

# Applying Bahá'í Principles to Address Current Ethics and Policy Debates in Organ Transplantation



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# Disclosures



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No Conflicts of Interests

Financial Disclosure:

National Institutes of Health (NIH)  
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

# Organ Transplantation: Global Enterprise



The transplantation of solid organs, such as kidney, liver, heart or lung, is increasingly a regular component of health care all over the world, and is no longer a feature of health care in high-income countries alone.

World Health Organization

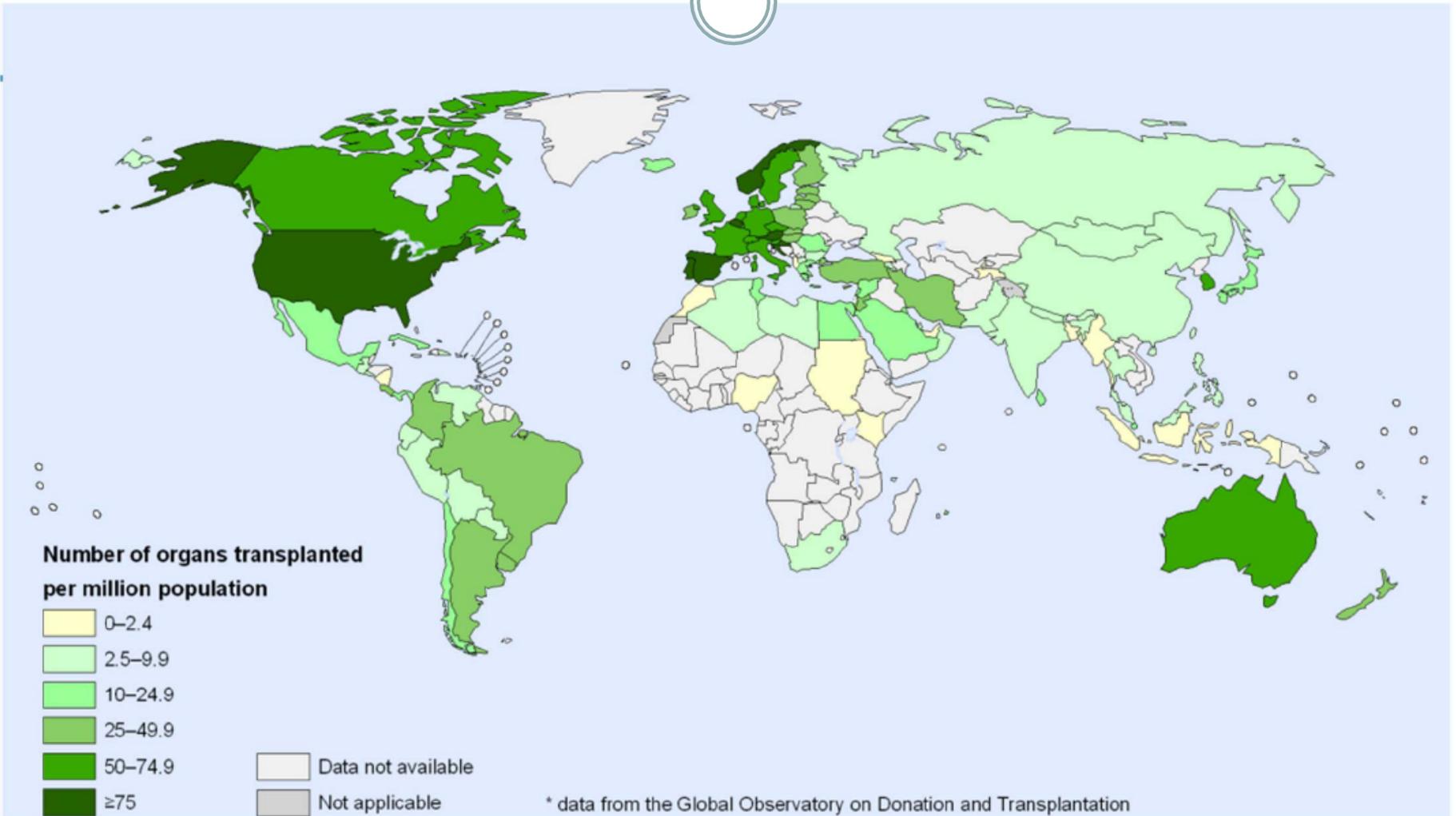
# Organ Transplantation: 2010 WHO Global Activity Estimates



Organ	Number Transplants
Kidney	73,179
Liver	21,602
Heart	5,582
Lung	3,927
Pancreas	2,362
Small Bowel	227

- Approximately 106,879 solid organs are transplanted each year, world-wide in more than 95 countries
- Transplants increased 2.12% from 2009
- This represents less than 10% of the estimated need for transplants

# Global Transplantation Activities of Solid Organs

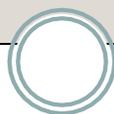


# Organ Transplantation: Procedural and Implementation Objectives



**Create Efficient and Just Organ Transplant  
Systems at National and International Levels**

# A Transformative Exhortation



There is no force on earth that can equal in its conquering power the force of justice and wisdom...

