



Footprints

THE NEWSLETTER OF
Right To Life New Zealand Inc.

Defending life from conception to natural death

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Abortion Supervisory Committee Concerned at Shortage of Doctors to Kill Unborn Children - Report to Parliament 2009

The Abortion Supervisory Committee's [ASC] report was tabled in Parliament on 8th December. The Committee reported 17,940 abortions in New Zealand 2008.

This is a reduction of 440 on the 2007 year figure of 18,380. While encouraging, Right to Life reminds New Zealanders that each life is unique and irreplaceable. Hopefully one reason for the decrease is the increasing recognition in the community that abortion not only destroys innocent defenceless unborn children, it also harms the physical and mental health of women and their families.

Right to Life is concerned about the unlawful abortions authorised in 2008.

The statistics for 2008 reveal that 98% of abortions performed were authorised on the grounds of serious danger to the mental health of the mother. This statistic has been constant since 1977. Justice Miller's judgment in the High Court in Wellington, on 8 June 2008, in the judicial review of the Abortion Supervisory Committee, supported the conclusion that many of these abortions are unlawful.

Justice Miller stated that "there is reason to doubt the lawfulness of many abortions authorised by certifying consultants. Indeed the Committee itself has stated that the law is being used more liberally than Parliament intended."

"In my opinion, the statistics and the committee's comments since the Court of Appeal made that observation, do give rise to powerful misgivings about the lawfulness of many abortions. They tend to confirm Dr Forster's view that New Zealand has abortion on request" Dr Christine Forster was previously chairperson of the ASC from June 1993 to August 2001, a period of nearly eight years.

The Abortion Supervisory Committee's response is tragic. They are seeking to provide even greater access to chemical abortion by supporting the wider use of the toxic chemical Mifegyne RU486. This use of RU486, a 'human pesticide', in a pill form imposes an incredible psychological trauma on women, often leaving the mother to cope with aborted body parts from their baby.

The report reveals that 140 disabled unborn children were killed in 2008 – how is this justified? It is deplorable that only the perfect are permitted to be born. A child does not forfeit its right to life because it has a disability.



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FOOTPRINTS

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*"Woe to you
if you do not
defend life"
John Paul II*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As Earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, Obama and snow drifts take their toll overseas, I write to you at the end of a beautiful day, with autumn just around the corner. I sit and ponder on the freedoms we still have in our country and our democratic right to speak out against injustices. I am not representing Antarctic whales, but innocent unborn kiwis who are killed by abortion by the government of the day (National or Labour coalitions, it makes no difference, it seems). Non-government institutions (NGOs) i.e. Family Planning have usurped the medical establishment and the educational system in this country and that is why we want to stop them. That is why we have marched on Family Planning in Washington Place near the skateboarders and that is why we have battled against the Abortion Supervisory Committee in court (Please pray for the important court case coming up in May). This is ground-breaking legal proceedings and keenly watched here and overseas. The other thing we need to get behind is our website <http://righttolife.org.nz/>. Who can fathom the influence it may have to inspire people. It may change the minds of people who come from the other side. So we invite you to visit and tell others. I see more and more the need for an organisation like ours. New Zealand needs Right To Life NZ, we need a voice to engage MPs in a robust learning process so that they care for unborn New Zealanders and for the health and welfare of women. That is, they care enough so they actually do something, by way of legislation eg the Status of the Unborn Child etc. To our members and supporters (and we need more of them) thank you for your prayer support, donations, subscriptions and moral support. The AGM is coming and is at the Burnside Catholic Church Hall on the corner of Greers Rd and Memorial (opposite Burnside High School). See you there.

Peter F Coleman, President

Society Report

Right to Life is grateful for the generous financial support of its members and supporters. New members are always most welcome and supporters are invited to be actively involved in the pro-life movement by making application for membership by completing the application form on page two of this newsletter. Our Society also invites members and supporters to consider providing financial support to the Society for its work of defending life by making automatic payments. Our Society's bank account number is 030802 0787992 00. Please advise our treasurer Paul Christenhusz, at our Society's address, PO Box 668, Christchurch, of your name and address in order that a receipt may be forwarded to you at the end of the financial year. In your charity please consider a bequest in your will to help our Society continue its work to promote a culture of life and oppose a culture of death.

For information on important national and international life issues and our Society's actions you are invited to visit our Society's excellent website at www.righttolife.org.nz Our Society is indebted to Chris O'Brien, our web master for his dedication and expertise in maintaining this excellent site. Members are invited to receive their Society's newsletter, Footprints electronically in preference to receiving a copy by mail. Requests may be made by email to admin@righttolife.org.nz

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Right to Life is gravely concerned at the increase in **repeat abortions** in 2008. Of the 17,940 abortions performed,

- 11,312, (63%) of the total abortions were a woman's **first** abortion.
- 6628, (37%) were repeat abortions, an increase of 2% on 2007 figures.
- 4,469 women in 2008 were having their **second** abortion,
- 1490 were having their **third** abortion,
- 461 were having their **fourth** abortion,
- 143 their **fifth**,
- 40 their **sixth** and
- 25 their **seventh or more abortion**.

These statistics are scandalous and indicate that **abortion is being used as a back up for failed contraception. The abortion laws do not provide for failed contraception as grounds for abortion.**

Right to Life asks why the Committee is not taking action to address this critical problem?

