



# Ethical Action Report



*A joint publication of the American Ethical Union (AEU) and the  
American Humanist Association (AHA)*

---

Number 10-09

September 2010

## **In this issue:**

**LGBT Equality: Boycott Target and Best Buy for Anti-Gay Political Contributions**

**Human Rights: Ask President Obama to Ratify CEDAW**

**LGBT Equality: Demand the Repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell**

**Disaster Relief: Ask President Obama for More Aide for Pakistan**

**Human Rights: End Breast Ironing in Cameroon**

---

The *Ethical Action Report* does not represent the views of the American Ethical Union or the American Humanist Association. The American Ethical Union takes ethical positions on public affairs only through resolutions adopted by its Assembly or Board. Past AEU resolutions are available, searchable by date or topic, at: <http://aeu.org/library/byresolution.php?case=resolutions>.

---

## **LGBT Equality: Boycott Target and Best Buy for Anti-Gay Political Contributions**

Protest Target and Best Buy's contributions supporting an anti-gay politician by boycotting their stores.

### **BACKGROUND**

Target and Best Buy have been sending a large amount of money to Minnesota Forward PAC, which is paying for advertisements for a vehemently anti-gay candidate for the governor of Minnesota, Tom Emmer. These contributions have attracted the attention of LGBT rights advocates such as the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). Although HRC and Target briefly spoke about how to repair the damage done by Target's contributions, such as withdrawing their donation or donating a similar amount of money to the cause of pro-LGBT equality, Target ultimately decided not to take any corrective action.

Donating money toward the efforts of highly prejudiced candidate like Tom Emmer is unacceptable for Target and Best Buy, whose customers include many LGBT men and women. Boycott your local Target and Best Buy stores until these corporations make amends for their actions by donating an equal contribution to the campaigns of pro-equality candidates.

---

## **Human Rights: Ask President Obama to Ratify CEDAW**

Please write to President Obama and urge him to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

### **BACKGROUND**

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), an international gender equality treaty, has been ratified in 186 countries -- but not in the United States. If the United States were to ratify the treaty it could more thoroughly address issues such as human trafficking, domestic violence and gender-based discrimination.

The advancement of women's rights continues to be a pressing issue within our country. Ask Obama to ratify CEDAW right away!

---

## **LGBT Rights: Demand the Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell**

Contact your senators and ask them to support the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

### **BACKGROUND**

Since the implementation of the policy known as Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT), which disallows gay and lesbian soldiers from serving openly, the military has discharged thousands of LGBT soldiers -- and countless more have left the service in response to the policy. Not only has DADT cost the military millions of dollars in abandoned training funds, but it has also deprived the country of dedicated soldiers and deprived dedicated soldiers of the work in which they excel.

Sexual orientation should have no basis for military discharge. Such discrimination has destroyed the lives of military personnel long enough. Please write to your senators and urge them to vote for the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell today.

---

## **Disaster Relief: Ask Obama for More Aide for Pakistan**

Please write to President Obama and urge him to provide Pakistan with more relief aide.

### **BACKGROUND**

The recent floods in Pakistan have devastated the country, affecting over 15 million people and leaving hundreds of thousands without shelter. While the U.S. has already donated over \$50 million in aide, more assistance is still urgently needed -- including immediate relief support and initiatives to restore electricity, clean water and homes.

Pakistan's road to recovery will be a difficult one, and it will be much more arduous without the help of the United States. Write to President Obama and ask for more Pakistan relief aide today!

## Human Rights: End Breast Ironing in Cameroon

Contact United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and urge him to condemn the practice of breast ironing.

Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017 USA  
212-963-5012

### BACKGROUND

A disturbing trend is sweeping the country of Cameroon: breast ironing. In hopes of preventing sexual assault and teen pregnancy, mothers iron hot stones over their daughter's breasts to stunt their growth. This ritual can cause serious developmental damage, as well as bruises and abscesses. A quarter of Cameroon's young women are subjected to this painful procedure -- some as young as nine years old.

Young Cameroon girls shouldn't suffer at the hands of cultural violence any longer. Ask U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to condemn breast ironing and speak out in favor of comprehensive sexual education programs in Cameroon right away!

---

### *Contacting Elected Officials*

#### **White House**

*Mailing Address*

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

*Phone Number*

Comments: (202) 456-1111  
Fax: (202) 456-2461

*E-mail*

President Barack Obama:  
president@whitehouse.gov

Vice President Joseph Biden:  
vice.president@whitehouse.gov

#### **Congress**

*Mailing Address*

United States Senate  
*Or*

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

*Phone Number*

Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

*E-mail*

Visit [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) or [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) to use your representatives' e-mail contact forms.

**American Ethical Union** • 2 West 64<sup>th</sup> Street • New York, NY 10023

[www.aeu.org](http://www.aeu.org)

**American Humanist Association** • 1777 T Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009

[www.americanhumanist.org](http://www.americanhumanist.org)

Editor: Sarah Ameigh (800) 837-3792

report@americanhumanist.org

[rlkiniry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rlkiniry@sbcglobal.net), [report@aeu.org](mailto:report@aeu.org)

To share your views on national legislation with the Secular Coalition for America (SCA) go to [www.secular.org](http://www.secular.org).