

Multilateral foreign policy of the Holy See

The multilateral foreign policy of the Holy See is currently working on some prominent issues. The issues mainly focused by the policy includes human rights, disarmament and economic and social development.

Right to life

The Holy See has supported various programs at many international conferences and United Nations as well. The chief program promoted by Holy See is entitled as “Culture of life”. It also working on the goal to work against the bodies trying to get abortion and euthanasia to be legalized by using international polices present for such matters or by claiming non-binding assertions. Another objective focussed by this policy is to eliminate death penalty world-wide and pursuing to prohibit the research on human embryos. The Holy See at the United Nations General Assembly stated that:

“The right to life and respect for human dignity remains an inalienable right of every person and a founding principle of this Organization. It is therefore the duty of States to promote and protect this right from conception until natural death. To that end, we must work consistently to reverse the culture of death embraced by some social and legal structures which justify certain forms of destruction of life as a legal necessity or a medical service.” (Wikipedia, 2020)

Human cloning

At the international level, the Holy See has highlighted the ethical problems addressed by some recognized forms of biomedical research currently active and working in particular area. The Holy See has been actively working in the area of human cloning. In 2001, Germany and France proposed an international agreement to stop reproductive human cloning. This convention was presented at the United Nations General Assembly, Holy See along with other countries (Spain, Philippines, United States and Costa Rica) that were in support of the idea to legalize the human cloning and set a limit for research work as well. This is a thoughtful subject when it is considered whether it morally right rather than with respect to reproduction. Hence, it proposed to ban all type of human cloning. The Holy See complained that millions of embryos were produced with aim to destroy them as part of the process claimed to be used in research work. It also highlighted that this dishonoured the women, in process of producing necessary human eggs. In March 2005 the efforts resulted in the favour of proposed pact, United Nation passed

a declaration on human cloning prohibiting human cloning, that ensures human dignity with the protection of human life.

Death penalty

In 2007 at United Nations, Holy See discussed that death penalty should be used only when it is required or when it compulsory to keep society safe from an antagonist, or to deal with a situation. It was claimed because there are many other ways of dealing with problems and safeguarding the citizens. Furthermore, it is observed that capital punishment is mostly unfair and biased, and is often imposed on the under privileged members of the nation on the basis of religious , ethnic and racial differences, and it leads to the situation where guilty is walking free and an innocent is being punished closing all hopes of justice. In regards to this matter, a UN Moratorium on death penalty is submitted by the Holy See.

Freedom of conscience and religion

Succeeding Vatican Council II, Holy See has globally supported the significance of the freedom of conscience and religion among all Human Rights. It is of great importance as it relies on the core values of an individual and have an impact on one's life. Pope Benedict XVI also put emphasis that "religious freedom expresses what is unique about the human person, for it allows us to direct our personal and social life to God, in whose light the identity, meaning and purpose of the person are fully understood. To deny or arbitrarily restrict this freedom is to foster a reductive vision of the human person; to eclipse the public role of religion is to create a society which is unjust, inasmuch as it fails to take account of the true nature of the human person; it is to stifle the growth of the authentic and lasting peace of the whole human family." (Wikipedia, 2020) Therefore, it is concluded that ensuring the freedom of religion is the building block of showing respect for all other human rights. Hence, Holy See seeks to fulfil international obligations to guarantee the observance of the rights. It has stated that:

“Recognition of the dignity of each and every person, which the Human Rights Council was formed to protect and promote, entails full respect for the inner and transcendent dimension of the human person, which is an integral part of what it means to be a human being. Through the free exercise of conscience and moral decision making, human beings are able to transform themselves into living members of social life whose good will, charity and hope promote the dignity and wellbeing of every member of the human family. Intrinsically linked to freedom of conscience is the freedom of religion by which human beings are able to pursue the most