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## **Abortion**

### **Sweden - Abortions Decline in 2009, Reversing Multi-Year Trend of Increases**

The number of abortions in Sweden has declined for the first time in many years, according to new numbers from the National Board of Health and Welfare. Some 37,524 abortions were done last year, which is a decrease of about two percent from the 38,053 abortions in 2008. "Since 2004, the number of abortions have increased each year, but last year, the trend reversed," statistician Tsegalem Muzullo said in a statement. "Even teenage abortions fell sharply." The numbers revealed that teenagers had fewer abortions with abortions declining 7.8 percent to 22.5 abortions per 1,000 teenage girls compared with 24.4 the previous year. The states indicated that 25 percent of pregnancies in Sweden ended in abortion with 80 percent of teen pregnancies ending in the destruction of the unborn child.

<http://www.lifenews.com/int1546.html>

### **Ireland - Abortion ad blocked in Northern Ireland**

Channel 4 has banned a Marie Stopes advert from being broadcast in Northern Ireland, where abortion is still illegal. Millions of viewers in England, Scotland and Wales will be able to watch the TV ad for Marie Stopes International (MSI) on Channel 4. But the UK's fourth channel has been prevented from screening the commercial for MSI in Northern Ireland because abortion is still illegal in the province. Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK where the 1967 Abortion Act does not apply. All of the political parties in the Stormont assembly, except the Progressive Unionists, are opposed to the extension of the act to Northern Ireland. Anti-abortion groups in Northern Ireland said they welcomed legislation blocking the ad from being broadcast, but were angry that it would be screened elsewhere in the UK. The ad, which is part of the 'Are you late?' campaign by MSI, will air on Channel 4 until the end of June. Dana Hovig, MSI's chief executive said: "It's a shame that we are not allowed to screen the commercial in Northern Ireland – abortion continues to be severely restricted there and women in Northern Ireland are forced to travel to England for abortion services.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2010/may/20/abortion-ad-blocked-northern-ireland>

### **Canada - Teen pregnancy rates fall in Canada: study**

A new study on teen pregnancy finds the teen birth-abortion rate has fallen in Canada over a 10 year period, to a greater extent than in the United States and parts of the United Kingdom. The rate declined almost 37 per cent in Canada from 1996 to 2006, compared to drops of 25 per cent in the U.S. and 4.75 per cent in England and Wales, and a rise of 19 per cent in Sweden. The study, published Wednesday in the Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality, said the teen birth-abortion rate per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19 was 27.9 in 2006. Research coordinator Alexander McKay said teen pregnancy rates in the western world have been declining since the mid-1970s and the rate now stands at an all-time low in Canada. In general, young women who are feeling optimistic about their futures tend to delay childbearing, he noted.

<http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20100526/teen-pregnancy-falls-100526/20100526?hub=Health>

### **China - Horror in China: Aborted but Still Living Baby Sent for Cremation**

An aborted baby boy, who had been declared dead by doctors in Foshan City, China, suddenly cried out as he was about to be cremated, but died later after doctors refused to treat him. A mortuary worker at the Nanhai Funeral Home reportedly was startled by a cry from a box, labeled "medical waste," that he was about to put into the incinerator. He opened the carton and found the baby moving, but choking on some cotton wool in his mouth. After the worker cleared his mouth, the baby yawned and breathed normally. He was rushed back to Guanyao Hospital, which had attempted to abort him earlier that day; but doctors in the hospital reportedly ignored him and

left him in the lobby to die. He was confirmed dead later in the day and returned to the funeral home for cremation. However, workers put the body in a refrigerator pending further investigation. Liu Sanhong, an official with the hospital, told the Shanghai Daily that staff checked the baby for an hour to make sure that he was dead. Liu declined to comment on whether doctors tried to save the baby or not. A funeral home official said that he took a video of the baby, who was about seven months gestation, to prove that he was alive when discovered at the crematory.

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2010/may/10052502.html>

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## **Cloning**

No news today

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## **Euthanasia**

### **UK - Sons Fury as Assisted Suicide Group Refuses to Release file**

Robert Carlton is seeking all the documents relating to the death of his widowed mother Kathleen Dobson, a multi-millionaire from Guernsey who had been suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, not a terminally illness. In 2008, she was told to come back in 10 years "when something is seriously wrong", yet a few days' later Dignitas staff provided her with a lethal drink to assist her suicide. He believes she should have been sent home and encouraged to seek treatment for depression. In the letter Mr Minelli wrote: "It is obvious that Dignitas would make an effort of deterring a patient from 'going all the way' and would tell them they are welcome to go home. However, if someone decides to make use of suicide and legally ends their life, this has to be respected."

