all moral decline and decay that our society has been suffering for decades.

The founders of this organization are a cross-section of society: Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Black, White, male, female, old, young, rich, poor, Democrat, Republican, and Independent. Some of us are fiscal, political, or military liberals, others conservatives. But we are all "social conservatives" — that is, we believe in traditional moral sanity, which is now in crisis in America.

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Here are just two out of thousands of possible examples to illustrate the point:

During a single generation (33 years), violent crime among teenagers has gone up five thousand percent.

A generation ago, the five most bothersome problems complained about in high schools were:

- disrespect for property
- laziness; not doing homework
- talking and not paying attention in class
- throwing spitballs
- leaving doors and windows open.

Does this sound like another world? It is. The same informal poll was re-taken a few years ago. The five leading problems mentioned now are:

- fear of violent death; guns and knives in school
- rape
- drugs
- abortion
- getting pregnant

The streets are not safe. The schools are not safe. The society is not safe. Not safe physically and not safe morally. The simplest definition of a good society is “one in which it is easy to be good.” (*Peter Maurin*) By this definition, we are exactly the opposite of a good society.

Parents today feel increasingly trapped and helpless. Control over their children’s lives and happiness seems to have passed into the hands of an education elite whose philosophy of life is radically different from parents, and often looks like a moral vacuum.

At stake in this war is the next generation and the future of this country. It is not a war between generations, or races, or political parties, or religions, or economic classes. It is a war between good and evil.

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If you love your children or your country, you must take sides in this war. Neutrality is not an option in wartime. For “the only thing that is needed for the triumph of evil is that the good do nothing.” (*Edmund Burke*)

There is a wild divergence between the beliefs and values of ordinary people and those of the mind-molding establishments in our society (mainly media, education, and entertainment). For instance, according to a recent poll by the secular Wirthlin agency in Baltimore,

- while nearly all Americans (over 90%) believe it is wrong to cheat sexually on your spouse, only about half of media people do;
- while about half of all Americans attend religious services regularly, only 9% of media people do;
- while 72% (80% according to other polls) of Americans feel that abortion is somehow a bad thing and should have some restrictions placed on it by law, only 3% of media people do;
- And while a large majority of Americans believe there is a real right and wrong only 11% of students in our teacher training courses say they do. The rest say they could not honestly teach this “traditional morality.” These are the present and future mind-shapers of your children and grandchildren.

This is not a war between religions, but it is a religious war: It is a war between all religions and none. Religion has always been the main source and teacher of morality. A purely philosophical, rational morality may be possible in theory but it has never worked in practice except for a small minority of philosophers (like Aristotle and Kant). Every society in history has been based on a morality that in turn was grounded in some religion. Dostoyevski put the connection strikingly: “If God does not exist, everything is permissible.”

In the past, religions have spent much time and energy warring against each other. We do not suggest that the differences between religions are unimportant. We do suggest that the desperate need of our time necessitates a new response: cooperation rather than competition. For if we do not unite against our common enemy—the moral disease that is

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putting future generations in even greater peril—then our already sick society will die. This blessed nation, conceived in liberty and justice, will die.

What is being ignored in our education and degraded in our entertainment are the moral values that every civilized society in history has believed in: things like self-discipline, character, loyalty, family, civility, courtesy, gentlemanliness, womanliness, and the very idea of objective truth and objective values. America was never a society of saints, but moral values were at least honored and taught. Even if they were “honored more in the breach than in the observance,” they were still honored. But they are not honored any more.

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## *What are the Battlefields?*

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There are answers. But to get from the problem to the answers, we must go through an analysis of the problem. Diagnosis before treatment. Our first and most important point is that there is a desperately serious problem, and a “culture war” going on.

Next, we will target some of the specific “flash points” or battlefields in this moral war.

Then, we will state some essential principles of a solution: the moral basics without which we cannot survive, the principles we must recover and are now abandoning.

Finally, we will define a few concrete, practical steps we can take.

If you agree that America isn’t working and want to know why and how to help fix it, please read on.

