



PROMOTING CATHOLIC VALUES

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1. Does CCHD fund groups acting against Catholic values?

No. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development fully upholds our Church's teaching on the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception through natural death. The CCHD funds projects that empower people living in poverty and help them organize themselves to move out of poverty. All grant applicants are carefully screened and funds are provided only to projects with objectives and actions that are fully in accord with the moral teaching of the Catholic Church. The local CCHD diocesan director and national grants staff evaluate every proposal. Every project recommended for funding requires endorsement by the local bishop.

CCHD takes any alleged violation of Catholic principles and CCHD policies very seriously. CCHD deeply regrets that in this past year five groups (out of 242) violated CCHD requirements and lost CCHD funding because they acted in conflict with Catholic teaching. We apologize for the violations of CCHD policies by these groups and for the damage and confusion they have caused.

The Review and Renewal is putting in place stronger policies and clearer mechanisms to screen and monitor grants and groups to ensure that these past violations, though very limited, are not repeated. CCHD will do all it can to ensure that groups abide by these strengthened requirements and will act immediately and decisively if it is discovered that any group is violating these essential conditions for CCHD support.

Other questions address CCHD funding for some groups that abide by CCHD policies, but are also part of coalitions focused on worthy issues (e.g. immigration, health or housing) in cases where those coalitions or other members are accused of taking positions contrary to Catholic teaching. CCHD will not fund groups that are knowingly members of coalitions which have as part of their organizational purpose or coalition agenda, positions or actions that contradict fundamental Catholic moral and social teaching. CCHD is developing

additional structures and guidance to address in greater detail the ethical implications of these relationships and what is morally acceptable and what is not for CCHD funded groups.

Catholics can be assured that any group that engages in activity contrary to Church teaching, such as to promote abortion or same-sex marriage is ineligible for CCHD funding because this is a clear violation of the CCHD funding criteria and guidelines. If any such activity occurs after the grant is received, this violates the CCHD grant agreement and will lead to termination of CCHD funding. CCHD is strengthening its capacity to screen and monitor groups and welcomes useful information or concerns about its grant making processes or funded groups. Any allegation of improper activity will be immediately reviewed, investigated and acted upon.

2. How many groups have been “defunded” in the last year for violations of Catholic teaching? Who are they and what did they do?

In 2009, five out of 242 groups (about 2%) have been defunded because they took actions or positions in conflict with Catholic teaching. In all five cases prompt and decisive action was taken consistent with CCHD’s policies and practices. In the past, funding also has been withdrawn promptly when allegations of political partisanship or mismanagement of funds were substantiated. Charges against all other groups named were investigated and, in consultation with the local dioceses, the charges were found to be inaccurate or based on a misunderstanding.

3. What about allegations that CCHD funds groups openly in conflict with positions advocated by the Catholic Church?

Groups that violate Catholic teaching are not eligible to receive CCHD funding. CCHD is always examining ways to strengthen and improve monitoring efforts to ensure that all grantees comply with CCHD criteria. This is an ongoing process, involving both local dioceses and national CCHD staff. Others may bring to our attention concerns about groups or initiatives that CCHD is either considering for funding or currently funding. The CCHD Subcommittee of Bishops and staff take seriously any allegation that groups are not in compliance with Catholic teaching or are participating in partisan political activity. CCHD immediately investigates each allegation in consultation with the local diocese and, if the allegations are confirmed, discontinues funding immediately.

4. What about participation in coalitions for a good purpose, like better wages or housing, that include groups acting against Catholic values on other issues?

CCHD encourages groups to work across geographical, racial, ethnic, economic and ideological lines to overcome poverty and advance the common good. However, CCHD will not fund groups that are knowingly members of coalitions which have as part of their organizational purpose or coalition agenda, positions or actions that contradict fundamental Catholic moral and social teaching (e.g. promotion or support of abortion, same-sex marriage, euthanasia, racism, as well as use of the death penalty punitive measures toward immigrants, etc.). Prohibited activities include participation in or endorsing actions that promote legislation, ballot initiatives (including voter guides and other written materials) that contradict fundamental Catholic moral or social teaching. Actions of other coalition partners on non-coalition issues or issues not agreed upon by the coalition members, calls for a different moral analysis. CCHD is developing additional structures and guidance to address in greater detail the ethical implications of these relationships and what is morally acceptable and what is not for CCHD funded groups.

5. Does CCHD fund organizations closely associated with the pro-abortion movement?

No. Catholic Campaign for Human Development fully upholds our Church's teaching on the sanctity of human life from conception through natural death. The Campaign funds projects that empower the poor and help them organize themselves to move out of poverty. All grant applicants are carefully screened and funds are provided only to projects with objectives and actions that are fully in accord with the moral teaching of the Catholic Church. The local CCHD diocesan director and national grants staff evaluate every proposal. Every project recommended for funding requires endorsement by the local bishop.

The funding criteria, including the fact that projects must be in conformity with the moral guidelines of the Catholic Church, are specified from the earliest stages of the application process. Projects are monitored through regular reporting and on-site visits. Funding is discontinued if projects deviate from their initial objective into areas inconsistent with the moral teaching of the Catholic Church.

6. Has CCHD abandoned its mission?

No. USCCB is anchoring CCHD more deeply in the Catholic social principles that are at the heart of its mission....priority for poor, participation, solidarity, subsidiarity ---and seeking new, more creative, strategic ways to help poor people defend their dignity and improve their communities. CCHD is still focused on overcoming poverty by supporting poor people help themselves to escape poverty and powerlessness.

