

ORGANIZATION & PURPOSE

Since 1999 the Protection of Conscience Project has been working to ensure that health care providers can provide the best care possible for their patients without violating their own personal and professional integrity. The Project is a non-denominational, nonprofit initiative supported by a project team and advisory board who serve without remuneration. It operates a website to advocate for protection of conscience laws, to promote understanding and assist in reasoned public discussion, and to facilitate communication among conscience advocates.

GENERAL POLICY

The Project does not take a position on the morality of contentious procedures. Instead, it critiques policies of coercion and encourages accommodation of freedom of conscience. The Project does not direct or manage protection of conscience initiatives.

SCOPE & LIMITATIONS

Project activities are limited to the protection of conscience in the delivery of health care. This does not imply that freedom of conscience in other contexts is less important.

Laws may limit freedom of conscience by preventing people from doing everything that they want to do. But forcing people to do what they believe to be wrong is contrary to the best traditions and aspirations of liberal democracy.

The Project advocates for freedom of conscience in this most essential and foundational sense. Health care providers must not be forced to do what they believe to be wrong, or punished for refusing to do so.

PROJECT TEAM

Human Rights Specialist

Rocco Mimmo, LLB, LL.M;

Chairman, Ambrose Centre for Religious Liberty, Sydney, Australia

Mr. Mimmo is a lawyer in private practice and founder and chairman of the Ambrose Centre for Religious Liberty, active in social action throughout his adult life. He has a Masters in International Law, has played a leading role in human rights debates, and is an Honorary Fellow of Campion College in Sydney, Australia.

Administrator

Sean Murphy

Powell River, British Columbia, Canada

PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

Prof. Iain Benson, Ph.D (Witwatersrand.), JD (Windsor), MA (Cambridge), BA (Hons.) (Queen's);

Professor of Law, University of Notre Dame Australia, Sydney (2016, ongoing). Extraordinary Professor of Law, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein South Africa (2009, ongoing)

Professor Benson is a practising lawyer specialising in pluralism and human rights. His particular focus is on freedoms of association, conscience and religion, the nature of pluralism, multi-culturalism and relationships between law, religion and culture. One of the drafters of the South African Charter of Religious Rights and Freedoms, he has appeared before all levels of court. His work has been cited by the Supreme Court of Canada and the Constitutional Court of South Africa.

J. Budziszewski, Ph.D;

Professor, Departments of Government and Philosophy, University of Texas (Austin), U.S.A.

Dr. Budziszewski, an ethical and political

theorist with special interest in the natural law tradition. He is the author of nine academic books, most recently *The Line Through the Heart: Natural Law as Fact, Theory and Sign of Contradiction* (2009). He has contributed numerous articles and reviews to both scholarly and popular periodicals. Dr. Budziszewski is particularly interested in problems that arise at the intersection of philosophy and theology: the problem of toleration, the nature of human personhood, and the pathologies which flow from moral self-deception.

Shimon Glick, M.D.

Professor (emeritus,active) Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel

Dr. Glick, a founding member of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, is head of the Internal Medicine Department at Soroka Medical Center. He headed the Prywes Center for Medical Education and the Jakobovits Center for Jewish Medical Ethics, and has served as ombudsman for Israel's Ministry of Health. He is widely recognized as an expert in medical ethics, with a particular focus on Jewish medical ethics. Dr. Glick has been honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award as part of the Nefesh B'Nefesh Bonei Zion Awards, recognizing his significant contributions to the State of Israel.

Mary Neal, Ph.D, LLB Honours, LL.M
Senior Lecturer in Law, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Dr. Mary Neal researches, writes, and teaches in the fields of Healthcare Law and Bioethics, focusing on beginning and end-of-life issues. In 2014-15, she was Adviser to the Scottish Parliamentary Committee scrutinising the Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill, and she is a

current member [2018] of the British Medical Association's Medical Ethics Committee. She has published a wide range of academic articles and blogs on a range of topics including, most recently, conscientious objection by healthcare professionals; the nature of 'proper medical treatment'; the role of the emotions in end-of-life decision-making; and the conceptual structure and content of human dignity.

David S. Oderberg, Ph.D

Professor of Philosophy, University of Reading, United Kingdom

Prof. Oderberg is Editor of *Ratio*, an international journal of analytic philosophy, and Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. He is the author of many articles in metaphysics, ethics, philosophy of religion and philosophy of science. His books explore moral theory, applied ethics, bioethics and natural law. His forthcoming book, *The Metaphysics of Good and Evil*, is based on the Hourani Lectures in Ethics he delivered at SUNY Buffalo. Prof. Oderberg has been working on freedom of conscience in health care for several years, with a recent focus on the ethics of cooperation. He is the author of the *Declaration of Support of Conscientious Objection in Health Care* (<https://proconpro.org/conscience-dso>).

Abdulaziz Sachedina, Ph.D;

Frances Myers Ball Professor of Religious Studies, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, U.S.A.

Dr. Sachedina is an American/Canadian citizen born in Tanzania. He has been conducting research and writing in the field of Islamic Law, Ethics, and Theology (Sunni and Shiite) for more than two decades.

The Ministry of Culture in Tehran named Dr. Sachedina's *Islamic Biomedical Ethics: Theory and*

Application the best book of the year for 2010. David Novak (author of *Jewish Social Ethics*) has described him as "the leading Islamic thinker writing in English today."

Roger H. Trigg M.A., D.Phil.;

Academic Director, Centre for the Study of Religion in Public Life, Kellogg College, Oxford, United Kingdom

Professor Trigg is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of Warwick. He directed an interdisciplinary research team in the cognitive science of religion in the University of Oxford, and is Academic Director of the newly established Centre for the Study of Religion in Public Life at Kellogg College, Oxford. Prof. Roger Trigg is the author of many books on Philosophy, particularly combating philosophical relativism. He has played a leading role in learned societies, and was the 2008-10 President of the European Society for Philosophy of Religion.

This pamphlet may be downloaded from the Project website and copied for distribution.

Protection of Conscience Project

7120 Tofino St., Powell River,
British Columbia, Canada V8A 1G3

Tel: (604) 485-9765

E-mail: protection@consciencelaws.org

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Introducing . . .

The Protection of Conscience Project

Service - not servitude



Protection of Conscience Project
Service - not servitude.
www.consciencelaws.org