



Footprints

THE NEWSLETTER OF

Right To Life New Zealand

Defending life from conception to natural death

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COURT OF APPEAL - UNBORN CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE A RIGHT TO LIFE



Unborn children do not have a right to life according to a decision of the Court of Appeal announced in its judgment on Wednesday 2 June 2011. The Judges were Justice Chambers, Stevens and Arnold.

Our assistant counsel Dr Ian Bassett, presented to the Court a detailed and compelling submission in support of the recognition of the humanity and right to life of unborn children. The Court in its judgment did not address the substance of this submission holding this to be not necessary. This decision in this respect has upheld the decision of Justice Miller made in the High Court in 2008. The judgment upholds section 159 of the Crimes Act 1961, which decrees that an unborn child does not become a human being until it is born.

Unborn children are the weakest and most defenceless members of the human family. Human life begins at conception. At the moment of conception the new human being is endowed by its Creator with human rights, the foundation right being a right to life. From conception the human being is entitled to the respect and protection accorded to the person. These rights are inalienable and universal. Our human rights are not conferred on us by the State or by the Courts, but it is the courts that have a duty to recognise those rights.

Right to Life sought leave on 22 July to appeal the Judgment of the Court of Appeal to the Supreme Court

The Courts are the sanctuary of the oppressed and the defenders of human rights. It is the duty and privilege of the State and the Courts to uphold our human rights. Right to Life sees it as its duty to seek the protection of the Courts for the human rights of unborn children. We are disappointed that the Court of Appeal has failed to uphold the human rights of unborn children.

In the hearing before the Court of Appeal, the Abortion Supervisory Committee had appealed against Justice Miller's findings in the High Court, that there was

"reason to doubt the lawfulness of many abortions," and as to the extent of its powers, to review the decisions of certifying consultants. RTL had cross appealed against the findings of Justice Miller on the right to life of the unborn child and for counselling services independent of abortion providers and his refusal to make declaratory orders. The Court of Appeal has allowed the Committee's appeal and dismissed RTL's cross appeal.

Right to Life is disappointed at the judgment of the Court of Appeal which has overturned several important findings in the judgment of Justice Miller given in the High Court in 2008, which would have provided significantly increased protection for the unborn child. The Court has quashed the findings that there were serious concern about the lawfulness of many abortions in New Zealand. The Court quashed the High Court finding that the

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FOOTPRINTS

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

President's Report



Chris O'Brien

Dear Members,

It is with some sadness that I write this report. Sadness that we are now living in a society which so debases and devalues human life that the Appeals Court of this land has upheld that the unborn child has no right to life. It has also adjudged that the Abortion Supervisory Committee, the very body responsible for administering safeguards on abortion, has no such responsibility. This is tragic.

The court's decision impels us to continue our fight on behalf to the unborn, to the highest court in the land, the Supreme Court. This could prove difficult for Right to Life as we have already had very significant costs awarded against us by the Court of Appeal. However we do not see any option. We can not give up now. I ask you to stand with us in prayer and support for the unborn as we fight on their behalf.

I am also sad that our government has made a decision to debase the worth of children conceived with mild disability. They are now targeted by our Ministry of Health for destruction. Shocking? Not really. Did we truly not expect such evils would not be spawned out of the complacency with which society regards the killing of our unborn?

Our Prime Minister, John Key appears to be able to do no wrong in the eyes of the majority of voters. Yet at a forum which was designed to promote the advancement of family values, - the recent Family First Conference, he stated that he wished to see Euthanasia legislation debated again in Parliament. He also personally supports the right of women to "Choose".

Many are concerned about the rising tide of youth crime and violence. Rising Knife crime and killings which began in the UK and US seem to be rising here. Violence against our young children is epidemic. Why can we not, as a society, make the connection between lack of respect shown for life in the womb and the current violence towards our kids who are born?

In the western world we alarmingly see a growing demographic decline. We see erosion of traditional values on all fronts and we see those who hold such values increasingly under threat. Unless we all wake up fast, life which is increasingly being commoditised, will become increasingly tenuous for the young, the elderly and the disabled.