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/175388/Son-s-fury-as-assisted-suicide-group-refuses-to-release-file>

### **Switzerland - Dignitas: 'patient suffering from paranoid schizophrenia given suicide kit'**

Swiss suicide clinic Dignitas is under investigation over claims that it ignored a patient's distressed mental condition to give him drugs to end his own life. And this happened although strict assisted suicide laws in Switzerland state that each patient must be of sound mind and able to understand the consequences of their actions.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-1282912/Dignitas-probed-patient-suffering-paranoid-schizophrenia-given-suicide-kit.html>

### **UK - Judge forces patient with hospital phobia to have lifesaving cancer surgery**

Doctors have been given permission to force a cancer sufferer with a terror of hospitals to undergo lifeline surgery. She has so far failed to turn up for the operation, saying her phobia of hospitals and needles prevents her from doing so - despite being told she will die without it. This is very interesting in the light that some people are still forced or manipulated to make use of euthanasia in our present day.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-1281641/Doctors-allowed-force-cancer-patient-fear-hospitals-undergo-surgery.html>

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## **Gambling**

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## **HIV/AIDS & STIs**

### **Thailand - Aids vaccine researcher hopeful**

In an interview with The Associated Press, Dr Alan Bernstein, executive director of the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, cited the world's first successful test of an experimental Aids vaccine. Researchers said the vaccine protected one in three people from getting HIV in a large study in Thailand. Bernstein also pointed to recent progress in determining whether people with HIV produce antibodies that could lead to a vaccine guarding against a variety of forms of HIV. Bernstein said a comprehensive approach that includes finding a vaccine, must be taken against Aids. As head of an international group of major vaccine researchers and funders, Bernstein was in South Africa to discuss strategy with UN health and Aids officials. Bernstein said a vaccine would be particularly important for Africa, where prevention and treatment campaigns have proven costly. A vaccine, unlike an expensive lifetime regime of Aids drugs, would be administered every few years. A vaccine "is the most effective public health measure we've come up with," Bernstein said.

[http://www.health24.com/news/HIV\\_AIDS/1-920,55893.asp](http://www.health24.com/news/HIV_AIDS/1-920,55893.asp)

### **USA - US Government and Nigeria Partner on HIV/AIDS Vaccine**

In line with its new thinking in bilateral relations with Nigeria, the United States government said yesterday it was embarking on a joint HIV/AIDS vaccine research effort. Speaking while inspecting a medical centre at the Mogadishu Cantonment in Abuja, the US Deputy Secretary of State, Jacob Lew, said the two countries would collaborate with other researchers across the world in a bid to halt the high prevalence rate of the pandemic which presently afflicts 360,000 civilians and about 11,000 military personnel in Nigeria. In his remarks, Minister of State for Defence, Murtala Yar'Adua, said Federal Government was fully committed to the research project and would continue to support its implementation.

<http://www.thisdayonline.com/nview.php?id=174181>

### **USA - Antiretroviral Therapy Associated With Decreased Risk of HIV Transmission**

Researchers have found that treating HIV-infected persons with antiretroviral therapy (ART) reduces HIV transmission to their sexual partners by more than 90 percent. At the beginning of the study, the HIV-infected members had high CD4 counts and were not on antiretroviral treatment. During the study, 349 HIV-infected partners initiated ART at an average CD4 count of 198. Of the 103 HIV infections that occurred in these couples, there was only one HIV transmission after ART initiation. In that single event, the HIV-infected partner had started ART about three months prior to HIV infection being first detected in her partner. Couples received frequent counseling on HIV risk reduction. "Our analysis of African HIV discordant couples indicates that the risk of HIV transmission is significantly lower after HIV-infected persons initiated antiretroviral therapy," Dr. Celum said. Transmission occurred at all CD4 count levels. This study suggests that starting HIV-infected people on ART even late in the disease has synergistic benefits for the individual and HIV prevention.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/05/100527013230.htm>

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## **Homosexuality**

### **USA - Obama rebuked for 'back-room deal' for 'homosexuality'**

While President Obama and Congress seek to ram through an amendment to repeal the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy – with votes coming – several groups are blasting the president for forcing a "radical" homosexual agenda on the military during a time of war. Lawmakers had been slow to proceed after Defense Secretary Robert Gates requested that they wait until the completion of a Pentagon study in December. Richard Thompson, chief counsel of the Thomas More Law Center, previously warned that the Obama administration has been working on enabling homosexuals to live their lifestyle openly as members of the U.S. military by Memorial

Day. "The purpose of our military is to prepare for and prevail in combat," Thompson said ". Thompson explained earlier that Obama has been "supported by a multi-million dollar campaign by national lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender advocacy groups" and would alter the policy soon. Family Research Council President Tony Perkins issued a statement calling the agreement "a back-room deal that disregards the views of our troops and uses the military to advance the political agenda of a radical special interest group."