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Be anxiously concerned with the needs of the age ye live in, and center your deliberations on its exigencies and requirements.

Bahá'u'lláh

# Towards Applying Bahá' í Principles for Creating Efficient and Just Organ Transplant Systems



- I. Adheres to Principle of Oneness of Humanity
- II. Respects Sanctity of Human Life
- III. Safeguards Personal Freedoms and Public Welfare
- IV. Delivers Transparent and Participatory Processes

# I. Principle of The Oneness of Humanity



## Evaluative Criteria & Candidate Domains of Application:

- Gender
- Race and Ethnicity
- Ideology and Belief Systems
- Geography
- Socioeconomic Status

# Mandate for Implementation



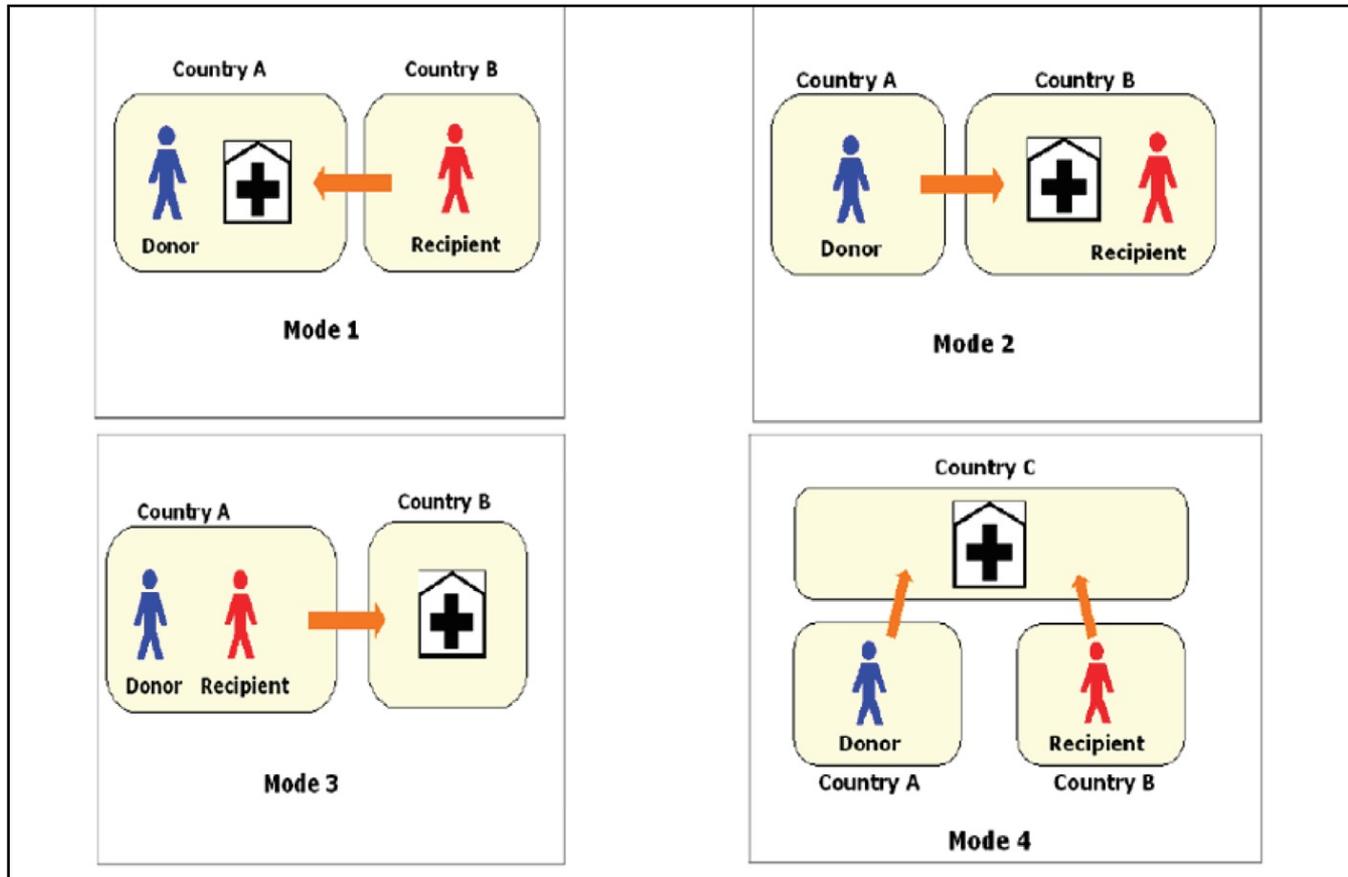
The principle of the Oneness of Mankind - the pivot round which all the teachings of Bahá' u' lláh revolve - is no mere outburst of ignorant emotionalism or an expression of vague and pious hope...

