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### Population Control=Not Controlling Climate Change

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# Population Control = Not Controlling The Climate

By Natasha Ruscoll

## Background (important definitions):

**Climate Change:** a long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth's local, regional and global climates.

**Population Control:** the practice of artificially altering the rate of growth of a human population.

## Methods:

My research for this project consisted of re-examining the writing I did on climate change from last semester, which asked the question of what effect climate change has on the rights of future generations. For this poster, I added the concept of population control to already existing climate change portion. Population control's role in the climate crisis is that it is sometimes used in a way that is helpful, and sometimes unhelpful. It also impacts two additional human rights; the right to family and women's reproductive rights.

# What is the relationship between Climate Change and Population Control?



This is a familiar symbol that has many variations—such have been used for popular logos, like the World Autism Awareness Day logo. It is meant to display peace and harmony, and is sometimes referred to as the “united hands”



I decided to Photoshop this symbol and overpopulate it. I feel that this is a simple, yet powerful way to display the effect overpopulation (and thus population control) has on climate change. The addition of extra people suggests that the amount of people can continue to expand outwards more and more. This represents how, if overpopulation is not dealt with, it will not stop. If that is the case, climate change will also worsen, because human impact on the environment is a main cause of climate change. The phrase “human impact” refers to the emission of CO<sub>2</sub> from fossil fuels, which pollutes our air and our oceans, as well as a general lack of care and awareness of the environment.

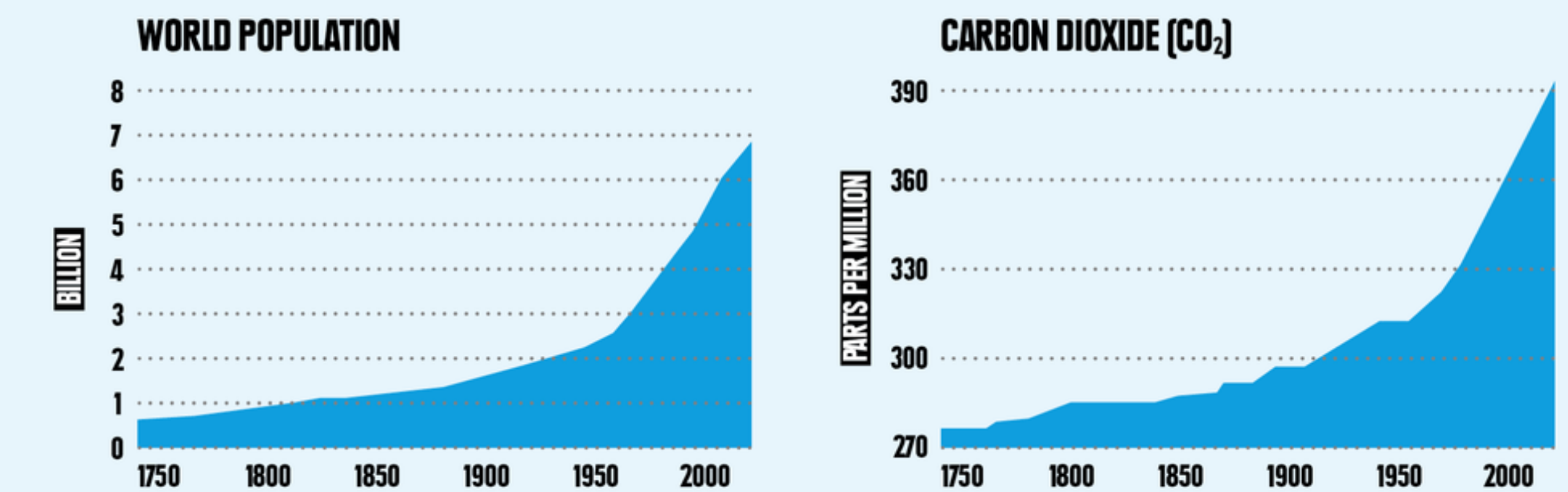
## Legal Framework:

As stated in the Methods section, there is helpful population control, and then there is unhelpful population control. A prime example of the latter is the China's Two-child policy (previously the One-child policy). These policies were implemented to decrease China's population, as it is the country with the largest number of people. However, this is unhelpful population control, because it restricts women from having as many children as they please, which infringes on women's reproductive rights. In contrast, a helpful kind of population control could be something like Planned Parenthood, or California's Family PACT. These are organizations that offer services to educate and help people with reproduction and family planning, especially those who may have trouble getting necessary materials for such things (i.e., condoms, birth control, etc.) This is much more effective than forcing women and families to subject to only having a certain number of children.

Furthermore, this is the kind of population control that *should* be being promoted to aid climate change.

Ammo Bar:

## POPULATION AND CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS, 1750-2015



Source: United Nations, 2017

## Top 5 solutions to climate change

98.7  
Wind Turbines

70.53  
Reduced Food Waste

102.96\*  
Women's Empowerment  
(FAMILY PLANNING & EDUCATING GIRLS)

89.74  
Refrigerant Management

66.11  
Plant-rich Diet

\*CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent reduction by 2050 (GT)  
Source: Project Drawdown, 2017  
populationmatters.org

POPULATION  
MATTERS  
Every choice counts

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