

Recommendations Re: WAI Employee Concerns about
Donation to Planned Parenthood's HIV/AIDS Initiative

*(academic exercise for Professional Communications,
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January 25, 2011

Prepared for: Executive Staff
Women's Action International (WAI)

WAI Employee Concerns about Donation to Planned Parenthood's HIV/AIDS Initiative: Background and Recommendations

The Problem

A significant percentage of WAI employees have complained vociferously about WAI's \$15,000 donation to Planned Parenthood's local and regional HIV/AIDS Initiative. They maintain that it is unacceptable to fund any part of PP's operations and that, therefore, WAI should choose one of several other reputable, high-quality organizations in the area that are active in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Background

There are three facts on the ground that provide important context to the decision by the WAI Social Responsibility Committee to choose PP's HIV/AIDS Initiative for a WAI donation:

- (1) Planned Parenthood's HIV/AIDS Initiative is completely separated from all other PP work.
- (2) PP guarantees that none of the funds donated to the HIV/AIDS Initiative will be applied to any other PP operations, and there will be a separate and transparent accounting system to ensure that the funds remain separate.
- (3) Unlike other health NGO HIV/AIDS campaigns, which charge from 17 to 32 percent in administrative costs, PP guarantees that 100 percent of donated funds will go to its HIV/AIDS Initiative.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The objections to the donation to PP's HIV/AIDS Initiative are unrelated to WAI's mission, work life, and operations. While some employees may disapprove of certain Planned Parenthood operations, the only PP activity that will be assisted by WAI's donation will be PP's HIV/AIDS Initiative. Moreover, because similar initiatives by other health NGOs would charge anywhere from 17 to 32 percent in administrative costs, WAI's choice of Planned Parenthood is the most effective use of WAI monies to combat HIV/AIDS.

I recommend an Executive Staff memo that provides the aforementioned background information "to alleviate employee concerns," along with the suggestion that any employee who is uncomfortable with WAI's philanthropic priorities might want to seek employment elsewhere.