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# MCCL speaks in defense of life at the U.N.'s Human Rights Council

*Oral statement makes case against abortion during Geneva conference*

GENEVA — Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life's Global Outreach program (MCCL GO) addressed a session of the United Nation's Human Rights Council today in Geneva. Mary Langlois, representing the organization, made the case that legalized abortion is not necessary to ensure women's health and is not required under international law.

The Human Rights Council, an inter-governmental U.N. body founded to promote and protect human rights worldwide, is holding its 32<sup>nd</sup> session this month. Langlois presented an oral statement during a meeting considering the issue of discrimination against women. A Working Group report on the subject has called for the legalization of abortion around the globe, even condemning so-called "barriers to access" such as waiting periods prior to abortion.

"Legalized abortion is not required by the right to health. Maternal health depends on the quality of medical care, not on the legal status or availability of abortion," Langlois said. "We can save women's lives in the developing world by ensuring proper care before, during, and after childbirth, including adequate nutrition, prenatal care, skilled birth attendants, emergency obstetric care, clean water, and sanitation."

MCCL GO noted that there is no right to abortion under international law. On the contrary, said Langlois, various international human rights instruments—such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child—"provide support for the equal protection of human beings at all developmental stages and in all conditions, which should include human beings *in utero*."

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states, "Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life." The Declaration of the Rights of the Child affirms that "the child ... needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth."

Langlois concluded her statement by urging the Human Rights Council "to recognize that abortion is not required by international law, and to respect the sovereignty of countries to determine their own abortion policies."

MCCL GO is the U.N. and OAS accredited global outreach program of the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life Education Fund. Our goal is to protect as many human beings as possible from the destruction of abortion, infanticide and euthanasia. Learn more at [www.mccl-go.org](http://www.mccl-go.org). Please subscribe to our [RSS Feed](#).