

## **CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND**

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*Established 1981*

**October 2008**

### **New Report Finds Black, Older, Poor Women More Likely to Have Abortions**

A new report from Alan Guttmacher Institute, the research group associated with Planned Parenthood expands on its previous report showing abortions at their lowest point since 1974. The report finds abortions are more likely to be done on women who are black, older, or lower-income.

The good news for pro-life advocates is that the rate of abortion in the United States is at its lowest level since 1974, having declined 33% from a peak of 29 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15–44 in 1980 to 20 per 1,000 in 2004.

The new report, which focuses on the trends in the abortion data, presents some concerns.

“Many Americans will welcome the news that there are fewer abortions, particularly among teens,” says Sharon Camp, the president of the research group. “But at the same time, abortions are becoming more concentrated among women of color and low-income women.”

Although abortion rates have declined among all racial and ethnic groups, large disparities persist, with Hispanic and black women obtaining abortions at rates three and five times higher, respectively, than non-Hispanic white women.

Between 1994 and 2004, the abortion rate for Hispanic women fell by 20% and there was a 30% decline among non-Hispanic white women. But black women saw the lowest decline -- at 15 percent during the same time period.

Black women account for 37% of abortions, white women for 34%, Hispanic women 22% and women of other races 8%.

The study also found that, as compared with 1973, the typical woman obtaining an abortion today is older, more likely to have children, less likely to be married and more likely to be nonwhite. And most women obtaining abortions are poor or low-income.

Over the past three decades, the proportion of abortions obtained by teens has dropped steadily, from 33% in 1974 to 25% in 1989 to 17% in 2004. In 2004, more than half of all abortions (57%) were obtained by women in their twenties.

The trend finds women who have abortions nowadays are more likely to already have children -- not because women with children have having more abortions but because the 50 percent reduction in teen abortions over the last 35 years has outpaced the reduction in

abortions on women with children.

In 2004, 60% of women having abortions already had children, up from 50% in 1989 and 46% in 1974.

Although 47% of abortions are obtained by women who have had a prior abortion, the proportion of second and subsequent abortions has recently begun to fall.

<http://www.lifenews.com/nat4354.html>

## **Election Day is Tuesday November 4, 2008**

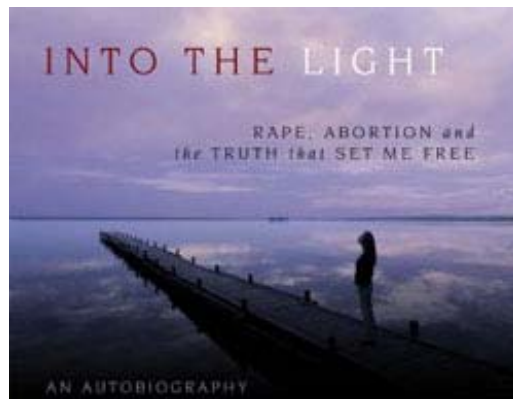


**Last day to register to vote in California is Oct. 20**

### ***LIBRARY CORNER***

## **INTO THE LIGHT: Rape, Abortion and the Truth that Set Me Free**

By Nicole W. Cooley



*A Rape Victim's Book Recounts Added Horror of Abortion After Sexual Abuse*

Surveys have shown that the majority of Americans have a pro-life position toward abortion, opposing most or all abortions, however polls have shown one-third to one-half of these people believe abortion should be permitted in cases of rape and incest. A recently published new book authored by a rape victim who subsequently aborted the baby details the added horror of the abortion that only compounded the sexual abuse trauma.

In a gripping personal account of pain and redemption, author Nicole W. Cooley offers a candid look at her rape as a young military officer by a trusted friend. She relates the devastating emotional consequences of her decision to abort the child conceived during the attack.

"I felt that the abortion was like being raped again," says Cooley. "Only this time, it was much worse because I had consented to the assault."

Cooley is the author of "Into the Light: Rape, Abortion and the Truth that Set Me Free" (Pleasant Word, 2008 ISBN 1414110642) Her book provides an intimate look at the trauma associated with abortion - even in the case of rape.

"At the time of my abortion I believed that I didn't have another choice. It's devastating to believe you have to choose between your life and the life of your child - and then live with the aftermath of that decision," she explained in a statement to LifeNews.com (<http://www.lifenews.com/nat4084.html>)

"Into the Light" is striking a chord with women who are victims of abuse and assault and one woman who has also experienced the pain of an abortion says women can relate to it.

"Every person who reads this book can connect with some part of Nicole's story and learn as she did about God's healing grace," says Georgette Forney of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. "I strongly recommend this book; it teaches us to have more compassion for one another and encourages us to face our traumas."