*What are the Battlefields?*

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## *1. The Family*

This is not a good time for the family, the fundamental foundation and building block of all civilization.

Half of all marriages break up, leaving permanent, devastating, and clearly documented scars on children’s lives and behavior.

Fundamental attitudes toward children are changing. In all previous societies, children were regarded as a blessing, and childlessness as a curse. Today, it is often exactly the opposite.

Child abuse, neglect, abandonment, and abortion all have their fundamental origin in this new philosophy that gives children rights only if they are wanted. Family violence, teen violence, child abuse, and suicide are spiraling spectacularly. Streets, schools, and even homes are no longer safe. Killers now come in all ages, as young as ten. The feeling of hopelessness permeates many urban families, and increasingly suburban ones too.

Family breakdown is the one empirically observable, statistically-documented, conclusively-proven cause of nearly all other social ills. We need family-friendly laws and government policies that encourage and reward families instead of those that presently often discourage and penalize them.

Societies have survived with very bad political systems and very bad economies, but not without strong families. Families are to society what cells are to a body. The family is the only place most of us learn life’s single most important lesson: unselfish love and lifelong commitment.

We strongly recommend reading the most popular article the Atlantic Monthly ever published, “Dan Quayle Was Right” (April, 1993). The massive media barrage against Quayle’s commonsensical remark that families without fathers, like Murphy Brown’s, are not as desirable as families with fathers, revealed far more about the media’s hangups than Quayle’s.

The traditional idea of the family—father, mother, and children, faithful and committed to each other for life—did not come from Dan Quayle or from 50’s TV sitcoms but from human nature and the God who designed it. We cannot arbitrarily redefine the family as any voluntary association, including two homosexuals. That reduces the family to a club, or a political action committee, or an affair.



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## 2. Education

This is the first generation in American history that is not only poorer than their parents (even though their income is actually greater) but also less well educated than their parents (even though the amount of education keeps increasing). Quantity is displacing quality.

The educational establishment consistently opposes tried and true recipes for educational success like basics (the three Rs), or phonics, or Great Books, and pushes experiments that fail, like the “look-say” reading method, condoms to reduce teenage pregnancy (they almost always have done exactly the opposite), and now “outcome-based education,” which systematically penalizes excellence and grades students on “politically correct” feelings!

The history textbooks have been rewritten to censor out nearly all mention of God and religion. In this revisionist history, the Pilgrims no longer came to America for religious freedom, or gave thanks to God at Thanksgiving. Wherever the Founding Fathers are quoted, their frequent references to God and religion are clipped out. (See Paul Vitz, *Censorship: Evidence of Bias in our Children’s Textbooks*.)

Even long-standing texts have been sharply revised to appeal to the educational establishment. The *Wall Street Journal* describes the new revision of “American Nation” civics text (first published in 1950) as “. . . a big step backward, a case of ‘dumbing down’ and revisionist folly in search of a larger audience...We meet Murphy Brown having a baby and learn that “many Americans were abandoning the idea that marriage was necessarily a lifelong commitment.”

The Supreme Court has ruled that it is illegal to display the Ten Commandments in public schools. (For children might be religiously influenced; they might even obey them!) Yet the Ten Commandments are chiseled into the facade of the Supreme Court building from which this ruling came!

It is not legal for a school to invoke God at school convocations. But blasphemy—taking God’s name in vain—is legal. So it is legal to disobey the Second Commandment, but illegal to obey it.

Bibles may not be used in any public school activity. But condoms are given out instead. The message is very obvious to all the kids; only the “experts” could miss that one.

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(By the way, Planned Parenthood itself estimates that among 100 couples who use condoms, there will be 14 pregnancies each year. With a nearly 15% failure rate against pregnancy and a much higher failure rate against AIDS — whose virus is much smaller and has no “safe” period — condoms are about as effective against AIDS as a 24 chamber gun instead of a 6 chamber gun when playing Russian roulette. Yet condoms are touted as “safe sex.” That is how highly some educators think of your child’s life.)

