

Exploring Antinatalism Podcast

Interview with The Advocacy for Anti-Procreation

Section 1: The Advocacy for Anti-Procreation (AAP);

Can you first off just tell me a little bit about what The Advocacy for Anti-Procreation is?

~ The Advocacy for Anti-Procreation (AAP for short) is my baby, my heart, my meaning for helping others, and in a way helping myself. I started this page because I was offending too many friends on my private page with my antinatalist posts. And what finally set off the page's idea is one of my good friends I've known for decades, that lost a child after a few months of it being born, private messaged me and said if I continued with the posts he wasn't sure he'd be able to remain fb friends with me. This is a friend that means a lot to me, and altho my views are quite strong on antinatalism, I also don't intend to hurt my loved ones. My goal and aim is to help folks grow and learn about antinatalism, not push them away. So, I created the page. It's a lot of my personal views on things, but I also post things that are broader that I think will connect in a similar degree. I post memes and information that relate to antinatalism to some degree, those topics include: childfree lifestyle, adoption, fostering, respite care, reproductive health and education, population data, the right to die arena, quality over quantity, love for animals, bodily choice, environmental topics, and nihilism, these are all aspects of things I post about that I care for on a deep level that intertwine well with each other.

How, why, and when did The Advocacy for Anti-Procreation first form?

~ When my friend inbox'ed me that message of frustration I made the page soon after, that was in 2011. I just started by inviting my friends that I knew felt similar. They then invited their friends. And it just continued. I was so stoked when i reached 50 members, then 100, then 500, and now we have 21k members and Im constantly baffled! And actually, we're about to hit 22k! All I do is share my heart, and it's so humbling to know all these folks share a similar value for existence!

How many founding members of The Advocacy for Anti-Procreation are there/were there?

~ I'm the only founding member and admin, altho it feels weird saying that sometimes on the page so if I ever write anything I typically put it in "we" terms, I feel like this page is about all of us, I just happen to be the main one making the posts, but I'm fully involved in all our members' responses that happen so it's definitely a "we" process.

Did you and do you still do any forms of activism with The Advocacy for Anti-Procreation outside of the internet?

~ My daily life is antinatalist activism! Pretty much everyone that knows me knows my thoughts and views on the idea and knows that I have the page. I make it very well known and always

leave an open ear for anyone wanting to chat about it. I have business cards printed out and I've passed them out before whenever a random conversation with a stranger would happen in person. I still carry them, ya just never know. I've had so many random antinatalist conversations in so many random places it's good to always be prepared. I have considered the idea of doing merch, but I'm just not sure I can take on such a task. Also, the thought of doing meetups has been considered but nothing has come of that yet. I'm not quite sure it's something I could take on alone. Altho you [Amanda/ForeverWolfFilms] has chatted with me about creating a Chicago antinatalist meetup and I think it'd be kick ass!

So you have an active website in addition to the Facebook pages, but you originally had a Wordpress - why did you switch over, and where do you find the most engagement? Do you have a Twitter or Instagram for the group and/or event?

~ Yes, I have both a Wordpress and Wix website for AAP. I originally created the Wordpress site because fb sucks, and it's getting worse, especially for folks with fb groups which is what mine is. Over the past few years fb has gotten worse about things so I decided to make a back up, and to also help with search engine results when folks would do a search on our subject. After a while the Wordpress site didn't look as fresh and presentable, they forced a bunch of ads, it seemed clunky, and altho I'm definitely not skilled in the making of websites, I tried Wix and found it looked much cleaner and fresher, and has no ads, now our posts are easier and better to access. It also has a chat option in case folks would like to utilize that. Wordpress gives me better search engine results, and allows for me to see what countries and such my member base are from, so I continue to keep that page up, but as a link to the new Wix site. *Edit With Instagram and Twitter, I did just finally cave and make those pages. I stated for a long time I wouldn't because I'm not a fan of bouncing around various social media sites. But the IG & Twitter pages won't be active, it'll just be background pages for better search engine results. I won't be posting on them, which is why I made the Wix and Wordpress websites, and why I like that Wix has a chat option. One of the main things that keeps me going with AAP are the inbox messages. I consistently receive inbox messages from around the world of folks in distress and needing someone to talk to or vent to. Folks needing advice, encouragement, support, or even just a listening ear. I do this partially for me, to have a place to vent my own views on things, but there's no way I'd continue on with it if it didn't make a difference in others' lives. So, when I get a message from someone in another country that's all alone and has no one else to talk to about their reproductive health and rights that's when I know all this work is beneficial. It's why I continue with fb, and moved forward with making other websites, so that there's many options for keeping in touch.