The report reveals that:

- 8,041 women were using contraceptives at the time their child was conceived.
 - Of these women,
 - 4,898 were using condoms
 - 2,901 were using contraceptives.
- These statistics show that **contraceptives have a high failure rate**. It is a tragedy that innocent unborn children are being killed in order to provide for another's so called sexual freedom. The Committee suggested in its report that because of New Zealand's high abortion rate (in comparison with other countries) that we need more long acting contraceptives and that the government should consider reducing financial barriers to their use. If the Committee was serious about reducing our high abortion rate they would ask the government to:
 - promote abstinence before marriage
 - adoption in preference to terminating the lives of healthy unborn children
 - promote child/teen protection from sexual exploitation and sexualizing by the media and advertising agencies

The Committee reports that "Over the past year the ASC has become conscious that workforce issues will need to be addressed in coming years to ensure continuity of abortion services in future." The ASC is aware that there are very few operating doctors in New Zealand under the age of 50. Right to Life commends those doctors who faithful to the Hippocratic traditions of their healing profession have the utmost respect for the right to life of every child from the moment of conception and refuse to have any part in the killing of innocent and defenceless unborn children. Right to Life is opposed to any efforts that the Abortion Supervisory Committee might make to subvert the ethics of good doctors by encouraging them to become involved in the killing of unborn babies. Doctors should be free to choose

The Committee reported that they had recently released a standards document for the provision of abortions in New Zealand. The document is titled, "**Standards of Care for Women requesting induced abortion in New Zealand.**" This document will be given to general practitioners to guide them in dealing with requests from their patients for an abortion. The Committee states that they had consulted widely in drafting the document and received submissions from 25 persons and organizations. The organizations included Family Planning and the Abortion Law Reform Association of New Zealand. It is disappointing that the Committee did not invite any pro-life organization to make a submission. Have pro-life organizations nothing positive to contribute to the care of women seeking an abortion?

Right to Life has sought from the Committee under the Official Information Act, copies of these and other submissions.

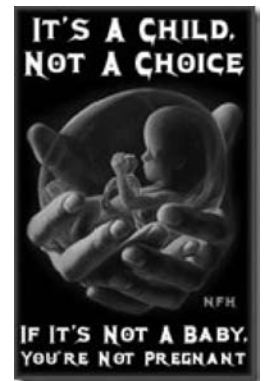
Right to Life believes that a nation that kills its own children does not have a future and earnestly requests that:

- The government promotes a culture of life by promoting adoption as a loving life affirming option.
- The government hold the Abortion Supervisory Committee accountable for "pseudo-legal" abortions in this country.

This is preferable to life destroying abortion which promotes a culture of death.

Best Practice Termination of Pregnancy in New Zealand

Right to Life had previously obtained a copy of the Abortion Supervisory Committee's draft document and made a submission to the Committee challenging some of its statements. The final amended draft was released in February 2010. The final draft failed to address the concerns of our Society. The document has now been sent to all general practitioners in New Zealand for their guidance in dealing with women seeking an abortion.



- Under Key Concepts, it states that “it is not the role of GPs to discuss their own personal views about termination. If a GP is not able to refer personally, then arrangements must be made for the woman to be seen as soon as possible by another doctor in the area,” Our Society is opposed to this statement which is intended to silence medical practitioners from acting according to their conscience and fulfilling their duty of care to their patients.
- Medical practice requires that doctors are free to exercise an informed conscience and to act in accordance with the highest principles of the profession which is based on the first principle, “to do no harm.”

The document states that, “it is not the role of the general practitioner to determine whether there are legal grounds for termination.” The document fails to make it clear that the woman’s own doctor has a responsibility to make an assessment as to whether the woman has grounds under s 187A of the Crimes Act for an abortion. The CS&A Act, s 32 [1] states, “Every registered medical practitioner [in this section referred to as the woman’s own doctor] who is consulted by or in respect of a female who wishes to have an abortion shall, if requested to do so by or on behalf of that female, arrange for the case to be considered and dealt with in accordance with the succeeding provisions of this section and of section 33 of this Act.”

- The duty of the woman’s own doctor is that if the doctor considers the woman has legal grounds for an abortion, to arrange for her to be referred to a certifying consultant, conversely if the woman’s own doctor considers that the woman does not have legal grounds for an abortion, the doctor has no legal responsibility to refer the woman to a certifying consultant.

The document states, “**Psychological sequelae, some studies suggest higher rates of self-harm and mental illness among women who have had a termination but these findings do not imply a casual association and may reflect continuation of pre existing conditions**”. This statement is incorrect and would encourage general practitioners to believe that the killing of an unborn child would have no detrimental effects on the future mental health of the mother. It is widely accepted that the loss of a child in pregnancy for any reason is a traumatic experience for any woman and can be the cause of future mental ill health. This is especially so for a mother who chooses to have her unborn child killed.