However we must not lose heart in face of what is happening around us. We are called to be salt and light and this we must not forget. Let us continue to pray for the unborn and for those who are too weak to help themselves and let us do all we practically can, to speak out against the scourge which threatens the culture of life.

Chris O'Brien
 President Right to Life New Zealand Inc.

No woman wants an abortion as she wants an ice cream cone or a Porsche. She wants an abortion as an animal caught in a trap wants to gnaw off its own leg."
 — FREDERICA MATHEWES-GREEN, Real Choices

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Abortion Supervisory Committee had a statutory duty, to review the way certifying consultants are carrying out their very significant authorising function under the Act. The Court stated that any complaints against certifying consultants could be made to the Police or to the Health and Disability Commissioner.



Right to Life is encouraged by the dissenting opinion of Justice Arnold who stated, **“ it is implausible that Parliament would have intended to preclude the Committee from keeping under review the way in which they performed their role.”**

Justice Arnold also stated that the High Court was entitled to state that there “was reason to doubt the lawfulness of many abortions authorised by certifying consultants.” Justice Arnold stated that he would have dismissed the appeal of the Abortion Supervisory Committee on this issue. On all other issues Justice Arnold agreed with the majority.

Right to Life contends that the judgment of the Court has effectively placed certifying consultants above the law.

The majority decision of the Court of Appeal was written by Justice Stevens. He said that, “we are satisfied that the findings as to lawfulness of the decision making of the certifying consultants or judicial comment about New Zealand having abortion “on request” ought not to have been made in the circumstances of this case. We conclude that they are of no lawful effect.”

Society Report

It is with deep regret that we advise of the death of Bede Cosgriff, a life member of our Society. He was a foundation member of our Society and served our Society as a member of the executive for many years. He gave an example of outstanding generosity in his defense of life. In recent years he lost his sight and endured total blindness with great patience and insisted on faithfully attending our Society’s Annual General Meetings. He will be sadly missed.

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 and doing so 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

Right to Life is disappointed that the Court has overturned the costs granted to our Society in the High Court. The Court of Appeal has granted costs to the Abortion Supervisory Committee for the hearings in the High Court and the Court of Appeal. These costs could be substantial.

If the Committee should pursue these costs it will be a disincentive for any voluntary society in the future to bring matters concerning important human rights issues of public concern to the Courts.

Right to Life is totally committed to continuing to seek legal recognition for the status of unborn children as human beings endowed by their Creator at conception with human rights, the foundation right being an inalienable right to life. We are also committed to seeking the full protection of the law for the lives of unborn children and the welfare and health of women who are the second victims of abortion. Right to Life will take advice from our counsel on the advisability of seeking leave to appeal the judgment in the Supreme Court.

Right to Life applauds the media release made by the Catholic Bishops’ Conference expressing concern at the decision of the Court to refuse to recognise the right to life of unborn children. Right to Life encourages other church leaders to speak up in defence of the lives of our precious unborn. The judgment of the Court of Appeal may be read and downloaded on our web site righttolife.org.nz (Use search box and search using words “Court of Appeal”). In the event that the Supreme Court grants leave to our Society to appeal the judgment of the Court of Appeal to the Supreme Court, it is expected that the hearing will be held early in 2012.

treasurer Stephen Roach, 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

Help increase our Society’s membership by asking members of your family, friends and members of your church to defend the right to life by joining our Society.

Complaint of Crimes against Humanity Presented to International Criminal Court

Right to Life is pleased to support the complaint of crimes against humanity that was made in June to the International Criminal Court in The Hague. The complaint was lodged by Mike Sullivan of Whangarei and a group of thirty eight families who have a family member with Down syndrome. Right to Life is a co-complainant. The complaint names the Minister of Health in the New Zealand government as the person responsible for authorising the national anti-natal screening programme in February 2010. This complaint of crimes against humanity had previously been referred to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Health, the Health & Disability Commissioner, the Human Rights Commissioner and the Human Rights Tribunal. It is disappointing that the response from the Minister of Health and other authorities was that the anti-natal screening programme was not discriminatory and was providing a woman with the opportunity to choose whether she wished to continue with her pregnancy or terminate it, ie to kill her child before birth.