The Facebook group currently has over 21k Followers, congratulations! Did that suddenly just happen? Was there a point in time when a really massive number of people started joining up?

~ Thank you so much! We're even about to hit 22k! It's definitely been a lot of hard work, but soooo well worth it! Our members have all been natural. On average I'd say we get about 10 new members a day. I've never bought or paid for fake membership, and I will never give fb a penny no matter how hard they attempt to push groups around. And not that I want to go in to a

rant about the shittiness of fb, buuuut, when I started my page it was easy flowing, everything happened naturally and members responded naturally. But over the past few years fb has decided to use algorithms so that they only send out posts to who they think should receive them and when. It's hurt our natural response on the page. I can tell when fb hasn't allowed for one of our posts to be seen by our members. Recently I made a reddit post of doctors around the world that approve sterilizations. Now, I know my members want and need to see this information, however, because it's a link from another site fb barely shared the post and I got less than a 100 responses when I have over 21k members. The math doesn't make sense. And the reason I bring this up is due to your question of did your membership all suddenly happen. Fb now decides when and to whom my posts get seen. It's terrible and hindering to our cause. One major random boost that happened, without me doing anything out of the ordinary, was a post that randomly went viral in France years after I posted it. People started commenting in French and tagging French names in the comments. I was around 10k members at the time, and within DAYS I was up an extra 4k members, out of nowhere. It would normally take me a year or two to get that many. There was no reason for that post to go viral like it did. It continued to grow so out of control I had to delete the post altogether because I knew fb was about to ban me for it in some way, even though I had nothing to do with it. In all this to say, all of my members have happened naturally, I've never and will never pay for fake memberships. I appreciate the genuine love and support, not this phony crap fb is trying to do, pushing us around in every way in attempts to make us pay for boosts. I won't do it, but, unfortunately it doesn't stop fb from algorithm'ing my posts, and it's terrible. I could go on about all the troubles fb has caused for groups and pages the past few years, but I'll digress. Needless to say, all my members are genuine and made naturally via good ole word-of mouth!

You mention somewhere on the website that memes are a big part of what The Advocacy for Anti-Procreation does, can you explain more about this part of what you do?

~ Sure. I'm not the best commentator, so I've found it's best to speak in memes. It gets the attention better, makes the point easier, and looks nicer... I do try sharing links on occasion but with fb algorithms those hardly get noticed, so I just continue to stick with good-ole memes, they seem to be received the best.

In what ways do you see the AAP page on Facebook as being different than other Antinatalist FB pages or groups?

~ Us antinatalist sites are very similar in many ways, but there are a few where some of us differ...

we aren't completely childfree necessarily, we encourage adoption, fostering, volunteering with children, and respite care, we believe in taking care of what's already here and adding to the quality of that life, especially for those wanting to take on raising children in some form rather than creating more, it's an exceptional alternative that can be beneficial in great ways... (and in speaking on this, I don't get to post as often as I'd like on this subject. It's very hard to find content. Most adoption/fostering content is geared towards infertility, as though adoption/fostering is a last resort for those that can't bare their own. This is terrible. Taking care of what's

already here shouldn't be considered a last resort, and the dynamic of this really needs changed.) I don't allow drama, I've noticed other pages encourage a hatred towards spawners and allow drama, I don't allow that on my page and attempt to rope it in when possible while encouraging thought out dialogue

