

# Declaration on **Human Dignity and Totalitarian Ideologies**

New York, 2024

We are young people of diverse ethnic, religious, cultural, economic, political, and social backgrounds from all regions of the world. We affirm that all human beings have intrinsic dignity from conception to natural death, and that this dignity is prior to, and the foundation for, every human right. Human dignity demands respect for the autonomy, integrity, and inherent value of every human life. Totalitarian ideologies undermine this human dignity.

Totalitarian ideologies insist on a single idea or worldview as the only legitimate understanding of reality and reject all dissent. They erode the notion of truth and exert dominance over persons by limiting individual freedoms and liberties. They manifest in various forms extending their influence beyond traditional spheres of governance, infiltrating social, cultural, and technological realms, exerting control over not just public discourse but also shaping private beliefs and behaviors.

This is not only present in totalitarian regimes but also pervasive throughout the world today. Certain ideological worldviews exploit propaganda, censorship and surveillance to silence opposition and maintain their grip on power. This serves to instill fear and foster a culture of conformity and obedience, suppressing the freedom to think, speak and dissent.

The intolerance of ideas misaligned with the dominant ideology, demonstrated in today's "cancel culture" exemplifies totalitarian tendencies. In such an environment, individuals internalize the dictated norms and silence divergent opinions. Totalitarian ideology suppresses the philosophical, anthropological, moral, and transcendent aspects of humanity and instead absolutizes science and politics. When separation of gender and sex is imposed as the only acceptable worldview and dissension is impermissible, gender ideology becomes totalitarian, thus undermining human dignity.

Some strains of environmentalist ideology, while promoting concerns for the planet's well-being, resort to fear mongering tactics reminiscent of historical population control measures. By propagating narratives that depict overpopulation as the root cause of environmental degradation, poverty, climate disasters, and hunger, such ideologies instill fear in individuals and communities, compelling them to accept population control measures as necessary solutions. However, population control programs, such as the historic one-child policy in China, coercive sterilization programs and other violations of human rights, undermine human dignity by treating individuals as mere numbers or objects of the State to be managed rather than recognizing their inherent worth and dignity.

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We categorically condemn totalitarian ideologies. We recognize that they are not a mere historical memory of the 20th century. They are a threat to the family, human rights and liberties today. We stand in solidarity with all those who resist oppression and strive to uphold human dignity because no ideology or regime has the right to violate the human person.

Therefore, we must defend the rights and freedoms that enable our shared authentic human experiences, resisting any attempts to undermine them in the name of ideological doctrine. Together, let us reaffirm our commitment to human dignity and stand united in speaking the truth, ensuring that the rights and freedoms of all individuals are respected and upheld in the face of totalitarian threats.