The complaint has been lodged with the Office of the Prosecutor under the provisions of Article 15.1 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to investigate and intervene in matters relating to crimes against humanity including genocide. The crimes relate to breaches of Article 6 and 7 of the Rome Statute through the persecution of an identifiable group of the population, namely those with Down syndrome and the deprivation of their right to life the foundation of their human rights. A letter was received from the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court on 4th July 2011, advising that our complaint was now being investigated.

Doctors are required to offer the ante-natal screening to every woman who is pregnant. The purpose of this

programme is to detect babies with Down syndrome. Women whose baby tests positive for Down syndrome are to be offered the opportunity to terminate

the life of their child. There is disturbing anecdotal evidence that women are being pressured into being socially responsible by having an abortion. This is social engineering and eugenics where only the perfect may be born.

The government is aware from overseas experience that the result of this screening programme will result in the killing of 90 percent of babies with Down syndrome. The Minister of Health has stated in correspondence with this Society that the screening programme provides information to women to enable them to make choices about their pregnancy.

The government is giving the message that babies with Down syndrome are not welcome in New Zealand. The screening programme is promoting eugenics which promotes the philosophy that only the perfect should be allowed to be born. The screening programme is also in contravention of the government's own Disability Strategy which seeks to promote, "A society that highly values the lives of disabled persons and continually enhances their full participation."

The screening programme discriminates against babies diagnosed with Down syndrome. There is no known cure for Down syndrome, and the screening programme is not to promote the health and wellbeing of the baby with Down syndrome but its destruction. The screening programme devalues a child with Down syndrome and is offensive to parents. Screening is ethical only when it is for the benefit of the child screened.

Abortion is the deliberate killing of a defenceless and innocent child in the womb. Right to Life requests that the government cease this search and destroy screening programme that targets babies with Down syndrome and other disabilities. The government should also stop clinicians from offering vulnerable women an abortion for the killing of their child.



Nuremberg, International War Crimes Court
1945 – Crimes Against Humanity



Mike Sullivan with his daughter Rebecca,
who has Down syndrome.

Prime Minister and Leader of Opposition believe Human Life begins at Quickening

Right to Life is disappointed and disturbed that the Prime Minister, John Key and the Leader of the Opposition, Phil Goff believes that human life begins at quickening (when the baby first can be felt by the mother kicking in the womb). The Prime Minister, John Key and Phil Goff made these statements in response to the question "When does human life begin?" at a recent NZ Forum on the Family.

The astounding response of the two political leaders who are seeking to lead our nation for the next three years raises serious questions. The first duty of the government they both seek to lead is to protect the right to life of every member of the human community from conception to natural death.

As they hold that human life does not commence till quickening, do they believe that the killing of nearly 17,550 babies by abortion in the womb between ten and twelve weeks ie before quickening as acceptable? Do they believe that this does not constitute a violation of the human rights of the child and a crime against humanity?

The Royal Commission on Contraception Sterilisation and Abortion, in its report to Parliament in 1977 stated, that they had received expert biological evidence from around the world confirming that human life began at conception. The Commission also stated

that the child from implantation has a status which entitles it to preservation and protection and that from implantation to birth, changes in the unborn child are of a developmental nature only.

"The three events suggested as being of significance, namely; quickening, viability and brain development, are no more than stages in that development and are not indicative of any qualitative changes in the developing child which would make it non-human at one point of time and human at another."

Right to Life asks of the above leaders the following question(s);

“(Do the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition accept the finding of the Royal Commission that human life begins at conception?)

If so what action will they take to protect the right to life of unborn children who are the weakest and most defenceless members of our human family?))