I allow folks of all types on our page, we don't discriminate, if you can respectfully put up with our anti-spawning posts you're more than welcome to hang around!, in all my years of running AAP I've only ever blocked three ppl because they were being hate filled trolls, all others are welcome, even recently I got an inbox message demanding I ban breeders, I told them all are welcome, although they didn't take kindly to that response it is still and will always be our loving stance, how can we ever grow if we block ourselves off and live in a bubble, our antinatalism stance and reasoning is strong, we have so many valid points, and that's why we have so many members of all varying lifestyles, including spawners, that agree and remain active members of AAP, and we welcome them always

Section 2: Annual International Anti-Procreation Day, June 17th:

At what point in The Advocacy for Anti-Procreation's existence did the idea for Anti-Procreation Day first come about?

~ In 2013, two years after creating AAP, I thought it'd be fun to have a few guest moderators, one of them was named Dan, Dan thought of this event idea after us tossing around some page boosting ideas, June 17th is his birthday so we went with that finding it humorous that a birthdate would celebrate antinatalism! Thanks Dan!

2017 was the first year it seems that the event had a Facebook event page, but when exactly was the first year of Anti-Procreation day?

~ 2014 is when fb started saving our event pages to be seen for future, we've had this event since 2013 but fb didn't save that one for some reason. All our archived, and current, event links can be found on our fb page.

So how many years has the event been running?

~ This will be its 8th year! I must admit tho, with fb hindering events the way they do, setting up algorithms against us, the response has been lower the past couple years. It's been difficult pushing the boost for our holiday. I go off of my member's responses and it hasn't been getting the boost it has in the past. I'm not sure the underlying reason, but if my members aren't receiving the info, or feeling the boost, then it really hurts the cause, sooooo members, if you want this to continue we need you to be active in it! Click attending, share your stories, and invite folks you know, this holiday is for you, so make it happen!

What do you think people should do on Anti-Procreation Day? What are the suggested activities?

~ I prefer to leave it up to the members. Not everyone wants or can eat cake, not everyone wants to read a book, not everyone wants to make fliers, or take a walk, but the main goal is that there is no spawning on that day. Let's have at least one day every year where we aren't destroying our

world with new humans, ONE DAY!! I've also had folks suggest theme proposals... but, no matter how you choose to celebrate it, make it your day, this is for you, do something special, whatever that may be for you! And if you wanna throw out a theme, shoot me ideas! And if anyone can figure out how to make this a wikipedia holiday to get more boost I'd be delighted with the help!

What are some of the most interesting things people have told you they have done on the day of the event? How do you personally celebrate the day of the event?

~ Some of my favorites are folks that: cuddle their pets, lounge around naked, share our holiday on other sites, and/or get sterilized, most members are just happy to have a day of peace and quiet in honor of their antinatalist lifestyle! How I've celebrated in the past... most years I stay active on the event page the whole 48 hours (keeping up with every time zone in one day is a long 48hr process!), since it's international I want to keep up with what's going on and keep up the boost, but then my hubby yells at me that we aren't also celebrating and need to go do something for a few hours! So, sometimes we go get cake and ice cream, explore some various part of Chicago we haven't seen yet, play with our kitty, have non-procreating sex since we're both fixed!, and just enjoy the elated holiday with all of you, hoping that it's making a positive difference in the world!

Has the amount of participation continued to increase each year? When was it's most successful year so far?

~ It's most successful year was 2018, we had over 1,500 attendees from at least 46 different countries!, but we managed to keep the 2016 event page up for three years and keep it active so it built up. The problem with that was folks got confused, and fb added new restrictions, so we had to stop that. Since then fb has done their best to fuck up event pages as much as possible, so the boost is less and the numbers are lower. And, as a group, I'm not able to send out invites to all my members personally, so the event only gets seen by those fb chooses to, plus, with covid, I think a lot of folks feel the event is in person and are scared to acknowledge events. Times are definitely changing with fb events, all I can do is keep trying, and hoping that it's making a positive change in existence! But, so far this year (2020), we have 40 countries represented and there's still another week to go! I'd say that's pretty spectacular!

