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Cardinal Wuerl, Leading Scholars to Offer “Second Thoughts” on the Sexual Revolution at May 31 Event

Latest data show dangers to women’s health from surrogacy, pornography, sexual exploitation

In recent months, the “#MeToo” movement has sparked widespread outrage over sexual harassment and the culture that has condoned it. More broadly, it has prompted new questions about related risks to women and whether those risks share a common root in the sexual revolution.

The time is ripe for an in-depth conversation, drawing on women’s experiences and the latest evidence from the social sciences, law, and medicine to expose troubling and underreported facts about the exploitation women face today.

On May 31, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, will headline a [gathering](#) of experts who will survey the current cultural landscape, some fifty years after the sexual revolution. The Cardinal will highlight the prescient—perhaps prophetic—warnings sounded by the landmark encyclical *Humanae Vitae* and emphasize its important insights for the future.

Key findings from expert female panelists include:

- How pornography is driving male sexual narcissism, sexual violence, and the degradation of women
- Why women frequently engage in unwanted—though consensual—sex and are more likely than men to experience regret from casual sexual encounters
- What is driving the shocking increase—846% over five years—in child sex trafficking online
- Why 89% of women in prostitution want to leave the business
- How young women recruited as egg donors risk serious medical complications, including future infertility and ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome

“[The #MeToo Moment: Second Thoughts on the Sexual Revolution](#)” forum is presented by the Catholic Women’s Forum of the Ethics and Public Policy Center and the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, co-sponsored by the Catholic Information Center and the Archdiocese of Washington’s Department of Life Issues.

The event [agenda](#) is as follows (*affiliations are listed for identification purposes only*):

1 p.m. Opening Remarks:

Keynote Speaker: His Eminence Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington

“The Cultural Moment: What We Now Know,” **Mary Eberstadt**, Faith & Reason Institute

Moderators: Mary Rice Hasson, Ethics and Public Policy Center; **O. Carter Snead**, University of Notre Dame

2 p.m. Panel: Women's Health: Evidence and Concerns

Monique V. Chireau, MD, Duke University Medical Center

Marguerite Duane, MD, MHA, FFAFP, Georgetown University

Suzanne Nortier Hollman, PsyD, MSc., Institute for the Psychological Sciences, Divine Mercy University

3 p.m. Panel: Exploitation: A Booming Business

Mary Anne Layden, PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Mary G. Leary, JD, The Catholic University of America

Jennifer Lahl, RN, MA, The Center for Bioethics and Culture Network

4 p.m. Closing Remarks:

“The Way Forward,” **Helen Alvaré**, JD, Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University

[Panelists](#) will be available for media questions and interviews at the conclusion of the forum.

This event will take place at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, May 31, from 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. Journalists should contact Josh Britton with inquiries or to register at jbritton@eppc.org. Members of the general public may register to attend this free event at [this link](#).

About the sponsors:

The Catholic Women’s Forum (CWF) is an international network of Catholic women that responds to Pope Francis’s call for women to be a “more effective presence” in the Church and in the world. An initiative of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C., the Catholic Women’s Forum brings the Catholic perspective into the public square and informs Catholic thought on culture, policy, and pastoral care. Learn more at <https://catholicwomensforum.org/>.

The Center for Ethics and Culture is committed to sharing the richness of the Catholic moral and intellectual tradition through teaching, research, and dialogue, at the highest level and across a range of disciplines, as we grapple with the most pressing and complex questions of ethics, culture, and public policy today. Learn more at ethicscenter.nd.edu.

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