<http://www.wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=158289>

### **France - McDonald's Ad Promotes Teenage Homosexuality**

A new McDonald's ad in France, part of their large "come as you are" ad campaign, features a homosexual teen speaking sweetly to his male paramour before he is forced to closet his emotions before a presumably insensitive father. "We see McDonald's decision to backhand hundreds of millions of traditional family values people," Bill Johnson, President of the American Decency Association, told LifeSite News. "This is not McDonald's first homosexualist activism. In 2008, McDonalds paid \$20,000 dollars to become an official "organizational ally and corporate partner" of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC). In the same year, McDonald's also helped sponsor the San Francisco Gay Pride Parade; Richard Ellis, vice president of communications for McDonald's USA, was also appointed to the board of directors of the NGLCC.

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2010/jun/10060210.html>

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## **Human Trafficking**

### **USA - TV virgin auction runs into legal trouble in Las Vegas**

The Australian film-maker planning to auction off virgins in Las Vegas may have to put his plans on hold as he could face legal trouble for human trafficking. The controversial project initially had to be moved to Las Vegas from Australia to dodge prostitution charges. But those familiar with the Nevada sex industry say the project could be stopped because it violates human trafficking laws. Specifically, it could challenge the US Mann Act, which prevents the transport of females across state lines for "immoral purposes." George Flint, a lobbyist for many of Nevada's brothels, said film-maker Justin Sisely "could be walking into real trouble". Sisely, the brain behind the new low in reality-TV, is a Melbourne-based film-maker who plans to turn the auction into a documentary. Sisely held "auditions" for the auction in Sydney in 2009, using posters with "Virgins Wanted" plastered over an image of the Virgin Mary. Sydney waitress "Veronica", 21, who plans to participate in the auction said her parents were furious when they heard about her selling herself, but said she signed up to earn money and change perceptions about sex. The project has infuriated family advocates, with Senator Steve Fielding of the Family First party branding it "absurd, ridiculous and disgusting."

<http://www.news.com.au/entertainment/television/film-maker-justin-siselys-tv-virgin-auction-runs-into-legal-trouble-in-las-vegas/story-e6frfmyi-1225866543068>

### **South Africa - The undeniable linkages between prostitution and human trafficking**

Executive mayor of Cape town alderman Dan Plato, said in a speech that the last eight months during which the Vice Squad has been operating have demonstrated to Cape Town the undeniable linkages between prostitution, human trafficking, organized crime syndicates and drugs and other crime, as well as the undeniable exploitation of vulnerable women and increasingly younger prostitutes, including child prostitution. It has become clear that the City has to act to protect the women and children in the city from exploitation and crime and to curb the growth in human trafficking and the commensurate growth in the organized crime groups who drive this and benefit from it. We must curb the growth of these crime syndicates and trafficking rings. We have gone to great lengths to protect our citizens from this growing international scourge which has now become the most lucrative organized criminal activity in the world and

has even surpassed drug smuggling. In years to come this investment will prove to have been invaluable and other cities in South Africa will regret not having taken timeous action.

<http://www.politicsweb.co.za/politicsweb/view/politicsweb/en/page71656?oid=177865&sn=Detail>

### **India - Oxytocin: Outstanding Hormone, Outlandish Uses**

The hormone Oxytocin has been referred to as the 'cuddle hormone', 'feel-good chemical' or the 'love drug,' due to its qualities. But it has been brought to public attention that hundreds of little girls, even as young as 6 months to ten years, are being regularly kidnapped from across the length and breadth of India and forced to 'grow up quickly' so that they can enter the prostitution trade. These children are given unregulated doses of the hormone Oxytocin by the villagers to hasten sexual maturity so that they can be pushed into prostitution in Mumbai or sent to the Gulf, at the earliest. These girls are injected with veterinary oxytocin because this hormone variant is more potent than that meant for humans. When injected with this drug, pre-teens 'blossom' and begin to resemble teens. They also become trusting and more sexually charged - traits that are essential for their compliance. Oxytocin is a mammalian hormone secreted by the hypothalamus of the brain. It brings about hormonal changes and the response to the hormone is more marked in women than in men. Traditionally Oxytocin prepares a woman for childbirth and breast feeding.