7. Why was CCHD delayed in publishing its grants for 2010?

The *CCHD Review and Renewal* called for the development of a substantially revised CCHD Grant Agreement “to be used for all pending and future funding allocations and grants.” This new contract is “more explicit about the positions, activities and relationships not permitted by CCHD” and “strengthen prohibitions on partisan politics.” After the Bishops’ CCHD Subcommittee reviewed and approved the revised Grant Agreement and the bishops discussed the CCHD Report at their General Meeting in Baltimore, this stronger contract was sent to all potential 2010 grantees. While these groups were selected under earlier CCHD guidelines, only groups that signed the new Grant Agreement received CCHD funds. The list is now published, consisting of groups that signed the new grant agreement.

8. Didn’t the CCHD Report highlight a group that is pro- abortion and pro-same sex marriage?

Some accusations have been made against the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) because they offered workshops at a U.S. Social Forum in Detroit which had other workshops in conflict with Catholic social and moral teaching.

Here is what the CCHD Review and Renewal Report said: *The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) is an organization of Latino, and Haitian migrant farm workers in Florida. Working with the local diocese, the Florida Catholic Conference and many other groups, CIW has won groundbreaking agreements with major fast food chains to increase wages and improve better working conditions for their members who pick tomatoes.*”

In rejecting this guilt by association, CIW expressed regret that they were not contacted before these unfair charges were published. CIW explained that the Immokalee Workers attended the Social Forum to draw support for their effort to get decent wages and working conditions for migrant workers, not to advance any other cause. The meeting drew a reported 15,000 people from many organizations and approximately 1000 different workshops led by a wide variety of groups. The CIW shared their efforts to improve conditions for farm workers and their Campaign for Fair Food aimed at ending poverty and modern-day slavery in the fields. They were a part of several related workshops which had nothing to do with abortion, homosexuality or related issues. CIW emphatically denies that it is implicated in the pro-abortion or homosexual rights activities of other organizations.

The Immokalee Workers have joined with other groups to share conditions in the fields and seek assistance for their efforts to improve wages and working conditions for tomato pickers, not to advance positions contrary to Catholic teaching. They have never supported abortion or same sex marriage. Their impressive efforts have had the active support of the USCCB Domestic Policy Committee, the Florida State Catholic Conference and their home diocese of Venice, Florida and many other Catholic institutions. CIW is a member of the Florida State Catholic Conference’s Committee on Farm worker Justice. CIW is not currently a CCHD grantee, but has earned wide respect in the Catholic community for their much needed work to protect the lives and dignity of the people who pick our food.

9. Is it true that John Carr, Executive Director of the Department of Justice Peace and Human Development sat on the board of Center for Community Change, an organization that promotes same-sex marriage and abortion?

John Carr's Response:

I left the board of the Center for Community Change in February of 2005 and that I had no involvement in or knowledge of the actions alleged in the press release.

My experience with CCC was that it focused on poverty, housing and immigration and had no involvement in issues involving abortion and homosexuality.

When I served, the board never discussed or acted on any position involving these matters and if they had, I would have vigorously opposed any advocacy for access to abortion or gay marriage.

I have spent my personal and professional life defending human life and dignity and Catholic teaching, including current efforts to keep abortion funding out of health care reform. I regret that once again the failure to contact me or CCHD has led to unfair allegations in attempts to undermine the essential work of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

10. Is it true that Ralph McCloud, Director of Catholic Campaign for Human Development was simultaneously working as a highly placed campaign official for a pro-choice politician seeking to unseat a pro-life political candidate?

Ralph McCloud's Response:

I served as a member of the Fort Worth City Council representing District 8 , a low-income community and focused my efforts on crime, housing, employment and related issues. In August of 2007, my colleague on the Council and a partner in these efforts Wendy Davis asked me to serve as treasurer of her campaign for Texas State Senate. Since the position was purely honorary and Ms. Davis was a friend and colleague on the Council and served a district adjacent to mine, I agreed. We had worked together for 4 years on issues affecting very low income communities in Fort Worth.

I was unaware that she subsequently took a position on abortion that conflicted with my own strong pro-life convictions. We had never discussed or worked on issues related to protecting the unborn or abortion. At the time I gave my permission to serve the honorary role as treasurer, Ms. Davis had taken no position on abortion nor accepted any campaign funds.

In Texas elections, the treasurer designation is an honorary designation with no formal responsibilities or duties. I attended no meetings, received or made no reports, I made no contributions, and did no fund- raising or campaigning. I was not actively involved in her campaign in any way.

Accusations suggest that I worked in Ms. Davis' Campaign and for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops simultaneously. I have never worked in Ms. Davis' campaign. I left Fort Worth to serve as Director of CCHD in January 2008.

Since my appointment to Director of CCHD, I have worked and lived in Washington DC. I have worked for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops only. My short visits to Fort Worth were only to visit family and attend to my aging parents. I have not been involved in any campaign, and certainly not involved in the Davis campaign for Texas State Senate.

Prior to my appointment to director of CCHD, I received the endorsement and encouragement of my Bishop and always had the full support of the bishop and his predecessor for work for the diocese and my service on the City Council.

After moving to Washington, I should have formally resigned from the honorary treasurer post but I had simply forgotten I had agreed to be listed. I have since asked to be removed as treasurer. I deeply regret if my role as treasurer and my failure to resign has caused any confusion or misunderstanding.

I am deeply and consistently pro-life, beginning with protecting the lives of unborn children, the most vulnerable in our midst. More importantly, CCHD is fully and completely committed to upholding the teaching of the Catholic Church on the life and dignity of all. I am proud of my role as director in insuring that CCHD abides by these principles and am working to strengthen them in carrying out the Review and Renewal of CCHD accepted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops last fall.