John Stuart Mill wrote “Education is too important to be left to the State.” Public education is disappearing; State education is replacing it. A truly public school would be in the hands of the public, i.e., the parents first of all. But our schools today are becoming more and more the ideological instruments of an educational elite who simply do not respect parents or their values. If you doubt this, just try getting some parents together to investigate and question your children’s new sex education program and note the reaction of the educational and media establishments. The bottom line is: whose schools are they?

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## 3. The Media

America is an elitist society, a society of two cultures: ordinary people and “the experts.” The vast majority of people still believe in:

- family,
- fidelity (for without it families fail),
- morality (which supports fidelity), and
- religion (which supports morality).

But our media establishment incessantly propagandizes against these four things, which they hate and fear. Even polls by the *Los Angeles Times* in 1992 proved the existence of a massive media bias against traditional values, especially families, fidelity, morality, and religion.

Journalists simply do not report publicity contrary to “their side.” Any challenge to the media Establishment is labeled “Right-wing extremist” or “religious Right,” including positions always labeled moderate in the past.

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Major newspapers routinely falsify statistics. Numbers of deaths by illegal abortions was arbitrarily set at 100,000 when the actual figure was under 100. Numbers at pro-choice marches are doubled; numbers at pro-life marches are halved, or ignored. Homosexuals were declared to constitute 10% of the population (the figure was constantly quoted) when the actual figure is between 1% and 3%. Political candidates who are not "politically correct" are ignored until they say something compromising. Language is deliberately slanted as a matter of policy. Any idea at odds with media orthodoxy is labeled "right wing extremist." (How often have you read the phrase "left wing extremist?") If the media do not simply ignore this organization, they will surely report it in a slanted way. We fully expect to see a phrase about moral warfare quoted out of context to label us "far right extremists," "fundamentalists," or "religious fanatics."

With our group's broad grassroots across-the-board base, if anything, we're the religious center!

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#### ***4. Personal and Economic Freedom and Self-Determination***

One of the most pervasive complaints of citizens today is that of helplessness. Life is not as good as it used to be and there seems to be nothing anyone can do about it.

Fewer families feel they can survive on a single income today. The work ethic no longer works: the willingness to work hard no longer guarantees a job, or security. For many, America is no longer "the land of opportunity." The middle class feels crushed from both sides. Numbers and percentages on welfare keeps increasing. There are more and more single mothers—who are finding it harder and harder to survive. Small independent businesses are going broke, leaving the state or the country, or giving up their independence. We have less and less power over our income.

The problem is not that we're not rich enough but that we're not free enough. Not free to walk our own streets or trust our institutions. People feel caught in some vague net called "the system" or "the way things are" or "modern society." The feeling is one of a loss of control. It is no longer felt to be our country.

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Our time with our children is continuously shrinking. Our sense of community is becoming more tenuous, based more on ideology and less on back yards. Parents feel impotence and loss of control over their own families. Ordinary people no longer seem to be controlling the life of this "democracy," which is moving in the direction of an arrogant oligarchy of the "experts" in the three main mind-molding establishments of media, entertainment, and education, not elected by or accountable to the people at large.

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#### ***5. Drugs and Violence***

Nothing can so quickly and tragically weaken and destroy a family as drugs. Yet only strong families can keep children from drugs. The same is true of violence: violence weakens families, yet only strong families can deal with it.

No one defends drugs or violence. But how can we win the war against them? Many "experts" are saying that the "war on drugs" is definitively lost. Some are calling for the legalization of drugs, so your teenager can go to the corner store and buy drugs like ice cream.

This is connected to the pervasive feeling of helplessness mentioned earlier, especially in our cities. This is both a cause and an effect of drug use. When you feel you have nothing to lose, why not do anything?

Violent criminals are turned out on the street to continue their violence. Criminals are commonly defended more conscientiously than their victims. Rape victims are made to suffer more than rapists. The criminal is seen as a victim, a patient rather than an agent. In other words the prevailing legal philosophy is a simple, shocking denial of individual moral responsibility.