The Committee is aware of the study produced by the Canterbury Health and Development Study, at the Christchurch School of Medicine in 2005. The research was led by Professor David Fergusson, Ph.D. who is a psychologist and epidemiologist; He said that his research team had followed the progress of 1265 children born in Christchurch in the mid 1970s from infancy to adulthood. Nearly 500 women became pregnant by the age of 25 and 90 had an abortion. The study found that 42 per cent of those women who had an abortion had also suffered major depression during the previous four years. Those who had an abortion were also twice as likely to drink alcohol to dangerous levels compared with those who had a live birth and three times as likely to be dependent on illicit drugs. Those who had an abortion also suffered elevated rates of depression, anxiety and suicidal behaviors. Professor Fergusson said that he was “pro- choice” and advised that his study was careful to discount women who had a previous history of mental illness. He said that every woman considering an abortion should be provided with the results of this important study.

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Correct language is important to convey the true intent of the intended action. Throughout the document the word “termination” is used. This term is incorrect as it is not used in the abortion laws; the term used in legislation is abortion. The term “termination” or “termination of pregnancy” is used to disguise the reality that it is not the pregnancy that is terminated but the life of a unique human being. It is disappointing that there is no reference to the long title of the CS & A Act, which states that “...abortions may be authorised after having full regard to the rights of the unborn child.”

It is also disappointing that the objective of the document appears to be to expedite the quick and efficient killing of unwanted children.

Conscience or Tyranny – Medical Council Document



Right to Life issued a media release applauding a group of courageous pro-life doctors challenging the Medical Council’s provisions relating to abortion included in its draft document titled, “Beliefs and Medical Practice”. The Pro-life doctors have filed an application with the High Court in Wellington for a judicial review of the draft document.

The draft document requires a medical practitioner to ensure a woman who is ambivalent about her pregnancy, “is offered access to objective information or assistance to enable her to make informed decisions on all available options for her pregnancy including termination.”

In the event that the doctor on the grounds of conscience is not prepared to provide advice on abortion the doctor is obliged to inform the woman requesting the service that she may obtain that service from another health practitioner or a family planning clinic.

Right to Life contends that the above requirements are an infringement on the conscience of medical practitioners and constitute a violation of human rights. Man has the right to act in conscience and in freedom to enable him to make moral decisions. He must not be forced to act contrary to his conscience, nor must he be prevented from acting according to his informed conscience. **Our conscience enables us to do good and avoid evil.** The Medical Council has a duty to protect the conscience of medical professionals.

In this regard, Right to Life makes the following points.

- We are all called to defend life. Medical practitioners have a duty of care to their patients and to do no harm. When a doctor is being consulted by a woman who is with child, the doctor is dealing with two patients. He has a duty of care for the unborn child, who is the weakest and most defenceless member of the human family. A doctor has no duty to offer the killing of the child as a treatment option nor is he obliged to facilitate its killing. A doctor also has a responsibility to protect the mother from spiritual damage and a lifetime of regret, anguish, low self esteem and serious mental ill health that could result from an abortion. It is tragic at this time when the High Court has warned that there is serious concern about the lawfulness of many abortions authorised in New Zealand, that the Medical Council should be seeking to expedite the killing of unborn children.
- In 1948 the General Assembly of the World Medical Association in Geneva passed a Declaration on the responsibilities of medical practitioners, it included, “The health and life of my patient will be my first consideration.” It also stated, “I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from the time of its conception, even under threat, I will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity.” The Geneva Declaration was made in response to the crimes against humanity that were perpetrated by Nazi Germany. Will the Medical Council learn from history?
- Right to Life requests that the Medical Council promotes a culture of life and opposes a culture of death by amending the draft document to uphold the primacy of conscience and protect women’s health and the lives of their unborn children. Right to Life issued a media release on this important justice issue.

Abortion Wars: Seeing What We Kill

By Bill Muelenberg, Pro-life Writer, Australia.

The mainstream media (MSM) is quite good at using its powers of influence to push agendas. The image-heavy MSM can create news and affect public opinion simply by the images that are shown, and how those images are presented.

For example, when green stories are being covered, and the MSM wishes to push a particular point of view (eg., that industry is bad and global warming is about to destroy planet earth), then it will use countless shots of chimneys billowing smoke (although often these pictures, in fact show harmless steam being poured into the skies), and melting icebergs with cute polar bears looking for a place to stand on.

Emotions can be manipulated by creative use of imagery, and our mental faculties can be bypassed altogether. The MSM can skip the facts of the story while manipulating our heart strings by the images it uses. This happens all the time in the MSM.

Consider another example. If the MSM thinks we should stop whaling or hunting baby seals (which may in fact be worthwhile aims – but I leave the pros and cons for another time), then it shows pictures of bloodied whales being dragged up onto cold, hard steel ships, or it shows wide-eyed baby seals which have been clubbed to death in a sea of red blood.

Of course who wouldn't respond to such visceral imagery and such powerful shots? Most people would be ready to join Greenpeace or take part in a protest march after seeing such graphic images. So the media has tremendous power to influence the public debate, corralling public opinion in various directions.

Of course if the MSM can push along social agendas by its use of imagery, it can do the same by not using certain images. I refer here to the most obvious example of this: abortion. When was the last time you saw a graphic image of the "product of abortion" in the MSM?

Have you ever seen pictures of aborted babies in full colour in the MSM? Have you ever seen the burnt-out remains of a baby after a saline poisoning abortion? Have you ever seen the dismembered bodies of unborn babies after being cut up in a Dilation and Curettage abortion?

I suspect that you haven't. And there is a very good



reason for this. The MSM is overwhelmingly left of centre, including on the abortion issue. Because most people in the MSM are pro-abortion, then of course they don't want the dirty little secrets of the abortion industry to get out.

