

Procreative Autonomy and Climate Change

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Are the conditions that might necessitate having the government set limits on the number of children its citizens are allowed to have? If yes, do you think our present circumstances meet that criteria? If no, can you explain the moral value at stake that is so important as to make citizens' procreative freedom sacrosanct?

Instinct theory follows a common pattern by claiming that if something is natural, then it is good. For example, some people argue that because humans' stomachs and teeth have evolved to allow for the consumption of meat, our carnivorous habits must be morally permissible. But how might we object to this kind of reasoning? Can you think of other examples?

If a moral obligation to limit procreation does exist, who do we owe that duty to – who must we make this sacrifice for: our own children, all future generations, humanity, all life on Earth, the world, the universe, yourself? Which of these do you find most compelling? Why?