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Chapter 1: Organ Donation Worldwide

1. The State of the International Organ Trade: A Provisional Picture Based on Integration of Available Information
   Yosuke Shimazono
   A vigorous organ donation trade has sprouted up in many parts of the world in places where organs are scarce. In such situations, patients in more developed countries are exploiting men and women in lesser developed countries by paying for organs. Other countries have fostered a booming organ tourism trade, in which rich patients can visit and have organ transplants.

2. Spain Leads the World in Organ Donations
   Grace Wong
   Statistics show that Spain leads the world in organ donations. Experts attribute the country's success to its adoption of a presumed consent law and a nationwide coordination network that identifies potential donors. Other countries look to emulate Spain's accomplishments.

3. How to Mend a Broken Heart
   Kate Benson
   Australia has a low rate of organ donation despite government efforts to raise awareness of the problem. The situation is so dire in the case of heart transplants that doctors are relying more and more on artificial hearts.

4. Kuwait Is Determined to Improve Its Rate of Organ Donation
   Habib Toumi
   Kuwait has a high rate of organ donations in relation to other Middle Eastern countries but still trails the United States and Europe. Officials contend that there is still a way to go to educate and raise awareness about the need for organ donation and to counter religious and cultural myths that hinder people's willingness to donate.
5. **England**’s Minority Communities Have a Low Rate of Organ Donations
   
   **Ben Whitelaw**
   
   The low rate of organ donations in the black and minority ethnic communities in England is becoming a public health problem. There are a number of myths and misunderstandings that affect donation rates. Health experts believe that it is important to engage and raise awareness of the need in these communities through face-to-face interaction.

6. **Ontario** Has Wide Variations in Organ Donation Rates
   
   **Megan Ogilvie and Patrick Cain**
   
   Records show that there is a sharp difference in rates in organ donation in Ontario, Canada. Surprisingly, rates are high in smaller towns and very low in the province’s major city, Toronto. The variations are attributed to a number of factors, including organ donation registration processes and the age of a community’s residents.

7. A Soldier’s Death Gives Life to Another Man
   
   **Meg Jones**
   
   American soldiers who get killed in Iraq or Afghanistan often end up in the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, where their organs may be harvested and donated to patients waiting in Germany or other countries in Europe if they had agreed to be an organ donor before their deployment. Germany has a low rate of organ donations because of the shame over Nazi atrocities during World War II.

Periodical and Internet Sources Bibliography

**Chapter 2: Barriers to Organ Donation**

1. **American** Organ Donations Hindered by Religious and Cultural Myths
   
   **Allison Pond**
Many Americans express reluctance to register as organ donors because of misconceptions about religious teachings about death. In some communities, there are cultural myths that persist about organ and tissue donation. It is important to be sensitive to these issues in any attempt to raise awareness about the practice of organ donation.

2. **Israel’s Religious Misconceptions a Barrier to Organ Donation**
   
   *Calev Ben-David*
   
   It was hoped that an Israeli law that clarifies the role of rabbis in determining death would alleviate some of the religious issues surrounding organ donation. However, the myth still persists that the Jewish religion prohibits organ donation.

3. **Japanese Doctors Are Reluctant to Harvest Organs**
   
   *Natsuko Fukue*
   
   Japanese doctors are often hesitant to inform patients about organ donation and to harvest organs for donation. Many are reluctant to even learn about the process. There should be better education for doctors on the issue and a better appreciation for the doctors and donor coordinators who do the work.

4. **Obstacles Remain for the Field of Face Transplants**
   
   *Paul Voosen*
   
   A Czech doctor working in the United States is set to pioneer face transplantation in a hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, but there is controversy surrounding the surgery. The biggest challenge will be finding donors. Many people are reluctant to cut that last visual connection to a loved one.

5. **Saudi Arabia Must Confront Cultural and Religious Taboos**
   
   *Siraj Wahab*
Religious and cultural myths against the practice of organ donations persist in Saudi Arabia. As a result, there is a dire shortage of organs for transplant, and the patients who can afford it go overseas where there are available organs. There is a renewed effort to address these issues.

Chapter 3: Strategies to Improve Organ Donations

1. **Canada Should Pay Organ Donors**
   *Erin Anderssen*
   To meet the need for organ donations in Canada, there has been a proposal to offer money or other incentives for donors. There are concerns that such a system would increase organ trafficking, which would exploit the poor and most vulnerable people. Another recommendation is for the Canadian health care system to do a better job identifying potential donors early and to do a better job raising awareness of the issue.