They want to help perpetuate the myth that abortion simply removes a clump of cells or a bit of tissue, not a real live baby. That is why they refuse to show abortion aftermath images. They don't want to give the game away. They want to keep pushing their pro-death agenda and keep the masses in the dark.

While the MSM is managing this grand con job, by censoring out images it does not want you and me to see, things are not as easy in the abortion mills themselves. It seems that numerous abortion workers have been getting out of the business, exactly because they can see this is no clump of tissue they are dealing with.

Because of new techniques, as well as ultrasound technology, the reality of what is being killed in the abortion mills is taking a toll on workers there, and more and more workers are leaving this blood-stained work. An intriguing article on all this recently appeared entitled "Mugged by Ultrasound".

David Daleiden and Jon Shields inform us about how these changes are causing so many abortion workers to become pro-life. They begin their important article in this fashion:

"Abortion rights activists have long preferred to hold themselves at some remove from the practice they promote; rather than naming it, they speak of 'choice' and 'reproductive freedom.' But those who perform abortions have no such luxury. Instead, advances in ultrasound imaging and abortion procedures have forced providers ever closer to the nub of their work. Especially in abortions performed far enough along in gestation that the fetus is recognizably a tiny baby, this intimacy exacts an emotional toll, stirring sentiments for which doctors, nurses, and aides are sometimes unprepared. Most apparently have managed to reconcile their belief in the right to abortion with their revulsion at dying and dead fetuses, but a noteworthy number have found the conflict unbearable and have defected to the pro-life cause."

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They show how studies are revealing that abortion workers are having real problems performing their “duties”. Consider for example the Dilation and Evacuation (D&E) method of abortion. D&E abortions are used later in pregnancy, in which under general anesthesia, the baby is torn to pieces with a forceps, and removed from the womb. Larger babies must have their heads crushed. The pieces are then reassembled.

“One early study, by abortionists Warren Hern and Billie Corrigan, found that although all of their staff members ‘approved of second trimester abortion in principle,’ there ‘were few positive comments about D&E itself.’ Reactions included ‘shock, dismay, amazement, disgust, fear, and sadness.’ A more ambitious study published the following year, in the September 1979 issue of the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, confirmed Hern and Corrigan’s findings. It found ‘strong emotional reactions during or following the procedures and occasional disquieting dreams.’”

The authors include personal stories as well. For example: “In 1990 Judith Fetrow, an aide at a Planned Parenthood clinic, found that disposing of fetal bodies as medical waste was more than she could bear. Soon after she left her position, Fetrow described her experiences: ‘No one at Planned Parenthood wanted this job. . . . I had to look at the tiny hands and feet. There were times when I wanted to cry.’ Finally persuaded to quit by a pro-life protester outside her clinic, Fetrow is now involved in the American Life League....”

“Other converts were driven into the pro-life movement by advances in ultrasound technology. The most recent example is Abby Johnson, the former director of Dallas-area Planned Parenthood.

After watching, via ultrasound, an embryo ‘crumple’ as it was suctioned out of its mother’s womb, Johnson reported a ‘conversion in my heart.’ Likewise, Joan Appleton was the head nurse at a large abortion facility in Falls Church, Virginia, and a NOW activist. Appleton performed thousands of abortions with aplomb until a single ultrasound-assisted abortion rattled her. As Appleton remembers, ‘I was watching the screen. I saw the baby pull away. I saw the baby open his mouth. . . . After the procedure I was shaking, literally.’”

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The authors conclude, “Pro-choice advocates like to point out that abortion has existed in all times and places. Yet that observation tends to obscure the radicalism of the present abortion regime in the United States. Until very recently, no one in the history of the world has had the routine job of killing well-developed fetuses quite so up close and personal. It is an experiment that was bound to stir pro-life sentiments even in

the hearts of those staunchly devoted to abortion rights. Ultrasound and D&E bring workers closer to the beings they destroy. Hern and Corrigan concluded their study by noting that D&E leaves ‘no possibility of denying an act of destruction.’ As they wrote, ‘It is before one’s eyes. The sensations of dismemberment run through the forceps like an electric current.’”

Exactly. Now if we can only get the MSM to offer some courage and honesty here, and run these stories – complete with all the horrible images – like they do the whaling stories, or the seal-hunting stories. Somehow, I don’t expect we will be seeing this very soon. But we must keep the pressure up until they do.

“Unborn children are God’s precious infants, every child is made in the image and likeness of God and is a unique and unrepeatable miracle of God’s loving creation.”

NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT PROMOTING A CULTURE OF DEATH?



Right to Life freely acknowledges that the government is instrumental in implementing many policies that promote a culture of life. It does however in some areas sadly fail to defend life. The following are some recent government responses to important life issues that are a matter of concern.