Its message is applicable not only to the individual, but concerns itself primarily with the nature of those essential relationships that must bind all the states and nations as members of one human family...

It calls for no less than the reconstruction ... of the whole civilized world.

Shoghi Effendi

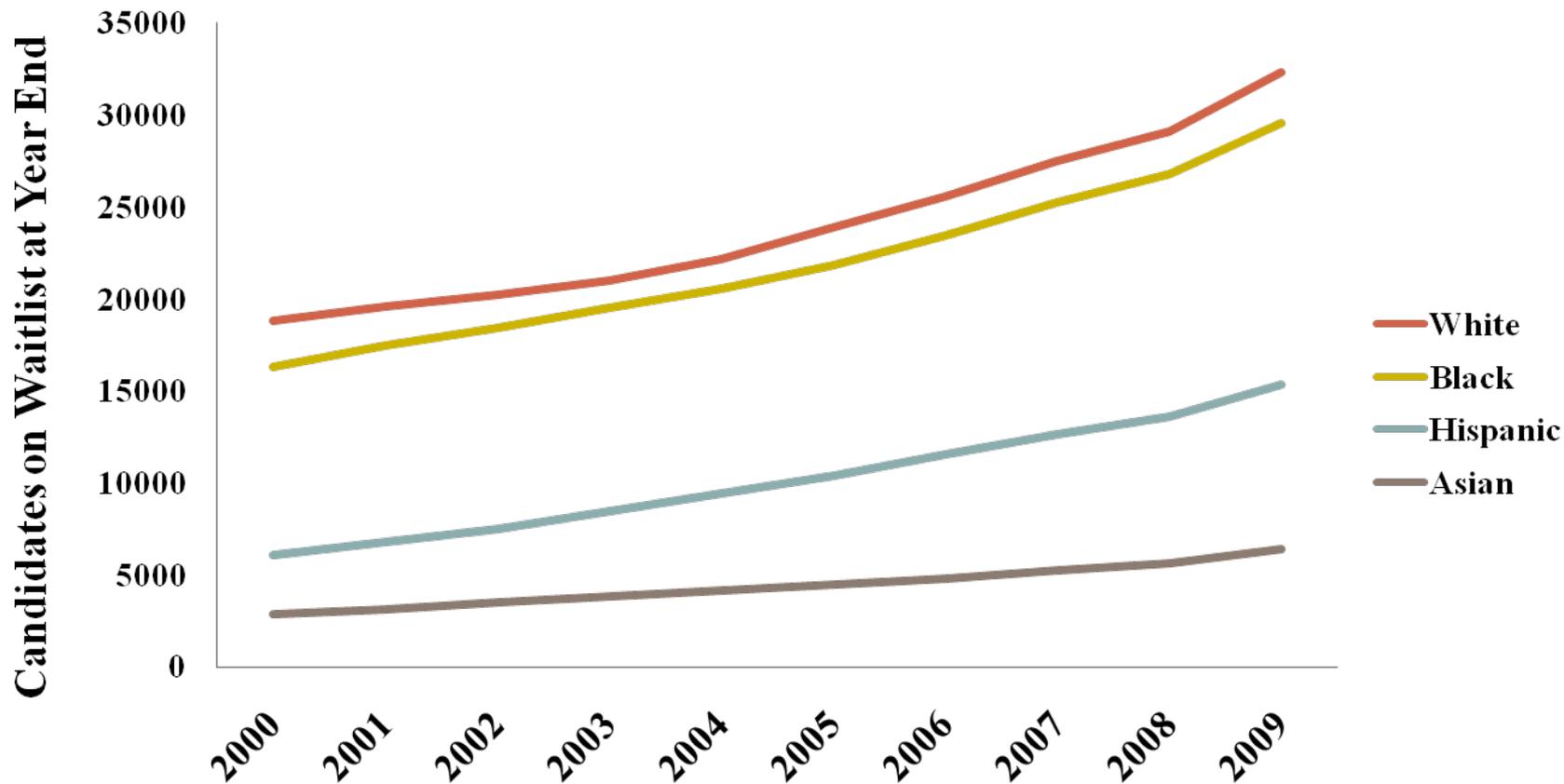
# On Non-sustainable National Control Legislations