<http://www.medindia.net/news/Oxytocin-Outstanding-Hormone-Outlandish-Uses-69464-2.htm>

### **South Africa - Twenty Thai women believed to be human trafficking victims**

Authorities are questioning more than 20 Thai women on the East Rand who are believed to be victims of human trafficking. The Hawks raided a property near Kempton Park and arrested a woman for running a brothel but it was established in court on Monday that the woman was not the owner of the property. The Hawks Paul Ramaloko said, "At this stage, the office of international migration, with the police and immigration, are busy processing all the Thai ladies to check their status. We will be guided by the outcomes of the interview."

<http://www.eyewitnessnews.co.za/articleprog.aspx?id=40755>

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## **In Vitro Fertilization**

### **USA - My daddy's name is Donor - and I miss him**

In the US alone an estimated 30,000 to 60,000 children are born each year through sperm donation, yet no entity is required to report on these vital statistics. A report released by the Institute for American Values, My Daddy's Name is Donor, is the first-ever representative, comparative attempt to learn about the identity, kinship, well-being, and social justice experiences of these adults. The study reveals that young adults conceived through sperm donation are hurting more, are more confused, and feel more isolated from their families. They fare worse than their peers raised by biological parents on important outcomes such as depression, delinquency, and substance abuse. Moreover, the study found that: two-thirds agree, "my sperm donor is half of who I am;" about half are disturbed that money was involved in their conception; nearly half say they have feared being attracted to or having sexual relations with someone to whom they are unknowingly related.

<http://www.bioedge.org/>

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## **Organ Trafficking**

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## **Pedophilia**

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## **Pornography**

### **USA - Girls' raunchy dance viral on the Net**

The video of the skin-baring lingerie remake of Beyonce's hit called 'Single Ladies' follows a rubric of raunchy moves straight out of a pole-dance manual. But the performers, according to published reports, are 7-year-olds. Their satin-and-lace hooker look screams Lolita. The whole two-minute display seems illegal. And with nearly 2 million hits, the clip of five gyrating grade-schoolers taped at the World of Dance competition in California has gone viral. The public has posted their views and comments such as: then you want to know why pedophilia and child molestation is on the increase... Is pedophilia becoming accepted now? This should be banned! And every pedophile and pervert must be watching .What's worse is that the parents allowed their children to do this. And then they cry when something happens to their kids!

[http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?newslett=1&click\\_id=79&art\\_id=iol1274174463866S524&set\\_id=1#comment\\_top\\_box](http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?newslett=1&click_id=79&art_id=iol1274174463866S524&set_id=1#comment_top_box)

### **South Africa - Minister Gigaba meets Alliance on proposed Bill to ban pornography**

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Malusi Gigaba, met with the Justice Alliance of South Africa (JASA) represented by John Smyth and Brendan Studti. The Internet and Cell Phone Pornography Bill proposes that pornography be filtered out at the tier one service providers to avoid it entering the country. The Bill is aimed at the total ban of pornography on internet and mobile phones. The United Arab Emirates already have legislation in this regard and Australia and New Zealand are currently seeking to do so. The proposed Internet and Cell Phone Bill provides for the total ban of pornography on these electronic channels using the wider definition of pornography already available in the Sexual Offence Act. Mr. Gigaba said, "Cars are already provided with brakes and seatbelts, it is not an extra that consumers have to pay for. There is no reason why the internet should be provided without the necessary restrictive mechanisms built into it."

[www.jasa.za.net](http://www.jasa.za.net)

[www.jjs.za.net](http://www.jjs.za.net)

### **South Africa - Proposed Porn Bill concerns providers**

Internet service providers (ISP) will not give credence to a proposed Bill that would force them and cellular operators to filter all pornography from SA's Internet space. The Bill states that any ISP or mobile operator which distributes, or allows the distribution of pornography through the Internet or phone, will be guilty of an offence and can be prosecuted. These companies and their directors can face a fine, or a period of imprisonment of up to five years. The proposed draft could mean a hefty financial outlay by service providers, specifically since the Bill indicates the cost will have to be carried by them, keeping government wallets safe. While South African ISPs wait for clarity on whether the Bill will reach Parliament, there are concerns that the legislation will put many ISPs out of business.