Prime Minister, Right Hon John Key



Right to Life in August 2009 made a submission to the Prime Minister on violence against children. The first duty of the State is to protect the right to life of all of its citizens including unborn children. In our submission we stated; "Right to Life is opposed to all violence; we are particularly opposed to violence against children, which commences in the womb. Abortion is the ultimate violence; it entails the dismemberment and killing of an innocent and defenceless child. You have publicly stated that you were happy with the abortion laws in New Zealand and did not support change. Since the Contraception Sterilisation and Abortion Act was passed in 1977, there have been more than 371,000 abortions performed in New Zealand, sanctioned and paid for by the government. Each one of these children was a unique and unrepeatable miracle of creation. A nation that destroys its own children does not have a future. Each one of these children came endowed with talents to enrich our community and our nation is impoverished by their destruction. How can you claim to be opposed to violence against children, even a smack, when your government continues to countenance the killing of our children through abortion, the ultimate in child abuse?"

The Prime Minister stated in his reply of 19 October 2009, **your views are noted, "abortion is a conscience issue and as such the government does not have a position."**

Minister of Health Hon Tony Ryall



On the 10 November 2009, Right to Life wrote to the Minister asking if he had the authority to refuse any request from the Family Planning Association for government funding for abortions at their 30 clinics. The Minister had previously advised in his letter of 23 April 2009, that "the Association would have to put forward a formal proposal asking for funding and no proposal had been received. I would expect the Ministry of Health to discuss any proposal with me." The Minister in his letter of 21 December 2009, stated, "It is government policy that DHBs fund termination of pregnancy services for those women who meet the criteria provided by the Crimes Act 1961 and the Contraception and Abortion Act 1977. Individual DHBs are not required to provide these services themselves. They are able to enter arrangements with other organizations to provide the services. As an example, a DHB may enter into a contract with a private hospital to provide termination of pregnancy services."

Right to Life is deeply disappointed that the Minister is not prepared to exercise his Ministerial authority to stop Family Planning receiving government funding for abortions.

Hon Murray McCully



Right to Life wrote in September 2009 expressing concern at the government giving in 2009, \$6 million to the United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA] and \$2 million to the International Planned Parenthood Federation, [IPPF]. According to the latest annual financial report of IPPF, that organization gave to their affiliate, the NZ Family Planning Association, the sum of \$71,026. Both the IPPF and UNFPA support China's infamous one child family policy. The policy includes forced abortions of those women who have conceived a child without the permission of the state. These are appalling violations of human rights. Both these organizations promote abortion and contraception worldwide. The Minister replied stating that, "Access to family planning services is essential to reduce

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poverty and promote economic growth.” And “that independent investigations, found no evidence that UNFPA had supported coercive abortion practices in China and that UNFPA and IPPF work to prevent abortions through prioritizing and supporting voluntary family planning services.” The Minister concluded by stating that, “UNFPA and IPPF directly contribute to improved child survival and maternal health including reducing maternal deaths.” It would appear that the Minister is not aware that IPPF performed 1.1 million abortions worldwide in 2009.

Hon Simon Power



Right to Life wrote to the Minister of Justice in September 2009, requesting that he give consideration to replacing Dr Rosemary Fenwicke as a member of the Abortion Supervisory Committee. Appointments to the Committee are for a term of three years. The appointments of the current Committee terminate on the 14 June 2010. It is the responsibility of the Minister to select candidates to present to Parliament for their deliberation. Dr Fenwicke is an abortionist at the Level J abortion facility at the Wellington Hospital, she was appointed to the Committee on 14 June 2007. Right to Life contends that as she is involved in the killing of unborn children there is a grave conflict of interest. How can she be expected to effectively supervise the abortion industry when she is a major participant in the industry.

The Minister replied: “As you know, there is no legal impediment to the appointment of a person who is a certifying consultant. In fact, by virtue of their appointment as a certifying consultant they can be expected to have previously satisfied the Committee that their views are not incompatible with the tenor of the Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act 1977.”

Family Planning Association – Death Peddlers

The Association in December, in response to the media releases from Right to Life and other pro-life groups opposing Family Planning being issued with abortion licences for their 30 clinics, issued a statement in an attempt to rebut the statements made. Some of the interesting statements were as follows:

In the year to December 2008 17940 abortions were performed in New Zealand. During this time Family Planning made 4866 referrals throughout New Zealand. Over the same year Family Planning had over 180,000 visits to their clinics. Abortion referrals represent less than 3 per cent of client visits. Family Planning employs 53 doctors on a permanent or casual basis – fewer than one in four of these doctors are certifying consultants for abortion. Family Planning claims that they wish to comply with the abortion laws and always encourage girls under the age of 16 seeking an abortion to confide in a parent or other trusted adult. The Care of Children Act 2004 provides that girls under the age of 16 may have an abortion without the knowledge or consent of parents or guardians. Family Planning was a vociferous advocate for the denial of parental knowledge or consent when the Bill was debated in Parliament.

It is appalling that the New Zealand Family Planning Association is registered as a charity with the Charities Commission.

Right to Life challenges the charity status of an organisation that seeks licences to kill unborn children and promotes a culture of death. Right to Life has laid a complaint with the Charities Commission challenging the charity status of Family Planning.



“In an abortion two things die, an unborn child and the mother’s conscience.”

Mother Theresa of Calcuta.

Down Syndrome – A Death Sentence



Right to Life contends that it is unlawful to kill an unborn child diagnosed with Down syndrome on the grounds of fetal abnormality. The government introduced a new screening programme for Down syndrome and several other disabilities in February which has been called a “quality improvement” rather than a national screening programme. The screening is being offered to all women who are pregnant. The government states that it is providing a service to families by giving them a choice whether to terminate the life of the child with Down syndrome or to allow the child to be born.