Cooley is now active in pro-life ministries and she was featured in the documentary "Choice of a Lifetime" produced by Focus on the Family in 2003. Her work with crisis pregnancy centers has included post abortion counseling as well as abstinence education.

**"The bottom line is that abortion hurts women,"** says Cooley. "I hope to give readers hope in the knowledge that just as God healed me, there is hope for them as well."

*A former Captain in the United States Army, Cooley is now a military wife, homeschool mom and manager of an active Longaberger® basket business. Cooley and her family currently reside in Fort Irwin, California.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(For the latest information, see [www.calendarforlife.org](http://www.calendarforlife.org))

### **40-Days for Life Nationwide (Worldwide) September 24 through November 2**

The fall campaign of 40-Days-for-Life is off to a terrific start. In the first week over 48 lives have been saved! During these "40 Days for Life" there are simultaneous 40 Days

for Life 24/7 vigils in 179 cities in 47 American states, two Canadian provinces, the District of Columbia and American Samoa! Please remember those who are in vigil at the sites in your prayers.

Visit [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com) to find where vigils are taking place in your area!

*In our next newsletter we will report on some of the experiences of our members who are participating in the 40-days campaign. Please send us your stories.*

**You Don't Have To Stand In Front Of An Abortion Clinic:** to participate, we can pray and fast together with those giving their time to vigil in an effort to bring an end to the Culture of Death throughout this land. Now is the time to reflect and pray on how you can be involved in the largest grassroots effort to end abortion in America.

Is God calling you to join others in vigil and prayer outside a local abortion clinic? Are you called to join in the fast for life? Even if there isn't a prayer vigil location in your area, you can join the campaign through daily prayer. The 40-Days for Life National group has created a number of prayer aids, available at <http://www.prayforlifeday.com/40prayers/>. If you don't have access to the internet, contact our office and we will mail you a ten-page packet with prayers for each of the 40-days of the campaign.

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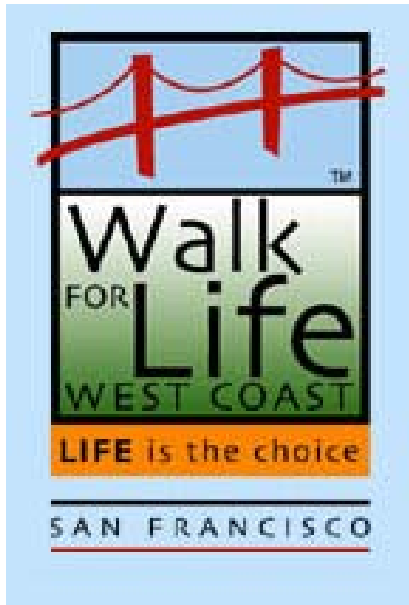


**Last day to register to vote in California is Oct. 20**

**Any qualified voter may vote by mail. Applications are printed on the sample ballot every voter receives (on the back side of polling place form).**

**Mailed ballots must be received by county elections office by close of business on Election Day.**

**5th Annual  
Walk for Life West Coast  
January 24, 2009**



Speakers begin at Justin Herman Plaza at 11 a.m. followed by the Walk starting at noon. Plan to join us for the biggest pro-life event on the West Coast! Over 25,000 people participated in last year's walk, and an even bigger crowd is expected in 2009. Meet at Justin Herman Plaza at the Embarcadero, dress warmly, wear comfortable shoes, and bring a bag lunch. For further info, visit: [www.walkforlifewc.com](http://www.walkforlifewc.com).

## Around the Office

**Progress on Stone Soup** –As always, a big “THANK YOU” to all our donors, especially our monthly donors, and those special people who came to our rescue in the past month. Your contributions helped to make this newsletter edition a reality, allow us to be available for phone counseling for women considering abortion and families considering end of life issues, and to assist students doing research projects relating to life.

### **Donation Update – Credit Cards Accepted**

We now have an option for credit card donations through the Local Independent Charities website. ([www.lic.org](http://www.lic.org)) If you are interested in considering this method of donating, please contact our office for further information and instructions.

### **United Way/Combined Federal Campaign etc.**

The annual United Way/Combined Federal Campaign and other workplace payroll deduction charity drives are beginning. Donating through payroll deduction is a wonderful way to support the protection of all innocent life from fertilization to natural death. Our CFC number (for federal employees) is 49743.

If you have any questions, contact this office at 925-944-5351, and we will try to assist you in designating your payroll deduction to California Right to Life Educational Fund.

All donations, large or small, are gratefully accepted and prayerfully put to good use in the cause of Life. And as we detail in our box at the end of every newsletter, all donations

to us are tax deductible. Your contributions allow us to be a voice for life in the culture of death. We continue to support various local outreach groups with materials for information tables at shopping malls, county fairs and church ministry fairs. Without your support we will be unable to continue to provide our dedicated volunteers with pro-life materials.