# On Racial and Ethnic Disparities

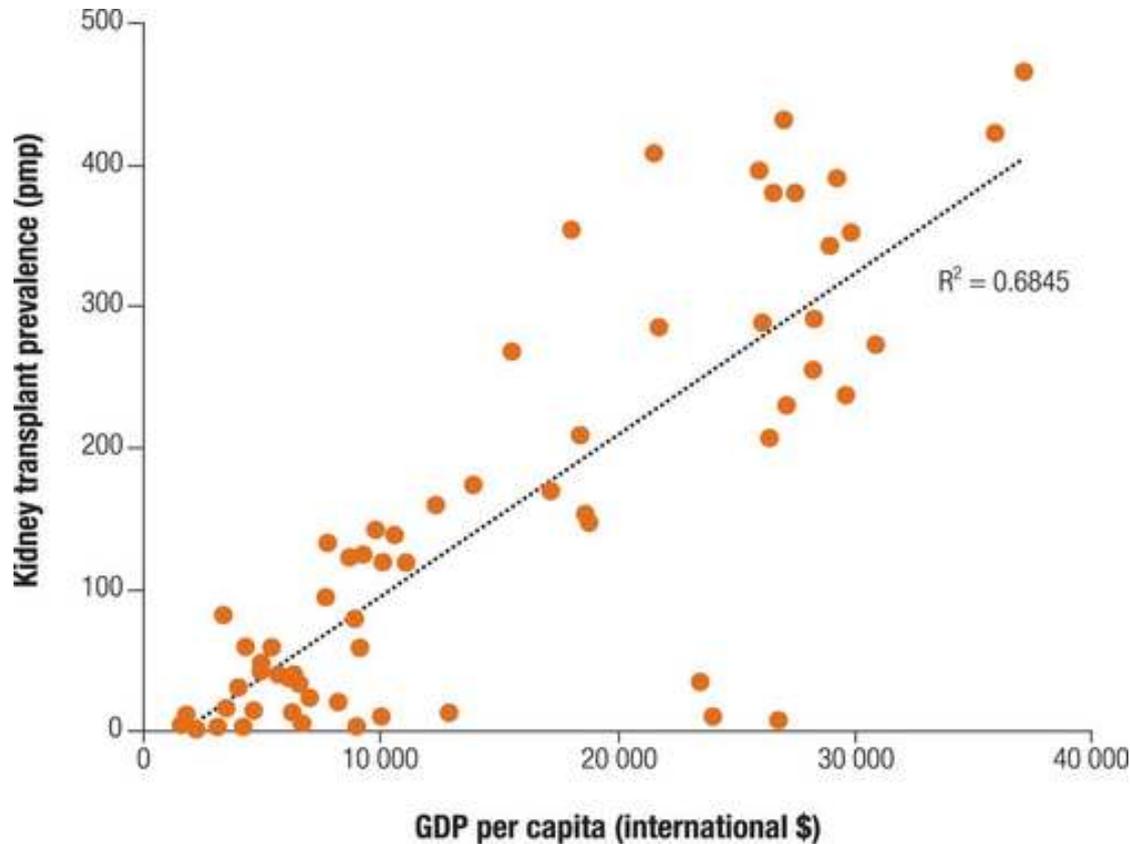


## Kidney Waitlist by Race in U.S.



Based on Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network data as of December 9, 2011.

# On Socioeconomic Disparities



## Sample Nations:

0-10,000

India, Indonesia

10-20,000

Brazil, Russia

20-30,000

Saudi Arabia, Israel

30-40,000

U.S., Germany

# Oneness of Mankind



In every Dispensation the light of Divine Guidance has been focused upon one central theme.... In this wondrous Revelation, this glorious century, the foundation of the Faith of God and the distinguishing feature of His Law is the consciousness of the Oneness of Mankind.

Abdu' l-Bahá

## II. The Sanctity of Human Life



### Evaluative Criteria & Candidate Domains of Application:

- Quality Care for Donors and Recipients
- Enhancement of Life: Medical and Psychosocial
- Human Commodification

# The Unique Station of Mankind



Man is the noblest of the creatures. In his physical organism he possesses the virtues of the mineral kingdom. Likewise, he embodies the augmentative virtue, or power of growth, which characterizes the kingdom of the vegetable. Furthermore, in his degree of physical existence he is qualified with functions and powers peculiar to the animal, beyond which lies the range of his distinctive human mental and spiritual endowment.

