

the basis of whether you are straight or gay is a freedom issue. That is becoming clearer all over America.

The first edition of this book played a role in the adequate framing of the deepest reality of gay rights. The prior arguments were about rights of inheritance, of hospital visitation—discrimination in monetary and social matters. These were practical issues. What this book made clear was that the issue was fundamentally moral—a matter of love and commitment. All people should be free to marry whoever they love and want to be committed to for life. Progressives began using that message more and more frequently beginning a decade ago, and we have seen the right to marry progress by leaps and bounds.

Framing the truth at the deepest moral level matters.

What have been called “women’s issues” are also freedom issues, and these have not been adequately framed as such. In general:

- **Body control.** The right of human beings to control their own bodies is a freedom issue.
- **Respect.** The right of human beings to be treated institutionally with respect as a human being is a freedom issue.

Women are human beings and have a right to control their own bodies. When that is denied, they are not free. Control over a woman’s body arises in a wide variety of cases:

- **Sex education.** For women especially, sex education is required for control over one’s body, since women need education about menstruation, sexually transmitted diseases that can affect future childbirth, how sex can lead to pregnancy, and how reproduction can be controlled.
- **Control of reproduction.** Reproduction occurs through women’s bodies and affects those bodies in a great many ways. Women need to be in control of whether or when they reproduce. Thus access to family planning advice, birth control methods, and abortion are issues of control of a woman over her body.