John Key

Anglican Bishops Silent on Issue of Down Syndrome Eugenics

In April Right to Life wrote to seven Anglican Diocesan Bishops requesting that they give consideration to giving support to the complaint of crimes against humanity lodged with the International Court in The Haig by thirty-seven families and Right to Life. The complaint was that the national screening programme introduced by the government to reduce the number of babies born with Down syndrome constituted crimes against humanity including genocide. It is disappointing that only one reply was received. The Right Rev Ross Bay, Bishop of Auckland replied and stated that;

"The level of abortion in this country is of concern to me, as is the potential for the development of a policy of eugenics. At the same time the situation of expectant parents is also of pastoral concern to me and I am reluctant to make blanket judgments about the decisions taken in individual situations. I cannot support your case as it is presented, but certainly encourage you to maintain ongoing dialogue with the government in order to combat a eugenics-based policy developing on any basis in relation to pregnancies in this nation."

Right to Life believes that the Church should be at the forefront of confronting any move towards eugenics and it was exactly this type of silence or prevaricating by the churches that led to the floodgates opening on abortion in this country. Why can they not see that their silence on this eugenics issue is complicit in its approval?



Archbishop of Canterbury Attacks Abortion

Unborn babies should be regarded as equal "members of the human family" the Archbishop of Canterbury said on 16th December in his 2010 Christmas address. "This is why we cannot regard unborn children as less than members of the human family, why those with disabilities or deprivations have less claim upon us than anyone else," he told 70 million Anglicans around the world.

A MINISTRY OF LIFESTYLE OR A MINISTRY OF HEALTH – QUO VADIS?

By Chris Pemberton PhD.



Dr Chris Pemberton PhD

Money's tight these days. Well, not for everyone. It seems our appetite for "subsidised lifestyle" is rapacious and knows no bounds, in and out of financial season. And it doesn't seem to pay heed to common sense either.

What I'm talking about is the inconsistent funding decision making by the Ministry of Health (or lifestyle depending on your view) and its drug buying agency PHARMAC. Take the recent news headlines of people suffering from life threatening lysosomal conditions – such as neuromuscular disease – and the reluctance of PHARMAC to subsidise the coverage of the drugs to successfully treat them. Now granted, at \$500,000 per patient per year for treatment, it's not cheap and the drug companies need to come to the party on this. But the people with the disease have a genuine medical condition which requires treatment. Contrast this with 2008, when John Key made an election based decision to review PHARMAC funding for Herceptin to treat breast cancer. Also, something else has happened recently as PHARMAC has now relaxed its "Exceptional Circumstances" regime meaning you do not have to have a rare condition in order to apply for funding. PHARMAC estimated it will increase this "Exceptional Circumstances" funding pool from \$4M to \$8M per annum, ie. double it. So, what we have is difficult decisions being made, based on dollars (PHARMAC has a budget of about \$720M per annum), not on medicine and with totally different outcomes.

But one area is immune from this - lifestyle, especially the area of sexual lifestyle. Now in New Zealand there are about 300,000-400,000 people who take oral contraceptives. And they are subsidised. Last time I checked, sex is not a medical condition requiring a doctor's prescription or clinic visit, so a life threatening condition is not apparent. But you still can buy via prescription, oral contraceptives at approximately 40% discount from the manufacturer's price. For ex-

ample, per 3 month lot, common contraceptives on PHARMAC'S schedule have a manufacturers cost of \$16.50 with the consumer subsidised to the tune of around \$6.60. Now if someone takes 4x3 months lots a year, that's \$26.40 per year. Multiply that by 350,000 odd people and you have a cost to the taxpayer of over \$9M per annum. And this doesn't include subsidies for condoms, creams and abortions, which would more than likely incur at least another \$4-\$6M per annum. Now this is all based around lifestyle- you *choose* to have sex, you *choose* to use contraception, you *choose* to have an abortion. Someone with neuromuscular disorders doesn't choose (if they could choose, they would say no). And yet the Ministry makes political mileage and quibbles about funding over people who can't choose, and leaves those who can to carry on in impunity. Madness. GK Chesterton once quipped that you could tell a society was decaying by the way it accepted outrageous things with an air of indifference and sought to preserve its own peculiar affections of the day – indeed, played the fiddle while its structures burned to the ground. One can't help but think he was right.