‘Abdu’ l-Bahá

# On Enhanced Healthcare for Donors and Recipients



- Standardize medical system care of recipients and living donors
- Assure ethical standards for obtaining consent
- Conduct scientific studies of long-term outcomes (eg. Registries of at-risk living donors)

# On Enhancement of Life



- Investment in scientific inquiry to improve recipient and donor medical and psychosocial outcomes
- Exchange of international data
- Standardization of data collection methodologies
- Standardization of data metrics

# Resources for Transplant Stakeholders



[www.organdonor.gov/materialsresources/](http://www.organdonor.gov/materialsresources/)

## TALKING ABOUT TRANSPLANTATION



What Every  
Patient Needs  
to Know

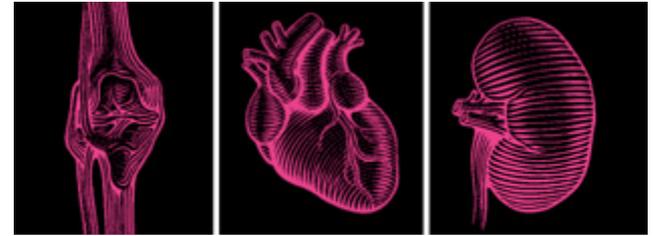
# Prohibition on Commodification of Humans



It is not for him who is himself a servant to buy another of God's servants, and this hath been prohibited in His Holy Tablet. Thus, by His mercy, hath the commandment been recorded by the Pen of justice.

Bahá'u'lláh

# Red Market: Organ Price Points



## **HEARTS**

**Price:** Legal: \$997,700 / Illegal: \$119,000

**Source:** Legal: Deceased donors / Illegal: Chinese prisoners

## **LIVERS**

**Price:** Legal: \$557,000 / Illegal: \$157,000

**Source:** Legal: Living donors, deceased donors / Illegal: Executed prisoners, Filipino slum-dwellers

## **KIDNEYS**

**Price:** India: \$15,000 / China: \$62,000 / US: \$262,900

**Source:** Legal: Living donors, deceased donors / Illegal: Paid donors, executed prisoners

# III. Personal Freedoms and Public Welfare



Evaluative Criteria & Candidate Domains of Application:

- Personal Domain - Access and Choice
- Public Domain – Access and Utility

# Spectrum of Liberty



The Ancient Beauty hath consented to be bound with chains that mankind may be released from its bondage, and hath accepted to be made a prisoner within this most mighty Stronghold that the whole world may attain unto true liberty.

Bahá'u'lláh

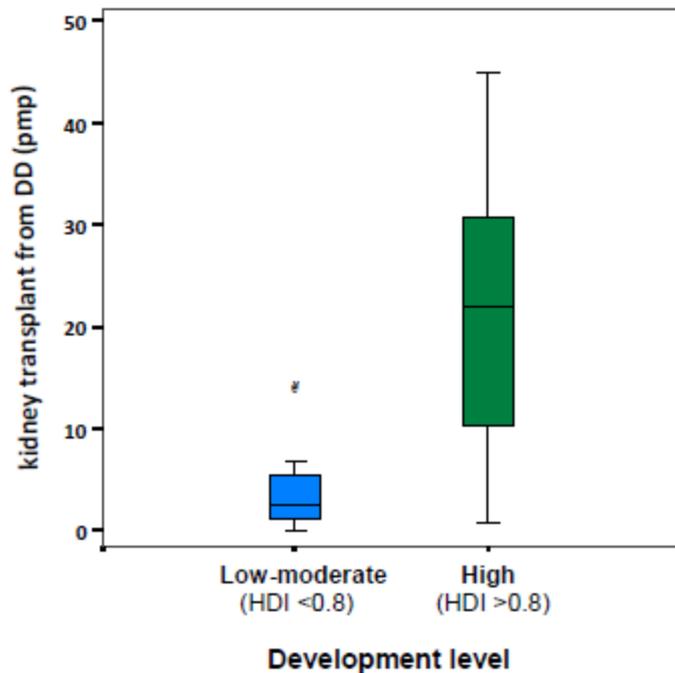
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He revealed laws and principles to guide the free, He established an Order to channel the actions of the free, He proclaimed a Covenant to guarantee the unity of the free.

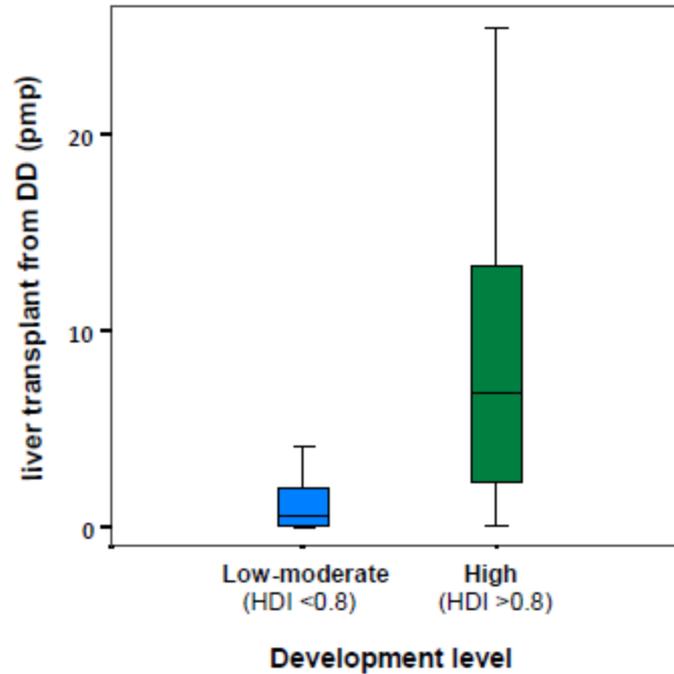
The Universal House of Justice

# On Technological and Development Access Disparities

Comparison of Kidney transplants from DD (pmp) depending on HDI level.



