THE EASY ANSWER?

Stop being exclusive.

No, that doesn’t mean you have to compromise with unabashed supporters of violence.

It does mean you shouldn’t leave out, neglect, nor harass the non-traditional pro-lifers who want to be a part of the movement.

For more information

www.facebook.com/ProLifeAllies

www.twitter.com/LifeMattersJournal

www.prolifeallies.org (Sign the online pledge!)

@ info@lifemattersjournal.org

This pamphlet is a production of Life Matters Journal, for use in outreach and education, ©2014.

Notes


[3] A similar sentiment was discussed by Jason Jones of I Am Whole Life during one of his many presentations at Life/Peace/Justice Conference at Villanova University in March 2014.


It's a pretty simple idea:

In order to end all violence, we're going to need everyone on board.

I'm sure you've heard of the pro-life stereotype: old, white, religious, Conservative, straight men. And though we value the support and input of the stereotypical pro-life man, we don't want our movement to be pigeonholed as one that is religious or political in nature.

Abortion, like all other acts of violence, is an issue of human rights. And in order to end all violence, we're going to need everyone on board. You can't hope to end all violence by making enemies of the people working with you for the abolition of violence. As Martin Luther King, Jr, said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."1

So what are the implications of the idea that abortion is not a religious nor a political issue? It means that we welcome non-traditional pro-lifers into our ranks. That we provide a space for them at the table, and invite them to join in the activism. It means that we don't subtly shun non-religious pro-lifers by having solely religious events. It means that we don't shame LGBT pro-lifers by screaming at them about lifestyle choices or by kicking them out of our activism when they want to work just as hard to save preborn lives.2

It means that we don't shut down conversations with liberal pro-lifers on the assumption that they “fall into the party line” with the Democratic platform, when their goal, too, is to promote a culture of life.

The minority voices in the movement lend a certain credibility that the old, religious, Conservative straight man cannot. They prove that the pro-life stance is understandable and agreeable to everyone. The hidden diversity of the pro-life movement can be a major boon to the promotion and comprehension of pro-life ethics because it helps to break down the walls that arise from assumptions and stereotypes to promote greater discourse.3

With more than 6 million non-religious pro-lifers in the United States,4 we need to ensure that we don't let the fear of being rejected by the mainstream pro-life movement become apathy. Countless experiences have been recounted of individuals leaving the pro-life side only to become an active member of the pro-choice side (if only because there they are welcomed with open arms). We need to ensure that the pro-life culture is reflective of one that truly respects every human being, regardless of circumstances. After all, isn't that what being pro-life is all about?

Some tips to promote inclusion:

- Engage in dialogue using secular arguments5
- Get to know a pro-lifer who is a different religion or political party from you, learn about their stance from their own perspective
- Encourage your school club to invite a speaker who doesn’t “fit the mold”
- Try working with another organization on campus to promote dialogue in terms of human rights
- Take the Pro-Life Ally Promise!

I promise to work with you to end abortion and all other violence against humanity until we live in a culture of peace.

I promise to work with you, regardless of your skin color, religion, politics, sexuality, income, gender, or background, as long as you stand with me against the injustice of aggressive violence.

Peace cannot be attained by mere factions. Will you join us?