But it's not over yet, the ship hasn't sailed. The \$9M-\$15M that the government, through PHARMAC subsidies, is flushing down the sink to fund our decaying lifestyles could **instead** be pushed towards funding real disease, real clinical problems. And those who wish to use condoms, contraceptives or get abortions should do what everyone else does when they *choose* something – **pay for it in total**. You can't get a subsidy to buy cigarettes, you can't get a subsidy to buy alcohol and the guy behind you at the counter certainly won't pay for your 5 scoop ice cream. And at **only** an extra \$40 odd dollars per person per annum that such a decision would mean for oral contraceptive users, the argument is totally in favour of removing sexual lifestyle subsidies from the PHARMAC budget, saving between 1-2% of the total budget for other real diseases. But if you did that, what of the general population? Well, they might then be interested in learning other, cheaper and more respectful ways of dealing with their sexuality, and other areas of their life. And the air of indifference to other people's problems might just start to fade a little.

So the question remains – *quo vadis?* Do enough people want to change our Ministry from one of lifestyle, to one of Health? Let's hope so.

For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb. Psalm 139 v13.

Professor Jerome Lejeune – Discoverer of Cause of Down Syndrome

The French government is in the process of passing a law to make it mandatory for doctors to offer all pregnant women anti – natal screening to identify babies with Down syndrome. The abortion rate for women with a baby with Down syndrome in France is 96 per cent.

The eugenics campaign to eliminate those with Trisomy 21 was under way in the French media in the 1960's. Clara Lejeune Gaymard, daughter of French geneticist Dr Jerome Lejeune who discovered the cause of Down syndrome, vividly recalls the day that this devastating reality hit home for her family:

I remember it so clearly. I was 10 years old, and, one day, he (Dr Lejeune) came home for lunch. The day before, on television, there was a movie about a family where a woman had a child with Down syndrome, and she wanted to abort, and she couldn't do it then. After, there was a debate about abortion of the diseased children, and a boy came to his consultation with his mom, and he was crying, and my father said, "Why are you crying?" And his mother said, "He saw the movie, and I couldn't stop him crying," and then he jumped in my father's arms, and he was only 10 with Down syndrome. He said, "You know, they want to kill us. And you have to save us, because we are too weak, and we can't do anything." And [my father] came back home for lunch, and he was white, and he said, "If I don't protect them, I am nothing." That's how it started. And then his career came down. He didn't have money for his research. He was like a pariah, and so on, but he accepted that because he thought he was doing that which was his duty.¹

Dr Lejeune accepted the sacrifices and humiliation which accompanied the role of protector of those with Down syndrome and spent the rest of his career searching for a cure for Trisomy 21 until his death in 1994. Even on his deathbed, he apologized for abandoning those he called his "little ones" before finding a cure. His family took up the baton and formed the Jerome Lejeune Foundation in Paris to continue funding research on Down syndrome and to

treat thousands of patients. The Foundation has just opened a branch in the USA where they fund 94 ongoing research projects.

There is a cruel irony in the timing of this legislation; just as life has never been better for those with Trisomy 21, the French governments proposes measures which may lead to their extinction.

Scientists in America and Europe are closing in on groundbreaking therapies to make the learning and memory of those with Down syndrome completely normal, yet parents who have received a pre-natal diagnosis of Down syndrome are not likely to be told this by their health professionals, as the 92% abortion rate in the US suggests. They will not be told of the full, satisfying lives people with Down syndrome are leading now, how they are participating in sports, work, media, social events and relationships. It is more probable that they will hear a coldly clinical list of symptoms and dire prognoses about Down syndrome without reference to the promising research which may make the cognition and memory of those with Down syndrome normal within a decade, or their growing list of accomplishments. Instead, these vulnerable parents will be frightened by those whose prejudices against those with disabilities have been called by Dr Lejeune, "Chromosomal racism". The century old specter of eugenics has once again reared its ugly head in Europe. Will there be enough people of good will to say "no" to the "decline of civilization" as Cardinal Archbishop Vingt Trois has urged. "Toward what kind of society do we want to move?" he questioned in a recent article in a recent press conference. "The type of society we prepare for our children depend on the answers we give to all these questions today. The cause for the canonisation of this saintly scientist was opened on the 28 June 2007.



