

Complicity

A is complicit in x: A knowingly endorses, promotes, participates in, or benefits from x, and x is morally wrong, overall morally bad, or is an *unjust practice*

1. Lona runs a gun shop, which for some reason is located next door to another gun shop. One day a customer comes in and says that he wants to buy a gun with which to murder his wife. Unfortunately, Lona is working behind the counter, which is surrounded by bulletproof glass, so she can't get at the customer, and her phone is broken so she can't call the police. The customer tells Lona that if she doesn't sell him the gun, he'll just buy it from the shop next door, which is true. Realizing that she can't prevent the wife's murder, Lona figures she might as well make some money, and sells the man a gun.
2. It is election time, and state S has an important referendum on the ballot. If this passes, it will drastically reduce the legal rights of certain ethnic minority groups in state S. Jean, who is opposed to this referendum, decides to stay at home and not vote. Many other people who are opposed to the referendum do as well, and as a result, it passes.
3. One of the reasons health insurance costs continue to increase is because of the increasing cost of pharmaceuticals. Many expensive pharmaceuticals have generic versions which are much, much cheaper. To distinguish their version of the drug from the generic versions, pharmaceutical companies will put additives into their versions that have minor benefits. For example, a drug to treat fevers might have a mild pain killer added to it. The non-generic versions of the drug will cost much, much more than the generic versions, even though the cost of the additive never justifies this. No individual patient with insurance pays the extra price of the non-generic drug. Rather, the extra cost is spread among all who have insurance in the form of higher premiums. Since so many people buy non-generic drugs, premiums are very high and some people cannot afford good insurance. Francine is a doctor who wants to prescribe the drug that is best for her patients, so she always prescribes non-generic versions of drugs.