Where would you say most of the participants are coming from in the world?

~ According to our page data, our members represent 45 different countries, speaking in 47 different languages, half of our members are from the US, our members represent all age ranges and genders! I'm so proud to have such a diverse group involved in this cause and holiday!

Can you speak a little bit about the translations that have been done so far for the AAP? Are you still looking for people to do translations?

~ I'm always looking for translators for the event! I love diversity, and aim to connect with as many folks in the world as possible! I've been able to get translations before in many languages for the annual event but it's been difficult to keep up with it since every year we need them re-

translated, and online translations are iffy so doing them myself isn't really possible, but if anyone is ever interested in translating just message us, we'd be honored to have ya!

Has the event so far received any press or media attention ever?

~ We have been shared on youtube, reddit, facebook, eventbu, allevents, eventerbee, blogs, petty certain we're shared on instagram & twitter, AAP has been in school papers, I've done online interviews, in-person interviews, and now an audio interview! I've tried expanding further with making a wikipedia page but wikipedia never responded with my entry. I'd still love to have one made if anyone knows how to get that going *hint hint*!

Are you aware of the other Anti-Procreation based days and events, such as the much older Child-Free Day which has it's origins in the 70's, and Antinatalism Day, which I think is 2 years old now. What do you think about these other events? Do you celebrate them?

~ Yes! I actually found out about them a couple years ago through your [Amanda's] youtube site, ForeverWolfFilms. When I started my event I thought I was all alone, no one I knew of had heard of any similar event. I love that these events are happening, maybe someday one, or all, of them will become internationally recognized and put on calendars! Our only difference from the other events is that we encourage and celebrate adoption/fostering/respite care/volunteering with children. We aren't a completey child-free group, we recognize that some folks love children, and the benefit the world gains by folks taking on children already here through those means. We want a great quality of life for everyone, so we include those that want to take on that responsibility of raising children not biologically theres. Other than that we pretty much all share the same underlying values, so I'd love for any of these holidays to become legitamately recognized!

Section 3: Other Questions:

How long have you been an Antinatalist?

~ Probably my whole life. I've never really wanted to exist, and I've never wanted to bring a child in to such suffering. It's not fair to them. I even had an abortion as a teen. I got myself in to some trouble but I've always known I didn't want to add another life in to this terrible world. Why would I ever want to cause something I love so dearly to suffer so terribly, and why would anyone else want that either.

You started the AAP pretty far back - was the word Antinatalism known to you then when you first began? When was the first time you heard that term?

~ No! I started AAP in 2011, and I'm not sure that word was a thing back then, otherwise I would have most likely titled my page by it somehow. Antinatalism has a better flow to it, but at this point my name is pretty solid so I'm sticking with it for the long haul! And I probably heard the term antinatalism maybe five years later.

You mention environmentalist concerns on the website, lowering the carbon footprint - are you an environmentalist, and would you say that is a core reason that drives your Antinatalism, and the AAP?

~ Partly, unfortunately, similar with adoption/fostering, I don't get to post as much on it as I'd like on the subject, but finding factual data without biases is quite difficult, though it is quite certain the more humans on the planet the worse we effect the environment, which is very sad and terrible. With an exponentially rising 7.6 billion humanoids on this planet, it's guaranteed we're making permanent universal damage.

I'd also like to add the link to: census.gov/popclock. The media likes to use the term "birth rate" to make it seem we aren't as bad on overpopulation as it seems. But what they aren't talking about is "net gain/loss". Birth rate only accounts for number of babies per household being born. Yes, each household is having less babies than 100 years ago, but what they aren't accounting for is how many people are having babies. Rough estimate numbers, but a hundred years ago only a billion were having ten babies, now it's 7.6 billion having 3 babies. Net gain/loss also considers death. Folks are living much longer than 100 years ago. If you go to the census website and calculate a minute's worth of change, we are exponentially net gaining at a rate of:

149 net gain/min in the world

8,940 net gain/hour in the world

214,560 net gain/day in the world

6,436,800 net gain/avg 30 day month in the world

and this is considering deaths, so we are averaging a net GAIN of a population of 6.5 million a month in the world. This is absolutely not the same as birth rate. And this exponential net gain is guaranteed to be causing permanent universal damage on our environment.