Professor Jerome Lejeune

Dr Christine Forster, a previous chairperson of the Abortion Supervisory Committee was quoted in the Sunday Star Times of the 5th November 2000 as stating in respect to the 98 per cent of women who had an abortion on mental health grounds;

"That she did not believe that all those women were in serious danger. I think people are fitting the grounds to the women." Certifying consultants were using mental health grounds to provide abortion on demand."

Parental Consent & Notification

Right to Life is opposed to school counsellors and members of the Family Planning Association smuggling young girls under the age of 16 years of age out of school for a secret abortion. In doing so they may be hiding statutory rape or incest. This is an appalling violation of parental rights and a breach of trust. It is a sad irony that a school requires the written consent of the parents for permission to attend a school trip or to be given an aspirin, yet may smuggle her away for an abortion without her parents' knowledge or consent.

Right to Life fully supports parents and has been lobbying Parliament since 1977 for the right of parents to be notified of an abortion on a girl under the age of 16 years of age as a prelude to the legal recognition of the right of parents to withhold consent.

To deny parents the opportunity to be informed of an abortion on a daughter under the age of 16, risks or perpetuates estrangement or alienation from the child when she is in the greatest need of parental guidance and support and denies all dignity to the family.

An abortion constitutes an assault on the body of a young and vulnerable girl, it is also a lethal attack on a helpless and defenceless unborn child. Young girls facing the trauma of an unplanned pregnancy have a right to the love and protection of their families. The unborn child is also a member of the family. It has an inalienable right to life and has a fundamental right to the love and protection of the girl's parents; they are, in fact, the child's grandparents.

Public opinion polls conducted in New Zealand have consistently revealed 80 per cent support for parental notification. There are 35 States in the United States that have parental consent or parental notification laws. A total of 22 States have parental consent laws and 12 that have parental notification laws. Many of the States require the written consent of both parents with the age of consent being 18 years of age. The parental consent and notification laws in that country have resulted in a decline in teenage pregnancies and a 15 per cent decline in teenage abortions.

In the 2004, contentious Parliamentary debate on the Care of Children Bill, amendments to provide for parental notification were defeated because of

the vociferous opposition of the Family Planning Association. The shameful defeat of these amendments reinforced the politically correct myth that doctors, school counselors and Family Planning staff know what's best for our children and can arrange for an abortion on a young girl without the knowledge or consent of the parents.

This is an important social justice issue, Parental notification is not an abortion issue. It is a family rights issue. In this election year, Right to Life encourages the community to ensure that parental notification becomes an important election issue. It is time that the government listened to the people and amended the Care of Children Act 2004 to provide for parental notification. Ultimately, only parental consent laws will give proper recognition to the rights of families.

Family First's, Bob McCoskrie reports that parental notification laws in Texas, Michigan, and other US states including liberal Minnesota, have seen a drop in both the pregnancy rate and the teen abortion rate, what he calls "a win-win situation for all concerned".

And a thoroughly scientific study in 2006 by Dr Priscilla Coleman, a research psychologist at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, refuted a long-standing contention that teenagers are better able to handle an abortion than dealing with an unplanned pregnancy. The study found that adolescent girls who had an abortion were five times more likely to seek help for psychological and emotional problems than those who kept their babies. The study also found that teenagers who had abortions instead of carrying the pregnancy to term were also more than three times more likely to report subsequent trouble sleeping, and nine times more likely to report subsequent drug use.

Dr Coleman pointed out that, while having a child as a teen might be problematic, "the risks of terminating seem to be even more pronounced"... The scientific evidence is now strong and compelling. Abortion poses more risks to women than giving birth."