Removing guns is a poor substitute for removing violent motivation. It changes physical circumstances, but does not change minds.

Our society's ability to tolerate violence is a symptom of a deep underlying moral disease: moral insensitivity. We have become desensitized. Much violence and crime begins as early as cartoons, video games, and kids' toys, which teach force as the way to deal with conflict. We are not surprised when a teenager, who has typically seen 15,000 murders, rapes, and brutal beatings on TV and MTV and has heard them encouraged and idealized on rap 'music', turns to violence.

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We need to recapture moral outrage. Outrage is the only appropriate response to the outrageous. Mild disgust and disapproval is not enough. It's time to take back our cities, our streets, our schools, and our children. It's time to draw a line in the sand and say "Enough!"

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## 6. *Abortion*

Even people who identify themselves as "pro-choice," like President Clinton, say they want to reduce the numbers of abortions. This means they, too, assume abortion is bad, for no one wants to reduce the numbers of something good. Surely the deliberate killing of unborn children is not something good!

Most Americans will not deny that abortion is at least a moral tragedy. But is more than that. It is a barbaric act that degrades a civilization.

Polls repeatedly show that the majority of Americans are ignorant of the basic facts about abortion

- the stages of development of life in the womb: just what it is that is aborted.
- the biological and medical facts about just how an abortion is performed. You can see absolutely anything today on TV or MTV or HBO except the most frequent medical procedure in America. There is a massive media censorship of the facts.
- the numbers: over one and a half million abortions per year. One out of every three children conceived in America is aborted.
- the fact that *Roe v. Wade* did not restrict abortions, but any woman in America can get an abortion for any reason at all (including sex selection: wanting a son, therefore aborting a daughter) at any time whatsoever.
- the fact that abortion clinics are not legally subject to the same stringent standards of sanitation and safety as all other medical facilities.

- that the anti-abortion movement is much larger than the civil rights movement of the 60's ever was, in numbers of participants and numbers jailed, but the media simply black out these facts.
- that an overwhelming number of women who have had abortions say they regret it later and wish they had not done so.
- that post-abortion trauma is common and crushing; that most women who abort—by their own admission—do not believe their "fetus" was "only tissue" or "only potential life" but believe they killed their baby; and this sense of guilt haunts them for life, if not dealt with. But this fact is also denied or censored by a total media blackout.

Abortion splits the family in a literal and lethal way. It literally rips mother and child apart.

And it desensitizes us in a gruesome way. We are starting to see the next stage in our "culture of death"—legalized suicide and euthanasia. The same principle that justifies killing at one end of life justifies it at the other: we will dispose of unwanted people.

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## 7. *The Sexuality of Children*

In many cities, half of the ten year olds are sexually active. Meanwhile, sex education programs that promote abstinence are banned by federal judges for being "religious" (though they never mention God or religion)! Almost no one dares to talk about "sexual purity" any more. Yet it is a medical fact that the only really safe sex guarantee against AIDS (i.e. death) is abstinence before marriage and fidelity afterwards. Have we come to the point where teaching virtue is illegal and only deadly vice is legally protected?

We have come to the point where sexual virtue is no longer merely a matter of propriety, or social acceptability; it is today a matter of physical and psychological survival, especially for the vastly increasing numbers of children who are sexually abused, and for women who are abandoned, beaten, or raped by men living the "sexual revolution." We need a counter-revolution.

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We are not calling for a return to “Victorianism.” Nor are we opposed to sex education in principle. But we are amazed at the idea that sex be exempt from the moral rules we admit in all other areas of life—rules about not harming other people, keeping promises, and controlling our instincts. (What other instinct is ever given an absolute right to self-expression?)

We agree with Moses, Jesus, Mohammed, Confucius, and all stable and successful societies in history that sex belongs with marriage, monogamy, and fidelity; that sex is for life, not just for fun; that the taming of the sex drive and harnessing it to the family is a necessary condition for social stability and long-term human happiness. The alternative is the chaos we see around us, nearly all directly traceable to family breakdown and the “sexual revolution,” i.e., sex for exploitation.

