

# Genetic Engineering, Reproduction Technologies, Human Genetics and Population Policies

**Date/month:**

24 July 1989

**Document type:**

Resolution

The 24th Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 14-25 July 1989 in Sydney, Australia:

"Human dignity is inviolable". Most developments in natural science, however, tend towards a dismemberment of men and nature into smaller components. In all industrial nations, we find large projects which are feverish at work analysing men's genes to make them available in the industry, population planning, and social control.

While human genetics today is mainly concerned with the selection and eradication of life allegedly unworthy to exist, genetic engineering is intended to produce the instruments to render possible a correcting interference in the human gene. In addition, reproduction medicine ensures the disposability of the human hereditary material, which in the last resort reduces women and men to donors of ovum and sperm. By transferring insemination into a receptacle, the parents lose any chance of control.

Human genetics works in its various sectors to register the human genes, to define the individual gene as "good" or "bad", to apply such definition to select people, e.g. by the screening of work applicants, and eugenics in pre-natal diagnosis (see National Socialist Program).

It is not by accident that it has been primarily women who have resisted the new technologies in their various forms. Even though the planners have not explicitly named them, women are in most fields exclusively concerned.

Women are the objects in the whole field of prenatal diagnosis; they must submit to the results of the human genetic examination and in-vitro fertilisation. Women supply the uteruses for surrogate motherhood and the ovaries for the production of embryos for embryonic research.

Women are the objects of the programs for population planning which have, at first sight, humane goals but aim at the comprehensive organisation of human societies according to the criteria of efficiency and utilise the ability.

Self-determination, human dignity and the fundamental right to life are taken from women. But this also means that scientists, medical men, social planners, economic strategists and political leaders depend on women's readiness to participate or at least to keep quiet.

This development has just such an explosive effect as has the development of new weapon technologies. Men and nature are endangered in their bare existence in a way never known before.

**Congress is asked to resolve:**

- That WILPF declare its opposition in principle to the development, application and justification of genetics and reproduction technologies and advocates their prohibition and abolition;
- That WILPF also rejects all national and international programs of population planning and human genetics when they are based on these technologies;
- WILPF should develop concrete ways against the new technologies and cooperate in this with women groups and organisations which have already critically engaged in the issues of genetic and reproduction technologies and have offered resistance to them in public (e.g. Feminist International Network of Resistance against Reproduction and Genetic Technologies FINRRAGE, Groningen, The Netherlands, founded 1984)
- WILPF turns against criminalising women and women's groups that advocate challenging points of view on genetic and reproduction technologies.
- That the officers and the International Office in Geneva present this subject to the commissions and bodies on international and intercontinental levels and ask the sections to do the same on national levels to press for the abolition and proscription of genetic engineering and reproduction technologies and their effects--or at least for a comprehensive control with the participation of critical women.