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## **Term “Eugenic Injustice” Introduced at Harvard Lecture**

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In March 2005, Dr. James D. Watson, a member of the team that discovered the double-helix structure of DNA, lectured at a genetics and genomics symposium in Harvard’s Geological Museum Lecture Hall. Watson, whose son suffers from schizophrenia, supports preventative genetic testing as a means of individually-based eugenics.

During the lecture, Watson stated that we should “fight against genetic injustice” and advocate for specific individual genetic testing so potential parents will know the potential for genetic disorders in their offspring. Although he is opposed to policies similar to societal eugenics of the Nazi German era, Watson promotes a means to lower the number of families affected by genetic ailments. Watson is co-opting a term coined by women of color to diametrically oppose our stance on eugenical science. Since preventative eugenic testing will be an expensive procedure, it prevents access to poor families and creates a means for the technology to be used for population control. “These eugenic and population control tactics are informed by ableism, gender bias, racism and classism that seeks to predetermine a social and medical norm of the ‘perfect baby’ and ‘perfect reproduction’ and further detracts from looking at societal institutions and environmental factors that are affecting our physical, emotional and spiritual well being,” says Cara Page, National Director of Committee on Women Population and the Environment. “Mr. Watson’s use of language needs an immediate counter-feminist voice to offer clarity and another vantage point to what we mean by ‘fight against genetic injustice’ or we could move one step further and ask for the fight against eugenics and population control.” For more information on eugenics, visit <http://www.eugenicsarchive.org/eugenics/>

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