Do you also consider the AAP a right to die advocate group?

~ Not necessarily, but the page is a part of me and part of me heavily advocates for the right to die arena. Having a say over your life and how it ends should be of utmost importance, especially, and this is how it ties in to antinatalism, is that some of us never wanted to be born, some of us never wanted to be here, we didn't get a say over being born but we should have a say over how we die, and we should have legal peaceful options for that. Quality over quantity.

You also talk about Nihilism in your group description, can you tell me more about your position on that?

~ That's also another facet of my life. I love nihilistic humor. It's not something I post on often but there definitely are other members who agree with the nihilistic posts when I do share them. People get it. They understand and agree this world is shit and pointless, and I think more agree with it than let on in the world. People hide behind all types of coping mechanisms but when you allow yourself to really truly think about existence deep down most people will agree on some level that it makes no sense and there's no point, and I think that reflects in to antinatalism.

Do you follow Antinatalist news and happenings much on social media and otherwise? Do you actively read many Antinatalism related books?

~ I come about things here and there in daily life. I'm not certain there's any one specific thing I follow for specific news and updates, but I do absorb them as they come about in daily life. And I do occasionally hear about books, and when I do I'll post about them. One book we backed, and are in the thank-you credits for, is called, "Eisley, and the Quest to be Baby-Free".

Do you think that Antinatalism should lead to extinction? Do you see that as the ultimate goal?

~ I think we have a varying degree of members, some that are pro-extinction and some that just want population substained. I personally wouldnt mind if the world went completely extinct of humanity, we seem to do nothing but make the world worse and what would it matter to us if we were no longer here anyways. I doubt the animals or plants would mind, it's really only humans that seem to make existence a definition, nothing else in the world cares if we're here or not, animals survive just fine, plants survive just fine, and if the universe were to ever not exist I doubt plants and animals would care either, especially since you can't care if you don't exist. What would it matter, the only reason anything matters is because we as humans make it so, and what good is that, if we're gone what would it matter. But I dont subscribe to the idea of forcing that as an ultimate goal on anyone. I personally wouldn't mind if we went extinct, but i wouldn't go so far as to make it my full daily advocacy such as VHEMT or Church of Euthanasia.

Section 4: Closing Questions:

What do you hope to achieve ultimately with the AAP and Anti-Procreation Day? What if any are the big goals?

~ For us to continue to grow, and to have our holiday made in to an official internationally known recognized and celebrated holiday! There's far too many birth and parental recognized holidays, we need an antinatalist day of some sort for the world to celebrate in! And, always, for this page to continue to benefit the world. I don't need to be a face in front of it, I just want it to reach the world and for all to know we're more than our reproductive organs.

Whats the biggest thing that people can do to help make the event and the group grow?

~ SHARE, SHARE, SHARE, SHARE in all aspects in whatever way you can, and then share that link to us so we can share that as well! Translators, we could use your help! And if anybody can make us a damn wikipedia holiday page that'd be huge! I know there's someone out there that can make that happen for us!

Where can people find the APP and more info on Annual International Anti-Procreation Day? Do you have anything else you wish to plug?

~ For anyone interested in joining you can find us on fb at "Advocacy for Anti-Procreation", our event page is "Annual International Anti-Procreation Day". You can also find us on Wix and Wordpress, under the same title. And to plug I'd just like to thank you [Amanda] for this interview and everything you're doing on Youtube at ForeverWolfFilms. For those that don't know, Amanda is a huge advocate for this arena. Amanda has also worked tirelessly for years to

attempt getting "antinatalism" in to the dictionary, and if you can help in that process in any way please contact Amanda/ForeverWolfFilms so that can become a thing!

Section 5: Closing Comment:

Anything else you'd like to say?

~ Thank you, Amanda, for this interview, and to everyone else for listening! May we make antinatalism widely known, accepted, and encouraged. Much love!