



Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life Global Outreach

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To: Global Outreach leaders
From: Scott Fischbach
Re: MCCL GO urges committee in Peru to oppose right to abortion
Date: October 13, 2015

Today Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life Global Outreach (MCCL GO) attended the Twelfth Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI in Lima, Peru. The MESECVI Committee monitors the implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (the Belém do Pará Convention).

The Committee has previously encouraged governments to legalize abortion in certain circumstances. We distributed a statement at today's meeting noting that the Belém do Pará Convention does not create any right to abortion. On the contrary, the American Convention on Human Rights explicitly protects the right to life of human beings *in utero*. It states, “Every person has the right to have his life respected. This right shall be protected by law and, in general, *from the moment of conception*. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.” Abortion is a human rights violation and a form of violence—often against female children.

The MCCL GO statement explained that legalized abortion is not necessary to reduce maternal mortality, and that abortion inherently poses risks to the health of pregnant women. It also noted that the Convention of Belém do Pará states that special “consideration shall be given to women subjected to violence while pregnant.” Pregnant women and new mothers are uniquely vulnerable to the threat of physical and emotional abuse, especially by partners and family members. Women are sometimes pressured or coerced into choosing abortion. We urged the Committee to give these problems serious attention.

Earlier this year, MCCL GO became a civil society organization registered with the Organization of American States. MCCL GO materials are available on our [website](#).