



Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

ScienceDirect

BIOETHICS UPdate xxx (2016) xxx–xxx

**BIOETHICS
UPdate**

www.elsevier.es/bioethicsupdate

Original article

In defense of the vulnerable in medicine and the life sciences

En defensa de los vulnerables en medicina y las ciencias de la vida

John M. Haas

National Catholic Bioethics Center, Philadelphia, USA

Received 5 November 2016; accepted 6 January 2017

Abstract

International declarations on human dignity and human rights are recalled, such as United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), and UNESCO Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (2005). Instances of violations of such rights in the areas of medicine and life sciences are denounced, such as trade in living human organs, the “reproductive technology industry”, legalized killing of human embryos and assisted suicide. The fact that such rights are currently granted or suppressed by people who have the political power to do so is shown as the cause for such violations, and the need to acknowledge a transcendent source of human dignity and rights is proposed, by which the acceptance of dogmatic teachings of any particular religion is not implied, but rather the acknowledgment, through natural reason, of a Creator who has bestowed worth, dignity and meaning on human beings.

© 2017 Published by Masson Doyma México S.A. on behalf of Centros Culturales de México, A.C.

Keywords: Vulnerability; Person; Bioethics; Medicine; Ethics

E-mail address: JHaas@ncbcenter.org

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bioet.2017.01.005>

2395-938X/© 2017 Published by Masson Doyma México S.A. on behalf of Centros Culturales de México, A.C.

Please cite this article in press as: Haas, J.M. In defense of the vulnerable in medicine and the life sciences. *BIOETHICS UPdate* (2016), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bioet.2017.01.005>

Resumen

Se citan declaraciones internacionales sobre la dignidad y los derechos humanos, tales como la Declaración Universal de los Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas (1948) y la Declaración Universal sobre Bioética y Derechos Humanos de la [UNESCO \(2005\)](#). Se señalan ejemplos de violación de dichos derechos en las áreas de medicina y ciencias de la vida, incluyendo prácticas como el comercio de órganos humanos, la “industria de tecnología reproductiva”, el asesinato legalizado de embriones humanos y el suicidio asistido. Se señala como causa de dichas violaciones el hecho de que tales derechos actualmente los otorgan o los cancelan personas que tienen el poder político para hacerlo, y se propone la necesidad de reconocer una fuente trascendente de la dignidad y los derechos humanos, lo cual no implica la aceptación de las enseñanzas dogmáticas de ningún religión en particular, sino más bien el reconocimiento, por la razón natural, de un Creador que ha otorgado valor, dignidad y sentido a los seres humanos.

© 2017 Publicado por Masson Doyma México S.A. en nombre de Centros Culturales de México, A.C.

Palabras clave: Vulnerabilidad; Persona; Bioética; Medicina; Ética

Introduction

Today there is universal talk of human dignity and human rights. The terms are imbedded in international protocols, conventions and declarations. The United Nations 1948 Universal Declaration on Human Rights insists upon the innate dignity of all human beings stating simply: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

The [2005 UNESCO](#) Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (“Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights: UNESCO”, 2005) speaks repeatedly of human dignity. One of the aims of the Declaration is “to promote respect for human dignity and protect human rights, by ensuring respect for the life of human beings, and fundamental freedoms, consistent with international human rights law”. The Declaration continues: “States should respect and promote solidarity between and among States, as well as individuals, families, groups and communities, with special regard for those rendered vulnerable by disease or disability or other personal, societal or environmental conditions and those with the most limited resources.”

In these documents particular solicitude is usually expressed toward those who are vulnerable. Ours indeed is, fortunately, a cultural tradition that values

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/6831632>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/6831632>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)