Has the government decided that children with Down syndrome are not valued or wanted in our community? Is it the government’s intention to encourage families to abort children with Down syndrome? Right to Life believes that the option to terminate the life of the child will ultimately become a duty to kill the child before birth.

Our Society has recently had correspondence with the Minister of Health, Hon Tony Ryall on the legality of abortions authorised on the grounds of an unborn child being diagnosed as being at risk of having Down syndrome.

The Crimes Act 1961, s 182 “killing unborn child” states that to kill an unborn child in New Zealand is a serious crime and on conviction a person may be imprisoned for a term of up to 14 years. Abortions are excused for rare and serious reasons. Under the Crimes Act, s 187A, [1] [aa], it states that an abortion may be authorised on the following ground, “That there is a substantial risk that the child, if born, would be so physically or mentally abnormal as to be seriously handicapped...” This ground relates to a pregnancy of not more than 20 weeks gestation.

- It is noted that the test for that section is that the handicap is serious. As the clinical definition for Down syndrome is a mild to moderate disability it is contended that Down syndrome does not meet the threshold of being serious.
- It is thus our opinion that; it is unlawful for certifying consultants to authorise an abortion or for doctors to perform an abortion for Down Syndrome on the grounds of fetal abnormality as set out in the Crimes Act 1961, s [1] [aa].
- It is contended that it is therefore both unethical and unlawful for clinicians or staff to offer an expectant mother diagnosed with Down syndrome a termination of the life of her unborn child.

Right to Life wrote to the Minister in December 2009 and again in February 2010 requesting that the Minister obtain an opinion on the lawfulness of killing Down syndrome unborn children on the grounds of fetal abnormality. We also requested that the objectives of the screening programme be revised to eliminate abortion being offered as an option.

The Minister replied stating that, “the screening programme can provide more information about the baby. This information may help families to plan for the birth of a child with special needs, including the need for specialist care at the birth, or it may lead to the decision to terminate a pregnancy. Such decisions are deeply personal and, once made by the family, must be accepted by the health professionals.” The Minister refused to comment on the lawfulness of these abortions and referred us to the Minister of Justice, Simon Power for his opinion on this important issue. Right to Life wrote to the Minister of Justice on 8th February and is awaiting his reply. The “Guidelines for maternity providers offering antenatal screening for Down syndrome and other conditions in New Zealand” states that:

“while the purpose of the quality improvements is to offer women information and choice, there may be a perception that they will lead to more terminations of pregnancy and, ultimately fewer people with Down syndrome in society. This is not the intention of the quality improvements for antenatal screening, which aim to improve current screening practice.”

Right to Life believes that the language of choice reassurance and family well-being obscures a reality that universal population screening is introduced because it is supported by cost – benefit analysis which assess the prevention of the birth of babies with Down syndrome as a core social benefit.

Right to Life also wrote to the Abortion Supervisory Committee expressing our Society’s concerns and seeking information under the Official Information Act. The Committee advised that in 2007 there were 64 abortions performed where Down syndrome was noted as a fetal abnormality. In 2008 the total was 62. The Committee were asked if they believed that Down syndrome is a mild to moderate disability and

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continued from page 10

as such does not reach the threshold of a serious handicap as required by the Crimes Act, section 187A [1] [aa]. The Committee replied: "The Committee has no view on this matter. It is not the Committee's role to determine the level of disability associated with Down syndrome."

Right to Life upholds the right to life of babies diagnosed with Down syndrome. Human life commences at conception, each human being is a unique and unrepeatably miracle of God's loving creation. At conception the human embryo is endowed by its Creator with human rights, the foundation right being the right to life. These rights are inalienable and universal. A child does not forfeit its right to life because it is diagnosed with Down syndrome; trisomy 21. The killing of the unborn child with Down syndrome is the ultimate discrimination against the "disabled." There are on average 50 babies born each year in New Zealand with Down syndrome.

It is understood that it is the normal procedure for clinicians in the public health sector when a pregnant woman is diagnosed as having an unborn child with Down syndrome to offer the woman an abortion. Right to Life believes that this advice is both unethical and unlawful

The Abortion Supervisory Committee in its report to Parliament in 2009 advised that there were 22 abortions in 2008 authorised on the grounds of seriously handicapped child. There were a further 100 abortions authorised for handicapped child and physical or mental danger. It is noted that one birth in every 700 is a child with Down syndrome. The overseas experience with the new screening programme is that it results in 90 per cent of unborn children diagnosed as having Down syndrome being killed before birth.

The United States Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta, states that the classification for Down syndrome is mild to moderate disability. Most children with Down syndrome participate in public and private educational programs. Educators and researchers are still discovering the full educational potential of people with Down syndrome. Today people with Down syndrome live at home with their families and are active participants in the educational, social and recreational activities of their community. People with Down syndrome are valued members of their families and their communities, contributing to society in a variety of ways. Women who have an unborn child diagnosed with Down syndrome need and deserve the support and compassion of the community to accept their child as a valued and loved member of the family and community. Right to Life is determined to speak up in defence of babies with Down syndrome. We will continue lobbying Parliament and will in the near future send a letter to every MP, seeking justice and protection for the human rights of these very special children.