Comparison of Liver transplants from DD (pmp) depending on HDI level.

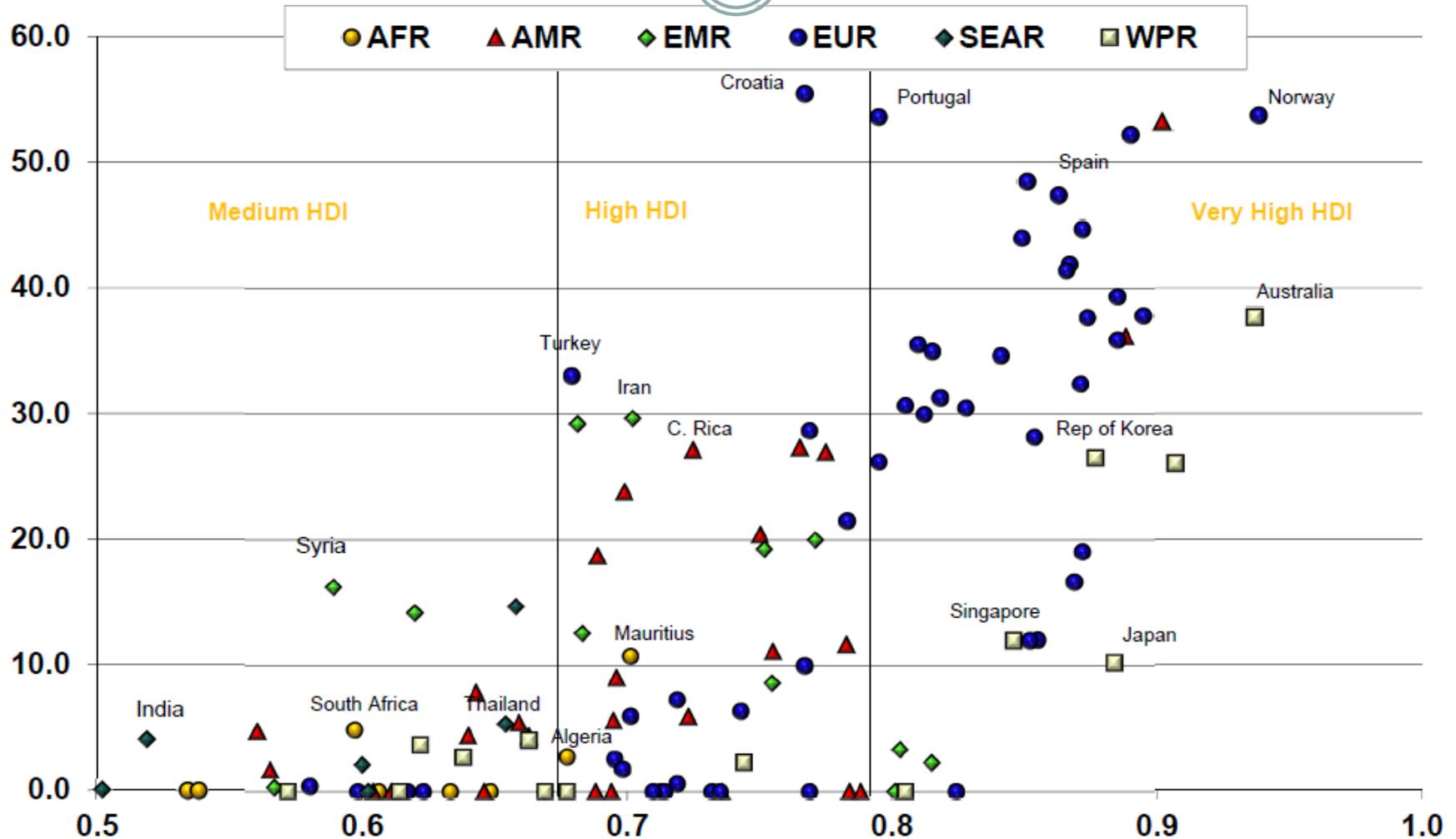


Sample Nations

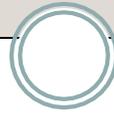
- Low HDI  
Pakistan, Congo
- Medium HDI  
Jordan, China
- High HDI  
Brazil, Malaysia
- Very High HDI  
Norway, Israel

