

“To heir is human, to refrain divine.” ~ Les U. Knight

Preserving Wildlife Habitat

Each of us has to live somewhere, and wherever we live, not much else lives. We're not evil, just incompatible with natural ecosystems. Fortunately, we can significantly ease the pressure we exert.

When a couple in the US chooses to not add another of us, 14 football fields of potential wildlife habitat are saved for 79 years. Not co-creating two more of us saves 28 football fields. Congratulations!

When we begin to ease our pressures on wildlife habitat, restoration of natural ecosystems will achieve success.

Malthus Was Wrong

Rev. Robert Malthus was wrong to oppose contraception, but he changed his mind later. He was not wrong to state that we will increase our numbers up to the limits of our food supply, and then many would starve. More than two billion people experience severe to moderate food insecurity today: twice the total human population of Earth in 1798 when he wrote *An Essay on the Principle of Population*.

With a shrinking population, we could finally end world hunger.

Who are VHEMT Volunteers?

People support the Voluntary Human Extinction Movement (VHEMT) for a variety of reasons, often overlapping.

Some simply don't want to be parents and choose to remain childfree. Antinatalists feel it's ethical to avoid creating new humans, preventing all suffering their life would entail. Many environmentalists understand that the less habitat we use, the more habitat wildlife will have. Humanitarians know we'll be better able to care for existing people, and peaceful relationships between peoples might be achieved with fewer of us. Advocates for non-human animal rights realize that our extinction would eliminate all suffering of domesticated animals such as livestock and us.

What reasons might **you** have for supporting VHEMT?

Population Momentum

In 1950, the global average Total Fertility Rate was 5.0. Today, it's only 2.4. Hooray! However, in 1950 we were only increasing by 47 million per year, and today it's about 80 million: nearly double the increase at half the fertility. Rates are multiplied by a larger base number, so we get exponential momentum.

So-called Replacement Level Fertility of 2.1 is a convenient untruth that makes it seem as if that creating two offspring merely replaces ourselves. Really, it more than doubles our environmental impact.

Rather than stopping at two, we need to stop at once.

Does VHEMT favor abortion?

Only if someone is pregnant and doesn't want to be. Men have a big role to play in preventing unwanted conceptions. By choosing to support condoms and get vasectomies, men will avoid impregnating women who don't want to conceive, gestate, and give birth.

Natalism: the oldest ideology

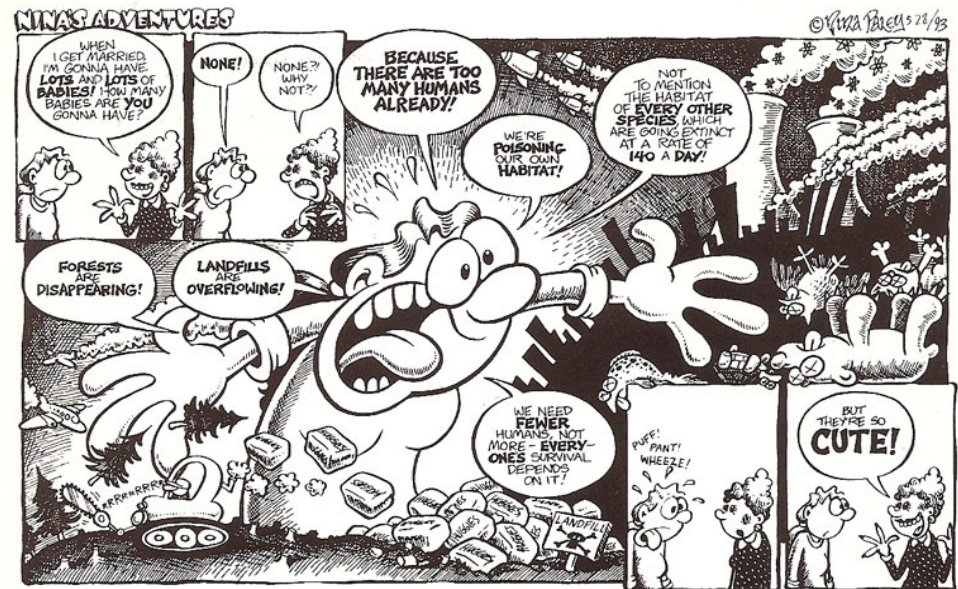
Natalism, or pro-natalism, is a deeply held social attitude that's so ingrained it's nearly invisible. All human societies have evolved to be natalist: treating births as an unquestioned benefit for the community. This began before we knew how babies were made.