We are not calling for repression and hypocrisy. But we are also opposed to the “liberal” hypocrisy that forces all who can’t afford private schools to send their children to state schools to be deliberately and systematically seduced to lose their morals.

Too many modern educators see the sexuality of children as a right, and parents as impediments to children enjoying these rights. Moreover, they zealously believe that the State must supersede parents in sensitizing children to sexual practices and behaviors. Parents don’t realize the extent to which this has become an ideological battle.

Parents don’t know how bad things have gotten in the schools because school officials don’t allow them to find out. And the media will not print the pornography that is often taught in “sex education” even when discovered and documented by parents.

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## *Moral Principles and Society*

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Solomon said, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” (Proverbs 29:18) What is most lacking today is a good vision of the good life. If we had a morally sane philosophy of life we could see how all our social ills are linked together by the fundamental flaw of a skeptical, cynical, selfish, and materialistic world-and-life-view.

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For instance, the common principle behind child abuse, violent crime, and abortion is the principle of responding to problems by violence. Whether in the home, on the streets, or in the womb, violence is violence.

The common principle behind absentee fathers, the breakdown of families, the 50% divorce rate, the spread of AIDS, teenage abortions, and giving kids condoms as a cure-all is the principle that unrestricted sex is our one absolute right, regardless of human consequences. The philosophy that sees sex as a commodity to be spent at will really confuses sex with money.

The common principle behind abortion, distributing condoms, and releasing rapists is a denial of individual moral responsibility. Abortion means refusing to be responsible for your unborn children. Distributing condoms means young people are not expected to be responsible for their sexual behavior—they can say No to smoking or drugs but not sex. And releasing rapists means seeing “society” responsible for crime, not criminals.

We consider it wrong to be judgmental to persons, but it is equally wrong to refuse to judge actions. Otherwise, such a moral relativism is an infallible prescription for social chaos. We are not against any one. We stand for all human beings. But we stand against dehumanizing deeds.

To make a different society, we need different policies and plans, but these in turn must be based on different principles. Here is a set of very old principles that has worked in the past. Here is a set of ten statements which summarize what Jews, Christians, and Muslims—and rational pagans like Socrates—have always believed about morality.

They are not a Ten Commandments, a specific set of laws. They are about the status of moral laws. The specific content of moral law is a matter of great agreement between nearly all cultures and all religions. Justice, charity, self control, wisdom, courage, loyalty, honesty, and responsibility are universally praised; and injustice, hatred, violence, foolishness, cowardice, betrayal, lying, lust, greed, and irresponsibility were universally blamed—until recently. (After all, lust, greed, and irresponsibility sell products very effectively. An addict has little sales resistance.)

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The following statements about morality would be enthusiastically embraced by Moses, Solomon, Jesus, Mohammed, Socrates, Confucius, Ghandi, and Buddha as well as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln.

*Why is the concept of morality important to society?*

- Morality is necessary for society to survive. The alternative is barbarism, decadence, and chaos.
- Morality is not sectarian (religiously) or partisan (politically). It is both universally known and universally binding. We all know in our hearts what good and evil are, and we are all responsible for living the way we know we ought to live.
- Morality is natural. Some traditions speak of a “natural (moral) law.” Morality is discovered, like stars, not invented, like games. It is not man-made, arbitrary, and changeable. Its laws are intrinsic to human nature as the laws of hygiene are to the nature of the body, or the laws of physics are to the nature of matter.
- Morality is liberating, not repressive. For it is a set of directions for our human nature to flourish and to reach our full potential. A law like “don’t drink poison” is not repressive to your health. Poison is.
- Morality takes effort. Like love, morality is work, not feeling. It is a fight against the forces of evil in all of us. Today it has become a fight against forces in our culture.
- Morality gives meaning and purpose and direction to life. It is a road map. Without a map, we wander aimlessly, hopelessly.
- Morality gives human beings dignity. Its basis is the intrinsic value of every human person. It commands us to love people and use things, not use people and love things. People are ends, things are means.
- Morality is reasonable. It is not blind but intelligent. It perceives a real difference between good and bad actions and lifestyles. It “discriminates.” (Discrimination between people as good or bad may be foolish, but discrimination between acts as

good or bad is simply moral sanity.) We are a nation born in a struggle for freedom, so we continue to value personal freedom very highly, and rightly so. But we cannot have freedom without truth. A surgeon cannot free you from a disease without light to operate by, accurate x-rays, and a knowledge of anatomy. Moral skepticism is the death of freedom.