Low to moderate development (HDI < 0.8) n= 48; High development (HDI ≥ 0.8), n= 56

# On Correlation of HDI and Kidney Transplant Rates



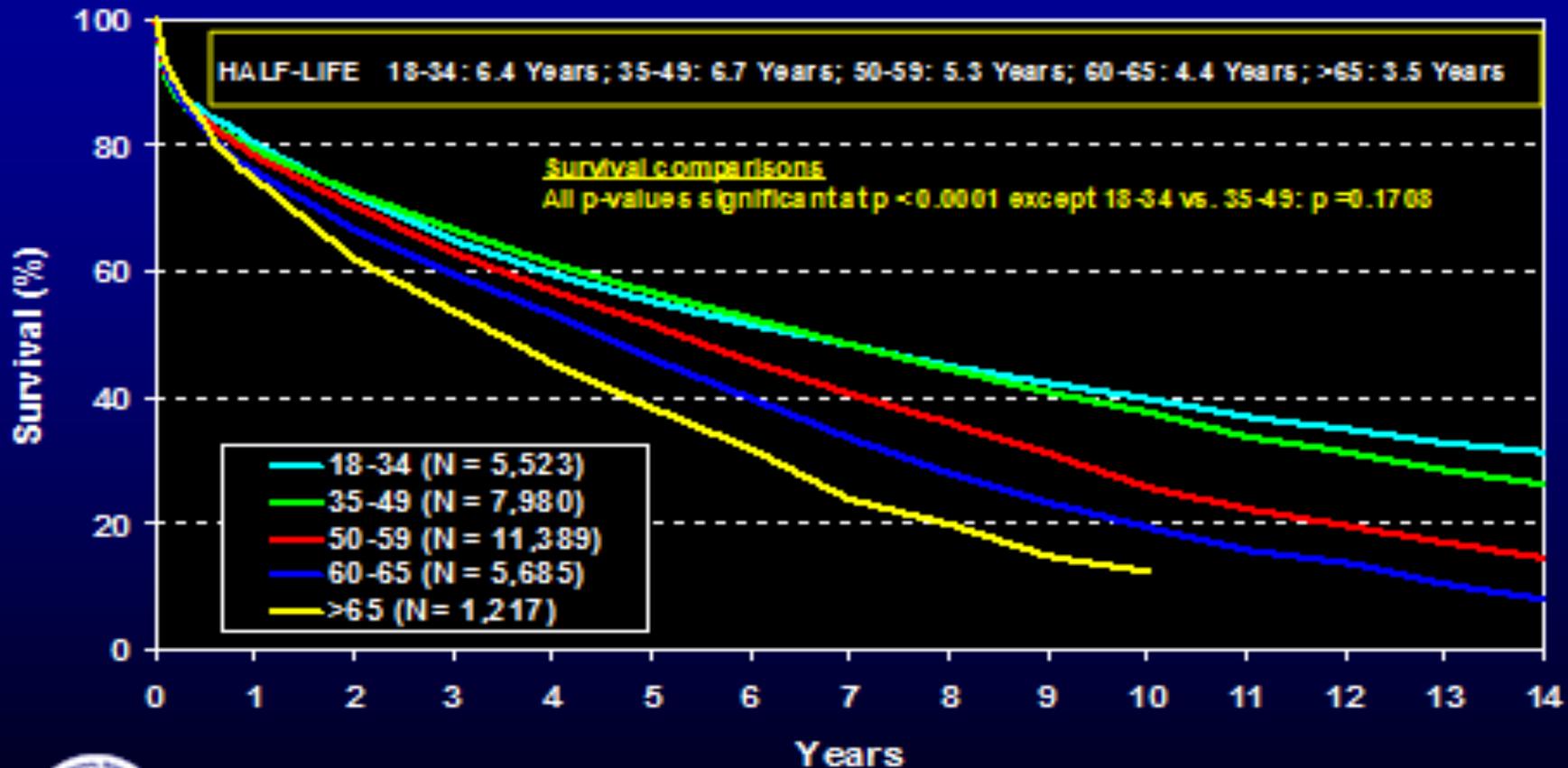
# Harmonizing Personal and Community Interests



The Baha'i conception of social life is essentially based on the principle of the subordination of the individual will to that of society. It neither suppresses the individual nor does it exalt him to the point of making him an anti-social creature, a menace to society. As in everything, it follows the golden mean.