Our fecund strategy worked well for our species, and as our populations grew, it became essential for survival. If a tribe didn't produce more members, another tribe would eventually encroach on their territory and likely displace them.

Today, encouraging procreation without question continues, in spite of the fact that our tremendous success has become detrimental to our very survival. The realization that we should stop procreating contradicts hundreds of thousands of years of cultural evolution, so we're naturally resistant to the idea at first.

It can be a challenge to accept that not procreating is a distinctively positive action for family, society, Earth, and especially for the non-existent new human. Couples who have already sired offspring should not feel guilty. It's the future that counts: by not creating more than we already have, we'll be better able to take care of existing people, including our own children.

Let's feed 'em, not breed 'em.



Thinking of the Children

Many of us are concerned for the future of our children and grandchildren, and their children and grandchildren, though they'll be adults three times longer than they're children.

Short sighted thinking can inhibit rational, lifelong decisions. When we say, "Have a baby" or "Have a child," we might also give some thought to the 60 years they'll spend as an adult.

Just a suggestion.

Long term thinking about procreation

With a normal life span, anyone born today could live into the 22nd century, so thinking long term might be a good idea.

Estimating answers to these questions may help a couple make the biggest decision of their lives:

1. How likely is it that Earth will be habitable through this century if we continue with business-as-usual?



2. How likely are we to collectively make changes needed to business-as-usual in time to preserve a habitable planet?



3. What degree of assurance do I need that Earth will be habitable in the future before I would bring another person into existence?



4. Is long term or permanent contraception in my future?



Reproductive Freedom

The right to procreate is fiercely defended, but the right **not** to procreate faces restrictions everywhere: ranging from inconvenient to violent and even deadly. Natalist cultures, enforced by the patriarchy, deny women the freedom they need to live autonomously. They're often coerced and, at times, forced into motherhood. This is not nice.

Although both are violations of human rights, consequences of forcing a woman or girl to conceive and give birth are far graver than restricting the freedom to choose to procreate would be. A more humane and caring world is possible.

Providing everyone with their basic human right to choose whether or not to procreate—including the necessary reproductive health care services—would make it more likely that anyone born is wanted and will be as well cared for as conditions allow.

Looking on the Bright Side

A groundswell of awareness, bubbling beneath the surface of world consciousness, promises to burst forth and shift humanity's worldview in the coming years. Although a sizable proportion of us has arrived at the awareness that the intentional co-creation of one more of us can't be justified today, a spiral of silence continues to keep it hidden, for now.

Fewer deaths

Reducing human deaths is a major goal of the Voluntary Human Extinction Movement. Peacefully phasing ourselves out by not procreating will avoid the brutal involuntary extinction our over-industrialized civilization is working so hard to bring about. Potential humans left unconceived will remain in peaceful non-existence, and will never die.

Thank you for not breeding.

Additionally...

More human population propaganda is available on our website at vhemt.org. For sources of the information in this flier, please use the QR code at right, or go to: <http://vhemt.org/tet.flier.ref.htm>

V1/23US



These **EXIT** Times

Putting the mental in environmental since 1991

Fresh hope for planet and people!

Phasing ourselves out by choosing to stop procreating will achieve amazing benefits for the entire world. All problems facing Earth and humanity will be more easily resolved with a shrinking human population size.



May we live long and die out.

As we make progress toward our voluntarily extinction, there will potentially be more of everything for everyone. We will say goodbye to hunger with fewer of us at the human family's dinner table. Places to live would become less scarce, as housing costs go down with reduced demand.

Wildlife habitat will expand, and so will wild animal populations. We won't have to wait in line to visit a National Park. Traffic jams will be history, and world peace could finally be won.

Not only will the results of a shrinking human family benefit everyone and the environment, the way we get there will greatly improve our well being. Our voluntary extinction requires universal reproductive freedom: the basic human right allowing everyone to choose whether they produce offspring or not, and how many if they do.

A wide range of opportunities will be possible with gender equality: alternatives to creating new people and raising them, more education, careers, economic adventures, activism, and more.

Our basic social unit, the family, can be created anywhere love and people exist together. We don't need to bring more of us into existence to found a family.

Inside this flier, many more happy consequences of a smaller human population will greet your eyes. Come on in.