Judicial Review of the Performance of the Abortion Supervisory Committee

The hearing of the appeal of the Committee to several findings in the judgment of Justice Miller will be heard in the Court of Appeal in Wellington on 4th and 5th May 2010. Our Society's case for the legal status of unborn children as human beings endowed with human rights will be also heard as part of our Society's cross appeal. Please pray for God's blessing on these important proceedings. Members and supporters who reside in the Wellington region are also encouraged to support the cause of the unborn child by attending all or part of these proceedings.



Stop Family Planning and March for Life

A successful march on Parliament was organized by Pro-Life New Zealand on Friday 12th February, with an estimated 200 pro-lifers in attendance. A march for life is to be held in Christchurch 12. 30 pm, on Friday 9th April, in Cathedral Square. The march is being supported by, Right to Life New Zealand, Family Life International, Family First, Stop Family Planning and Focus on the Family. All are invited to attend this demonstration in support of the right to life of New Zealand's unborn children and the welfare of women.



Petition – Opposing Family Planning being granted Abortion Licences

Right to life organized a petition to Parliament opposing the Family Planning Association being granted a licence to perform medical abortions using the lethal drug Mifegyne RU 486 at its Hamilton clinic or at its other 29 clinics. The petition was circulated at selected churches in New Zealand. A total of 1,713 concerned citizens signed the petition. The petition will now be presented to Parliament. Two similar petitions restricted only to opposing the Hamilton clinic obtaining an abortion licence, organized by Sue Row of Hamilton, containing 8,800 signatures are currently being considered by the Justice and Electoral Parliamentary select committee.

Telecom New Zealand – Boycott

Right to Life has written to Telecom advising them that if they renew funding of Family Planning through a new agreement in 2010, that our Society will seek the support of our members and supporters for a boycott of their services. The corporation currently has an agreement to grant Family Planning \$50,000 each year for five years, the agreement concludes in 2010.

Voice for Life – Song Contest

Right to Life is pleased to support this years national pro –life song contest organized by the Tauranga branch of Voice for Life. This is the third national contest. Last years winner was Francis Morgan of Lower Hutt with her song "Crossroads," sung by Tauranga. The standard is very high with award winning and other experienced songwriters competing. The Finals concert will be held on October 2nd at the new 580 seat capacity Bethlehem Performing Arts Centre in Tauranga. Entries close on August 10th. Email enquiries may be sent to donbrebs@xtra.co.nz and entries sent to "VFL Song Contest", PO Box 2568 Tauranga. Conditions and entry forms may be obtained by visiting the website <http://voiceforlife.bravehost.com/index.html>



"If personhood is established, the case for legalized abortion collapses, for the fetus' right to life would be guaranteed by the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution"

Roe V Wade, majority decision written by Justice Blackmun in 1973.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Right to Life fully supported the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, held on the 25th November. Violence against women and girls is an international problem of pandemic proportions. Violence against women is always a violation of human rights; it is always a crime and it is always unacceptable.



The Police in New Zealand receive 70,000 family violence calls each year. There are 3,500 convictions against men for violence inflicted on women. Each year there are 14 women who are killed by their partner or ex-partner. Violence against women takes many forms. It is disappointing that our community is in denial and refuses to recognise that abortion is violence against vulnerable women and their unborn child. An abortion entails an assault on the womb of a woman and a deadly assault on the life of her child. Frequently it is because the father of the child wants the child killed, because he refuses to accept responsibility for the child he has fathered and for the care of the mother of his child. Nearly half of the children conceived are female. What greater violence is there against women than to be killed in the mother's womb?

It was commendable that many Members of Parliament on 25th of November wore a white ribbon on their lapel to publicly express solidarity with women and to oppose violence against them. It is thus disappointing that the government and Parliament actually continues to sanction violence against women by funding the violence of abortion.

Should we then be surprised that if we condone the violence of abortion against women, that we are living in an increasingly violent society with increasing domestic violence?

If we truly want to live in a society that respects women we must first protect mothers to be and their babies

Where Have All the Children Gone – Media Release

Nearly 50,000 5 year olds commenced their schooling in the first week of February, happy and laughing with the joy of living. Sadly there were 18,211, 5 year olds missing. These are the children who were considered of little worth and whose lives were terminated by abortion in 2004. They are nameless and are recorded as a cold statistic in the Abortion Supervisory Committee's annual report to Parliament in 2005.

Their absence is mourned for they were created with many talents to enrich our society. Our society is impoverished by their absence. We should also have deep sympathy for their mothers who will be mourning the loss of their children. Mothers are often coerced into an unwanted

abortion, because of their abandonment by fathers and because of pressure from family and friends.

The National led government has proudly launched its National Standards in School's programme. Children have a right to attain basic literacy and numeracy skills; above all they have an inalienable right to life. It is a great injustice that the killing of these children was sanctioned and funded by the government; this is a violation of human rights. When will the government ensure that every child has a right to be born and the right to enjoy an education and contribute to society?



“A nation that kills its own children is a nation without a future.”

Pope John Paul II to the Polish nation, 1996.

