



Ethical Action Report



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Human Rights: Participate in the International Day in Support of Torture Victims, June 26

June 26 is the International Day in Support of Torture Victims, a day created by the United Nations General Assembly to demonstrate solidarity to all whose mind, body or spirit have been impacted by torture. This year, show your outrage at the Bush Administration's policy of torture by participating in actions and demonstrations in Washington, D.C. and across the country.

BACKGROUND

In waging the War on Terror, the Bush Administration has ignored longstanding domestic and international human rights law and enacted policies that go against our very values as Americans. Now, enemy combatants are being held indefinitely without trial, are denied access to lawyers, and are subjected to interrogation tactics that the world community recognizes as torture. This must be stopped! It is our responsibility to send a message to President Bush that this is not what America stands for. We must demand that our

government restore habeas corpus and due process, end torture, and protect fundamental freedoms.

ACTION

Take part in the International Day in Support of Torture Victims on June 26. On this date in Washington, D.C., several organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and the National Religious Coalition Against Torture, will hold a Day of Action to Restore Law and Justice with rallies, demonstrations, and lobbying sessions. Find out more by visiting the website: www.juneaction.org.

For those people who can't make it to Washington, D.C., there will also be other actions taking place across the country. Be on the look out for events in your area.

Sensible Drug Policy: Tell Congress to Eliminate Offensive Anti-Drug Ads

Our government seems to love spending money on ineffective programs. The War Against Drugs is no exception. The latest government ad campaign, aimed to keep kids away from marijuana, demonstrates Washington's willingness to ignore the negative results of their actions and continue to fund a failed program.

BACKGROUND

These ads are virtual propaganda. Apparently, using marijuana means you support terrorists, or will make you shoot your friends, or hit children with your car.

Not only are the ads ridiculous, but they're also costly. \$1.5 billion has been spent on them since 1998 and as much as \$130 million might be spent on them next year. Moreover, studies have shown that the ads result in more, rather than less, drug use.

If we are going to combat drug use this is clearly not the way to do it. We need to provide kids with accurate information so that they can make their own decisions, not use scare tactics that turn the real consequences of drugs into a joke.

ACTION

Write a letter to your Congresspeople and ask them to cut funding from the ad campaign.

Reproductive Freedom: Thank Rep. John Dingell for Taking a Stand Against Abstinence-Until-Marriage Programs

After years of pumping money into failed abstinence-until-marriage programs, Representative John Dingell has decided that enough is enough! He will make the smart decision to cut funding this year.

BACKGROUND

Rep. Dingell has decided not to renew funding for abstinence-until-marriage programs under Title V after June 30. Title V is one of the three programs that funds abstinence-

only education. It falls under the jurisdiction of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which Dingell chairs.

This is fantastic news. A Mathematica Policy Research study recently showed that abstinence-only education programs don't work: students enrolled in such programs were just as likely to have sex as students who weren't. Therefore, putting money into abstinence-until-marriage programs was, simply put, a waste. We can put this money to use in much better ways.

ACTION

Please take the time to send Rep. Dingell a letter to express your appreciation for his decision, which simply reflects common sense.

Stop the War: Fly Flags at Half-Staff Until the Iraq War Ends

The human cost of war should never be downplayed. Yet, that's what has been happening in America today. It's important to have reminders of and express respect for the sacrifices that our troops have made.

BACKGROUND

Many Americans have been insulated from the true impact of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The federal government has enacted policies to veil the personal cost of war from the public. For example, the administration won't allow the media to show the flag-draped caskets of slain soldiers returning home.

The people shouldn't be shielded from the supreme sacrifice that over 3000 Americans have made. It's important to honor our fallen troops and respect the human cost of war.

ACTION

Start flying your American flags at half-staff, and urge businesses, clubs, and government entities to do likewise. Spread the word, talk it up: send e-mails to friends, write letters to the editor, post messages on Internet discussion groups and blogs, and write to local business, civic, and government organizations. Urge people and organizations to fly all flags at half-staff until our troops come home! A groundswell of this activity can't help but raise the consciences of all.

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