[http://www.itweb.co.za/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=33632:porn-bill-is-unconstitutional](http://www.itweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=33632:porn-bill-is-unconstitutional)

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## **Prostitution**

### **South Africa - Prostitute wins Labor Appeal Court ruling**

The Labor Appeal Court ruled that the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) had jurisdiction to hear a case of unfair dismissal lodged by a prostitute who was fired from her job in 2006. The court was at pains to point out that the judgment did not sanction sex

work, but said the fact that prostitution was illegal did not destroy the constitutional protection extended to someone such as the sex worker. The judgment means sex workers can now approach the relevant CCMA or the Labor Court. It also means people who work as prostitutes although sex work is illegal have the right to be protected by the Labor Relations Act. The case on which the court ruled concerned "Kylie", a sex worker who considered her dismissal unfair and complained to the CCMA. In the judgment in which Labor Court Judge President Raymond Zondo and Judge Achmat Jappie concurred, Judge Dennis Davis said section 23(1) of the constitution — which provided that everyone had the right to fair labor practices — was designed to ensure the dignity of all workers was respected and the workplace should be built on the principles of social justice, fairness and respect for all.

<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=110373>

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## **Stem Cells**

### **USA - Stem cells progress towards treating deafness**

Researchers at the Stanford University School of Medicine have produced mouse inner ear hair cells using stem cells, paving the way for a cure for deafness and other related balance disorders. Humans have about 15,000 hair cells in each ear, which do not regenerate when damaged. Two types of mouse stem cells were used to create the inner ear hair cells, embryonic mouse stem cells and induced pluripotent stem cells reprogrammed from skin tissue. When the resulting cells were viewed under an electron microscope, as well as mechanically stimulated, they resembled those produced by young hair cells. They really looked like they were taken out of the ear. They hope to take the technology for creating mouse ear hair cells and apply it to humans and take skin cells from a human patient, convert them into IPS cells then into inner ear cells. These cells could then be used to test for chemical stimuli which would enable the body to grow more hair cells.

[http://www.bionews.org.uk/page\\_60151.asp](http://www.bionews.org.uk/page_60151.asp)

### **USA - Success stems from adult stem cells study**

A patient from Texas Alliance for Life hospital, who suffered from heart attacks, has participated in a trial that involved adult stem cells being injected into his heart. Within few days after a heart attack millions of stem cells that were injected into the system started to respond to the signals and regenerated the muscle that died during heart attack. In this study, adult stem cells are harvested from adults between the ages of 18 - 30 and are processed to remove elements that cause rejection. About 1,000 patients have endured the process so far. Adult stem cells are successfully treating, more than 70 diseases and conditions, while embryonic stem-cell research, involving the killing of human babies, has resulted in zero results.

<http://www.onenewsnow.com/Culture/Default.aspx?id=1010400>

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## **Substance Abuse**

### **USA - One 51 year old man + 3 cigarettes per day = 50,000 DNA gene mutations**

Scientists in the US have discovered that heavy smokers who develop lung cancer could have up to 50,000 genetic mutations in affected tumours. A team from Roche's Genentech biotechnology unit found that, upon analysis, a tumour belonging to a 51-year-old man who had smoked an average of 25 cigarettes a day for 15 years contained as many as 50,000 genetic mutations - one for every three cigarettes smoked. The team carried out further checks to ensure that their findings were correct and investigated the patient's background to see if there was anything unusual about his lifestyle that could have contributed to the results. "Fifty thousand is a huge number. No one has ever reported such a high number," said Zemin Zhang of Genentech, whose findings appear in the journal, Nature. The research team used gene sequencing technology

which allowed them to study entire genomes rather than a select sample of genes that are important in certain forms of cancer.

<http://www.businessweek.com/lifestyle/content/healthday/639488.html>

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## **Surrogacy**

No news today

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## **Traditional Healers**

### **Uganda - Minister warns radios against hosting fake doctors**

The Minister of Uganda for Ethics and Integrity, Dr. James Nsaba Buturo has warned FM radio stations against hosting fake traditional healers. Buturo says it is unethical for traditional doctors to advertise their services on radio stations and the radio stations also have a duty of protecting their listeners from being exploited by traditional doctors.

<http://www.ugpulse.com/articles/daily/news.asp?about=Buturo+warns+radios+against+hosting+fake+doctors+&ID=14478>

### **UK - British Medical Association leaders hit out at homeopathy**

The British Medical Association has already spoken out on its skepticism of the value of homeopathic treatments, and a Pulse survey in February found 80% of 800 GPs polled said the National Health Service should no longer fund homeopathic treatments. Dr Tom Dolphin, deputy chairman of the BMA's junior doctors committee in England, told the conference: 'Homeopathy is witchcraft. BMA leaders have condemned homeopathy and called for NHS funding for it to be withdrawn. Delegates at the BMA's junior doctor's conference in London voted overwhelmingly to pass a motion deploring the use of homeopathy in the NHS and all training placements that offer training in homeopathic principles.

<http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=23&storycode=4126047&c=2>

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