

From the Editor



“We want a world fit for children, because a world fit for us is a world fit for everyone.”

—Gabriela Azurdy Arrieta

Thirteen year old Gabriela Azurdy Arrieta of Bolivia was speaking to the United Nations’ first session devoted entirely to children. “We want a world fit for children,” she said, “because a world fit for us is a world fit for everyone.”

Gabriela is a very perceptive and articulate young woman—especially when we think about how her statement relates to population—and to population connections. In just one sentence, Gabriela gets at the central importance of population stabilization to the planet’s future, and to the future of the world’s children. In one sentence, she reveals the links between population stabilization, the environment, women’s empowerment, education, and the quality of life.

We know that population growth is at the core of many of today’s problems. And we know how to attain population stabilization. We’ve made tremendous progress in improving the lives of men, women, and children all over the world. Many children live happy, healthy lives—but many millions do not. Millions of children cannot read. Millions of girls are forced to marry and have children at a terribly young age. So, we still have work to do, and we have serious challenges, particularly in President Bush’s policies, including the Global Gag Rule.

To better meet those challenges, on May 1, 2002, ZPG became Population Connection. Our name has

changed, but our mission is staying the same. We’ll continue to educate and advocate for population stabilization, with this issue of *The Reporter* examining some of those “connections.”

This Reporter has a feature story on the links between real people and population, and between population, reproductive rights, and the environment. And in another article, population experts tell us what they think about those connections. But most importantly, you’ll see that Population Connection is working hard to bring attention to these issues. You’ll see us working on Capitol Hill during Capitol Hill Days, which was our best yet. We had a great Annual Awards Dinner, and our annual Population Education writing contest was a huge hit, garnering thousands of entries.

But we can’t do all of this work alone. We really need your help. We need your help to raise the visibility of the population issue—and to overturn bad policies. So, when you see the envelope inserted between the pages of this magazine, just take it out, and use it to send a gift to Population Connection. We have a lot of work in front of us. Just think: Children everywhere want a good life, just like Gabriela from Bolivia. But they won’t have it unless we can do our work.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee S. Polansky".

Lee S. Polansky
Editor

Director of Communication ... Tim Cline

Editor ... Lee S. Polansky

Editorial Board ... John Seager, Heather Smith, Pamela Wasseman

Contributors ... Jennifer Adams, Kathy Buek, Tim Cline, Kimberly Elliott, Rebecca Harris, Jay Keller, Erin Raftery, Radhika Sarin, Imelda Walavalkar, Pamela Wasseman

Design & Layout ... Lindsay Raue

Photographs in this issue were taken by Tim Cline, Kimberly Elliott, Jay Keller, Lee Polansky, and Imelda Walavalkar. Photographs on pages 4, 7-9 courtesy of MMC Photoshare at www.jhuccp.org/mmc.

The 2001 Annual Report is available for no charge. Please write to Population Connection, Development Department, 1400 16th Street, NW, Suite 320, Washington, D.C. 20036.