



NORTH AMERICAN
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For Immediate Release

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THE CENTER FOR CHILD WELFARE POLICY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD WELFARE PRESENTS ELIZABETH BARTHOLET WITH THE PRO HUMANITATE CHILD ADVOCACY AWARD

Boston, MA – July 24, 2015

The Center for Child Welfare Policy of the North American Resource Center for Child Welfare (NARCCW) acknowledged Harvard Law Professor, Elizabeth Bartholet as winner of the Pro Humanitate Child Advocacy Award. The award was presented at the 23rd Annual American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children's (APSAC) Colloquium in Boston, Massachusetts on July 24, 2015. NARCCW Director, Dr. Ronald C. Hughes, presented her with the Pro Humanitate medal and a \$1,000 cash prize.

The Pro Humanitate Child Advocacy Award acknowledges child welfare professionals in the field of law, medicine, journalism, social work, nursing, or psychology, who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to advocacy for maltreated children. Selection criteria include assessment of the candidate's contribution in the development of empirically and ethically sound child welfare policy and practice, and their contributions in increasing both professional and public awareness of best practices in child welfare. Bartholet's life work demonstrates such contributions.

Professor Bartholet earned her B.A. degree from Radcliffe College and a J.D. degree from Harvard Law School. An expert on civil rights and family law, Bartholet served from 1968 to 1972 as staff counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and then founded the Legal Action Center, a public interest firm in New York City focused on

criminal justice and substance abuse issues. Since 1977, Bartholet has taught family law specializing in child welfare at Harvard. In the fall of 2004, she launched Harvard's Child Advocacy Program where she currently serves as the program's Faculty Director.

Bartholet has appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show, The Today Show, CBS This Morning, Good Morning America, The MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour, ABC Sunday Night News, and Nightline, just to name a few, and has been interviewed by dozens of radio networks. Her views on child welfare and reproductive issues have been regularly quoted in the national media, including The New York Times, The New Yorker, Time, Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report, The Nation, The New Republic, Vogue, and American Prospect. She has been featured in several TV film documentaries, and has given dozens of speeches throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Although Ms. Bartholet's award is in recognition of her life's work, her recent work focuses on the dangers inherent in the Differential Response reform effort sweeping the country demonstrates her intellectual integrity and moral courage in advocating for children's safety and well-being. Her recent article, *Differential Response: A Dangerous Experiment in Child Welfare*, was jointly published on the Social Science Research Network and in an upcoming issue of the *APSAC Advisor*.

This article describes the Differential Response reform's denigration of essential investigative fact finding for cases referred to CPS for suspicion of child maltreatment. Although premised on good intentions, Differential Response paves a familiar road. Ms. Bartholet's article details how Differential Response reform often hinders the necessary case fact finding that is essential to child protection.

The mission of the North American Resource Center for Child Welfare is to develop and promote resources and public policy that support "best practice" in the field of child welfare.

Dr. Ronald C. Hughes is the Director of NARCCW and the Center for Child Welfare Policy. For more information about NARCCW and the Pro Humanitate Awards, visit their website at www.narccw.com.