2. **The British Hindu Community Is Addressing the Shortage of Organ Donors**
   *Tarun Patel*
   Hindu and South Asian communities in England have been reluctant to register on organ donation lists because of religious and cultural misconceptions about the practice. There are concerted efforts under way to bring together community leaders to press for action on the issue.

3. **Wales Is Switching to a Presumed Consent System for Organ Donations**
   *Tracy McVeigh*
   Wales plans on being the first country in the United Kingdom to transition to a presumed consent system for organ donation. In this plan, every citizen will assume consent to organ donation after death, unless they opt out of the system. There is wide public support for the plan. Estimates show that it will make a significant improvement in the rate of organ donation.
4. **Germany** Initiates a Campaign to Raise Awareness of Organ Donation Shortfall

*Cinnamon Nippard*

The rates of organ donation in Germany have always been low and have been dropping in recent years. Experts blame a lack of infrastructure and a cultural resistance to the practice. There has been a concerted effort to raise awareness and to confront misconceptions about organ donations.

5. **England** Is Right to Propose a Presumed Consent Model

*Martin O’Neill*

The English plan to adopt a presumed consent model is a win-win proposition: There is a great benefit for patients waiting for lifesaving organ transplants, and the donor will not be worse off in any way. Individuals will also have the right to opt out of donation if they morally or culturally oppose organ donation.

6. **The United States** Should Consider a Mandatory Organ Donation Policy

*Scott Carney*

A policy of mandatory organ donation after death would address the US shortage of organs and many of the inefficiencies of the current system. It is bound to be controversial with those who do not want government involved in family decisions about death and dying. Such concerns are trivial in light of the good a mandatory organ donation policy would do.

7. **Portugal** Has Implemented a Presumed Consent Law

*The Portugal News*

Portugal has adopted a presumed consent law, which assumes that an individual consents to donating organs posthumously unless he or she registers to opt out of the system. Another recent reform allows the transplanting of organs from living donors, meaning that a family member can donate a kidney to a relative in need.

Periodical and Internet Sources Bibliography
Chapter 4: The Problem of Organ Trafficking

1. Organ Trafficking Is a Global Problem
   *Ami Cholia*
   Because of the worldwide increase in kidney disease and a scarcity of kidney donors, there has been a thriving global black market for the organ in the past several years. There is a growing awareness of the problem, but a need for more information. Poverty and corruption drive the supply of donors, who are often exploited by criminal enterprises.

2. Nepal’s Illegal Organ Trade Is on the Rise
   *Tara Bhattarai*
   Nepal has had a flourishing black market trade in kidneys in the past several years. Officials attribute the rising number of willing donors to chronic poverty, the economic downturn, and ruthless traffickers. The illegal organ trade remains unchecked because law enforcement seems unwilling to act.

3. India’s Organ Trade Exploits the Country’s Most Vulnerable People
   *Thomas Schmitt*
   India’s slums have proven to be a gold mine for corrupt organ traffickers who recruit poor and vulnerable residents and sell their kidneys to the highest bidders. The Indian government has failed to curb the practice. Many organ donors suffer adverse consequences after donating their kidneys, and many deaths have been attributed to dodgy operations and poor aftercare.

4. Egypt’s Illegal Organ Trafficking Endangers the Poor
   *Theodore May*
   There is rampant trafficking in human organs, especially kidneys, in Egypt. Officials are concerned that poor Egyptians are being exploited and endangered by traffickers in sketchy clinics all over Egypt. New legislation is being proposed to regulate organ donation and curb the illegal organ trade.
5. **Kosovo Is Rocked by an Organ Trafficking Scandal**

*TJ.*

Allegations that Kosovo’s prime minister was associated with a criminal gang who murdered Serbians and Albanians after the 1999 Kosovo war in order to harvest their organs for trafficking has shocked the international community. These charges must be thoroughly investigated by unimpeachable law enforcement officials and the perpetrators brought to justice.

6. **China Is Harvesting the Organs of Executed Prisoners**

*Ethan Gutmann*

There is growing evidence that China is selling the organs of death-row prisoners, such as followers of the outlawed Falun Gong, to rich foreign nationals and Chinese residents. Some charge that doctors are harvesting the organs when the patients are still alive.

Periodical and Internet Sources Bibliography

For Further Discussion

Organizations to Contact

Bibliography of Books

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