United States – Abortion Clinics Close

Abortion clinics are closing at an unprecedented rate, in 1991, there were nearly 2,200 abortion clinics, but today there are 712. Since 1991 over two-thirds of all abortion clinics in the United States have permanently closed. That trend reflects the shifting attitude of Americans toward the Pro-Life position. On the eve of the 37th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in Roe V Wade, which struck down all the States legislation to protect the

lives of unborn children and legalised abortion on demand throughout the United States, a new survey was released revealing that 56 per cent of all Americans and 58 per cent of those 18-29 years old say abortion is "morally wrong" The foundations of Roe have crumbled and the abortion industry is not far behind. A contributing factor in the closing of abortion clinics is the prayerful vigils held outside clinics praying for there closure.

New Study: High Rates of Psychological Problems and Death Among Post-Abortive Women

By Matthew Cullinan Hoffman Life Site News

MADRID, December 17, 2008 (LifeSiteNews.com) - A preliminary report by a working group of psychiatrists studying the psychological effects of abortion states that women who obtain abortions have significantly elevated rates of depression, suicidal thoughts, sexual disturbances, and other psychological disorders. They also die at higher rates than non-abortive women.

The report, which examines manifestations of Post-Abortion Syndrome, was authored by Carmen Gomez-Lavin of the University of Navarra in Spain. It states that 80 percent of women who had had abortions suffer from symptoms of depression, and 40 percent have contemplated suicide.

In addition, 70% of such women exhibit irritability, 60% suffer behavioral disturbances, 40% experience sexual disturbances, and 30% have been involved in drug abuse.

The report also states that women who obtain abortions have a mortality rate 3.5 to 6 times higher, and a suicide rate between 6 and 7 times higher than that of women who give birth.

Such high rates of psychological pathology among post-abortive women are particularly relevant in Spain, where the law does not currently permit purely elective abortions. Criminal penalties are waived only under certain conditions, including cases of rape and fetal deformity, and danger to the physical and psychological health of the mother.

The psychological health exemption, which requires a diagnosis by a psychologist, is believed to account for well over 95% of all abortions that occur in Spain. However, the revelations of Gomez-Lavin's report may cast significant doubt on the claim that abortion can be a "therapeutic" measure for pregnant women.

Under Spain's current legal regime, over a million surgical abortions have been carried out since 1985, and the rate has climbed substantially in recent years, exceeding 110,000 annually.

"The scientific evidence demonstrates that having an abortion, far from improving the psychological health of the woman, causes serious psychological disturbances in a majority of them," writes Gomez-Lavin

All the wars ever fought

All the wars ever fought,

All the holocausts ever perpetrated,

All the plagues that ever raged,

All the bombs that ever dropped,

*All the famines that ever laid waste to the land, put together,
have not killed the number of human beings wiped out by abortion.*

World News

Australia – Queensland

Premier Bligh rejects bid for Queensland abortion reform

A PUSH by doctors and pro-choice activists to have abortion decriminalised in Queensland has been formally refused.

State Attorney-General Cameron Dick has officially responded to 4368 petitioners who called for Queensland to remove abortion from its Criminal Code in the wake of a Cairns couple being committed to trial for procuring an abortion.

“The Premier has made clear that the government has no plans to undertake a wider review of the general abortion laws,” Mr Dick wrote in his response, tabled in Queensland parliament on Christmas Eve.

“Any move to change the legislative provisions concerning abortion would have to be introduced as a private member’s bill and be subject to a conscience vote. The Premier has indicated that she would not seek to bind any of her colleagues to a particular position.”

More than 6000 Queenslanders signed an opposing petition arguing to keep the legislation as it is.

The abortion debate was reignited in Queensland with the laying of criminal charges against Cairns couple Tegan Leach, 19, and Sergie Brennan, 21, for allegedly procuring an abortion using drugs imported from Ukraine.

The pair were committed to trial in September. If convicted, Ms Leach faces up to seven years’ jail and Mr Brennan a maximum of three years.

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists have pushed

for abortion to be decriminalised in Queensland. There was also concern among doctors that the laying of charges against Ms Leach and Mr Brennan would mean medical abortions -- as opposed to the surgical termination of pregnancies -- would be illegal.

The Bligh government moved to clarify the law and amendments were passed in September to extend legal protection to those medical practitioners who carry out medical terminations.

Mr Dick’s decision has attracted praise from anti-abortion groups and criticism from those who are pro-choice.

Australian Christian Lobby chief of staff Lyle Shelton said the decision showed “integrity” on the Bligh government’s behalf.

Queensland is one of the few states to retain criminal sanctions against abortion on the statute books.

Caroline de Costa, the Cairns-based professor of obstetrics who suspended her abortion service using the drug RU486 after Ms Leach and Mr Brennan were charged by police, said the Attorney-General’s decision meant Queensland was out of step with the rest of Australia.

“Keeping (abortion) in the Criminal Code means it’s a grey area for the public and also for doctors,” she said.

Court of Human Rights Puts Pro-life Ireland in Hot Seat

By Piero A. Tozzi, J.D.

(NEW YORK – C-FAM) Irish abortion laws and sovereignty stand in the dock next week when the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) hears a challenge to Ireland’s constitutional protection of life “from conception.” Three petitioners in the case A, B & C v. Ireland allege that they were forced to travel overseas to obtain abortions, undergoing unnecessary expenses and hardship due to the nation’s pro-life laws. They claim violations of various rights under the European Convention on Human Rights.

“The purpose of civil government is to protect life, abandon that and you have abandoned all.”

Thomas Jefferson

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