The Universal House of Justice

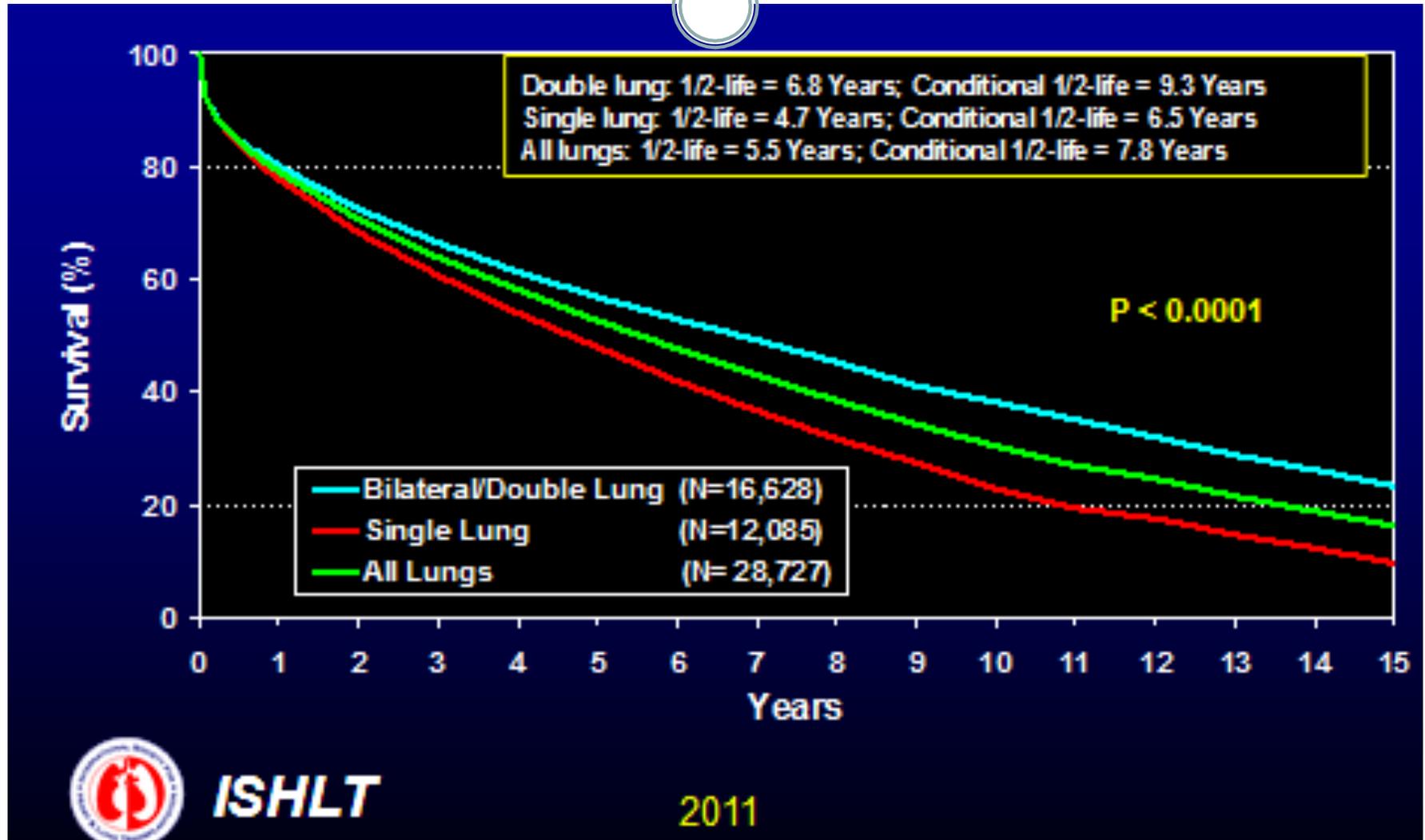
# On Utility: Considerations of Age



**ISHLT**

2011

# On Utility: Considerations of Procedure Choice



## IV. Transparent and Participatory Processes



### Evaluative Criteria & Candidate Domains of Application:

- Transparent Policy Development
- Consultative Input and Decision-making
- Collective Implementation and Action

# Exhortation on Interactive Consultation



No welfare and no well-being can be attained except through consultation.

Bahá'u'lláh

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At all times, avoid the spirit of exclusiveness, the atmosphere of secrecy, free themselves from a domineering attitude, and banish all forms of prejudice and passion from their deliberations. They should, within the limits of wise discretion, take the friends into their confidence, acquaint them with their plans, share with them their problems and anxieties, and seek their advice and counsel.

Shoghi Effendi

# Towards Integrating Public Input at National and International Levels



The screenshot shows the SRTR website with a blue header and navigation menu. The main content area features three profile photos of individuals with their names and titles below them. A sidebar on the right contains a list of links and categories. The text below the photos discusses the registry's role in supporting the transplant community and improving patient outcomes.

The screenshot shows the ITR website in Hebrew. It features a green header with the ITR logo and a navigation menu. The main content area includes a large photo of a woman, a text box with Hebrew text, and a row of four smaller profile photos at the bottom. The text in the main box appears to be a call to action or a notice.



World Health Organization

# Questions and Answers



Thank You