

12-2022

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Recommended Citation

Davis, S. P. (2022). Ethical and Moral Imperatives of 2022. *Journal of Health Ethics*, 18(2).
<http://dx.doi.org/10.18785/jhe.1802.01>

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Ethical and Moral Imperatives of 2022

Sheila P. Davis

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As we wrap up events in 2022 which topped headlines in the world news, while COVID-19 continues to command front page coverage, a host of other significant events nipped at its heels. Chief among the news snatchers is the Russian – Ukrainian War. The world continues to watch war horrors reminiscent of World War II black and white films of European bombed out cities, refugees fleeing with just the clothes on their backs, and glazed over expressions of children trying to make sense of fight and flight among 'leaders.' We taught; this is how conflict is handled.... bomb, kill, destroy, demolish, and grab! Diplomacy was officially relegated as an antiquated concept. This is what we demonstrated to the upcoming generation in 2022.

In using the same Constitution written in 1787 and operationalized since 1788, U.S. Supreme Court justices overturned the Roe and Casey cases in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*; thereby, ending the protection of abortion rights by the US Constitution and allowing individual states to regulate any aspect of abortion not preempted by federal law. Are there forthcoming reinterpretations of the Constitution? Some say that laws will shortly be introduced and passed demanding a National Day of Worship. While many think that this is preposterous, who would have thought that further erosion of our freedom would have occurred? Try boarding an airplane without being 'investigated' for concealment of weapons or other artifacts capable of causing harm and injury? You are assumed to be guilty until proven otherwise by a scanner, pat down, or both. You can no longer lock your luggage. We quickly acquiesced to this new normal for safety and protection. Given a significant enough event, the world as we know it can change drastically. Nine-eleven (911) taught us all that.

On January 6, 2021, there occurred on national and international news, an attempted, what some are calling, an insurrection on the United States Capital. The impact of this action continued to be played out in 2022 resulting in what appears to be an escalating polarization of the government. Can we just get along? It seems not. Looking to 2023 and presidential hopefuls announced for the next election in the United States, peace and harmony is not likely to be ushered in. Buckle your seatbelts.

In the current *JHE* issue, Fung Kei Chang discusses what is termed the injustice that the COVID-19 Vaccine Pass imposes on public hospitals in Hong Kong. Chang contends that the mandated Vaccine Pass threatens health equity and social justice for healthcare decision makers and practitioners. Proposed is a more holistic solution to strengthen individual immunity and the overall management of an epidemic in one's country. This more holistic approach may have some merit to other countries who are attempting the vaccine response. No one wants a repeat pandemic.

Perhaps one of the most vulnerable populations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic were those in assisted living facilities. We watched in abject horror as elderly ones in nursing homes died being denied the companionship of family and loved ones at their sides. Wickersham surveyed nursing administration leaders of assisted living facilities in the US nationally to assess lessons learned and attempts to be ready for the next pandemic wave. Due to the philosophy of care, rapid employee turnover, and a host of other cultural, environmental, and physical constraints, it does not seem likely that these facilities will be any more positioned for the next pandemic as they were with COVID. However, given are suggestions which can be used to advocate for these facilities. We have a moral and ethical duty to protect the vulnerable.

How often do we consider the safety and protection of those tasked with providing safety and protection of the public? In article three, Otu and Otu examine the phenomenon of why police reject

counseling. Using a triangulated methodology, they apply the theory of labeling to determine why police are obstinate regarding counseling. Police in an American city and a Nigerian city are studied. It was revealed that the stigmatization and labeling of officers accepting counseling stood as the primary reason for refusal of assistance with employee stress. They submit that unless this subculture is addressed, police officers will continue to suffer disproportionate stress which have demonstrated negative results. Suggestions are given for attempts to positively impact the culture and create a more accepting environment for those who hold the public trust. It appears that this reach could likely be generalized to the public servants such as first responders, those in the military and perhaps those in healthcare.

In article four, authors from Boston College and Tufts University examine beginning physician's reflective writings from a multidisciplinary perspective. The goal was to somehow trace the evolution of thought and actions as one transitioned from being a novice in one's profession to the point of being a mature provider who was comfortable in admitting lack of knowledge in some areas. Stressed is the concept of multiple disciplines' review and interpretation of self-reflective writings. They reckoned that self-reflection among the physicians encouraged deeper thinking and perhaps, greater assembly into the profession. Given the current rate of burnout among health providers and other professionals that work under unusually stressful conditions, it could be that the tool of reflective writings as a means of becoming acculturated into one's profession may hold merit for a multiplicity of disciplines. Given are examples of everyday occurrences in the teaching/learning process and the self-reflective reaction to the occurrence. One begins to analyze and possibly trace how the daily experiences aided in shaping one's overall learning process. I would imagine that there could be far reaching application possibilities for use of reflective writing as a means of development and deciphering one's mastery of a discipline.

In disciplines like law enforcement such as described by Otu and Otu, with those who are over stressed and yet recalcitrant about accepting assistance, it could be that a part of the subculture change might consist with use of some form of written self-reflection in the training process.

As we look toward 2023, based upon how we have attempted to solve the global ethical/moral healthcare issues, are you encouraged? If you are not and you have suggestions, please share them with our readers. In 2022, we had over 96,000 downloads from people around the world. Somebody is reading this journal. Thanks to each author for sharing your scholarship with us. As a leadership team, we remain committed to presenting this journal free of charge to you. If you have published with us, kindly consider being a reviewer. We have an international audience and would welcome you to join us.

Best wishes for the upcoming holiday season and the new year.