- Morality is not just about “freedoms” and “rights” but about duties and responsibilities. Victor Frankl says the Statue of Liberty on the East coast should be completed by a Statue of Responsibility on the West.
- Morality is not legalistic. Its essence is not a set of rules but a vision of the good life and the good person; not just laws but character. No set of rules will work without personal virtues. Morality is about how we can be real heroes. It’s about how to avoid getting A’s in all your courses but flunking Life.

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## *What can we do?*

*What can we do to win this war?*

Much.

We can take back our country and our families. We are the majority. There is no reason we must sit back and be cowed by the minority of establishment “experts.” We can turn the tide of decadence in America.

*How?*

Two things are needed: attitudes and actions. Actions alone are not enough; attitudes come first. Doing all the right things with the wrong attitude is self-destructive. So the first thing is to take stock of our attitudes. For the spirit in which we act will stamp itself on all our actions, and their results.

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We must not despair. Social decay is not inevitable. We are not machines; we make machines, and fix them. We can fix this society for the same reason we made it: because we are free human beings, not help-less machines. And we can fix our society by the same moral principles by which we designed it over three centuries ago.

We must believe that the war can be won. We are not pessimists. The tide may be already turning. This organization is part of that turn. Ordinary people are now coming to the point of saying "Enough!" For instance, "mere" parents in New York successfully stopped the largest public school bureaucracy in America from imposing its new curriculum of propaganda for sodomy for first graders ("Daddy's [Gay] Roommate" and "Heather Has Two [Lesbian] Mommies"), despite officials' outrage at parental "interference."

We must stop trusting the "experts." America is not a nation of the experts, by the experts, and for the experts; it is a nation of the people, by the people, and for the people. Your children are not some educator's guinea pigs. Your money does not belong first to the State. You work for yourself and your family, not for the System or the Party. We must resolve, by a deliberate decision of mind and will, to wrest control back to the people where it belongs.

We must love, not hate. Even if hurt and frustrated, we must not hate, because hate always only makes more frustration and hurt. Love alone ever heals.

We must love our country, which is hurting. We must love our friends and families, who are hurting. That must be our motive for actions. If it is, we will win; if it is not, we will lose.

#### *What actions?*

Each individual or family should pick one specific area they care about most, then get concretely involved in it. Here are some basic ways to do it:

- Become informed. Find out more about what's going on in your schools, in your town, and in your country. In a democracy, those who are uninformed are powerless.

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■ Become involved. Join support organizations—or start one. Join the front lines. Participate in positive social change. Make it happen! It's not up to the State to make a society what it should be, it's up to the people.

■ Become vocal. Talk to your friends and neighbors. Write letters to your newspaper. Contribute to newsletters and church bulletins. For any movement, the pen is the first line of resistance.

■ Set an example. Behave in a way that the world can follow by example.

■ Giving what you can of yourself to the organization or movement. You can give two precious things: your money and your time. Time for letter writing, or letter stuffing and addressing, time for organizing and recruiting, or just time for "talking up" the organization to many friends. It will take sacrifice and suffering. It will take being sneered at. For some, it will take being sued, perhaps even jailed for doing good deeds.

■ Pray. Prayer is the most powerful force in the universe. Pray about this sincerely, not just as a nice little psychological trick to make yourself feel good, but to ask God for real power and guidance and (above all) goodness so that you and your society can rise to greater moral heights—and follow the Scriptural command to "be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." Ask God to lead you to find what, specifically, you can do and for whom you can pray. "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

*It's up to us.*