"Abortion is child murder, when you consider that women have been treated as property, it is degrading to women that we should treat our children as property to be disposed of as we see fit."

Susan B. Anthony, a leader in the nineteenth century American feminist movement.

Two Out of Three Support Right to be Fully Informed On Abortion – Family First

The majority of New Zealanders think women considering abortion have the right to be fully informed of the medical risks of abortion - and the alternatives. In the poll of 1,000 people undertaken by Curia Market Research this month, respondents were asked **“Would you support a law that would require a woman considering an abortion to first see a doctor, who is not an abortion provider, to be informed of the medical risks and alternatives to abortion?”** 64% supported this proposed law, 29% disagreed, and the remainder (8%), were either unsure or refused to answer. Interestingly, women were slightly more in favour of this restriction than men. There was also significant support from younger people (18-30). “Family First NZ is calling for a law which requires informed consent including ultrasound for all potential abortions, and counselling to be provided only by non-providers of abortion services. Parental notification of teenage pregnancy and abortion should happen automatically except in exceptional circumstances approved by the court.” says Family First spokeswoman Marina Young. “A poll last year found almost 80% support for parental notification laws.”



Bob Mc Coskrie JP

Abortion Supervisory Committee Appointments

The Minister of Justice, Hon Simon Power presented to Parliament on the 7th April, a motion for appointments to the Abortion Supervisory Committee. The Hon Tariana Turia moved an amendment that Dr Ate Moala replace the Rev Patricia Allan on the Committee. The amendment was lost 70 to 31.

Right to Life is pleased that Parliament has moved to recommend to the Governor General that Dr Tangimoana Francis Habib be appointed to the Abortion Supervisory Committee. Dr Habib replaces Dr Rosemary Fenwicke who resigned from the Committee in July 2010.

Professor Dame Linda Jane Holloway of Dunedin and Reverend Patricia Anne Allan of Christchurch have been reappointed to the Committee for a further term of three years. Professor Holloway continues as Chairperson of the Committee

Dr Habib, a fellow of the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners is an honoured member of her profession. She currently works as a general practitioner at Te Kohao Health in Hamilton as well as conducting a satellite clinic in another high need area of Hamilton.

Right to Life is pleased that this appointment has been made and we are hopeful that she will bring to the Committee her medical expertise for the benefit of women and their unborn. We earnestly hope that she will be a strong advocate for her Maori culture,

a culture which places great value on the protection and preservation of whakapapa, the children of their whanau. Her advocacy of the need to love and protect our children born and unborn will be of great benefit to our nation.

It was disappointing that 27 Labour MPS voted against the amendment of Tariana Turia and none voted for the amendment. It would appear that Labour MPs were deprived of a conscience vote. Right to Life wrote to the Hon Phil Goff, leader of the Labour caucus expressing concern at the suppression of this democratic convention and asked why his Members were told who to vote for. We were disappointed to receive a reply from Phil Goff's private secretary, ignoring our question and thanked us for writing. Right to Life wrote to the 30 MPs who supported the appointment of Dr Ate Moala and thanked them for supporting her nomination. A letter of appreciation was sent to Tariana Turia, thanking her for her nomination. Right to Life also wrote to Dr Tangimoana Habib commending her for her generosity in accepting public service in a most contentious area concerning the health and welfare of women and the life and death of unborn children. We hope that she will be a strong advocate for Maori culture, a culture that places great value on the protection and preservation of whakapapa, the children of the whanau.

“I don't mind anybody knowing that I am totally opposed to the taking of Life.”

Hon Tariana Turia, Co Leader Maori Party, in an interview with the Waatea News.

Pro-Abortion University Groups – Defunded

Right to Life supports the right of university students to withhold student-association funding from pro-abortion university groups. This is a struggle for the minds and hearts of the nation's future leaders. Right to Life calls upon all Members of Parliament to vote for the final reading of the Education [Freedom of Association] Amendment bill that will remove the mandatory funding of the New Zealand Student Associations [NZUSA].

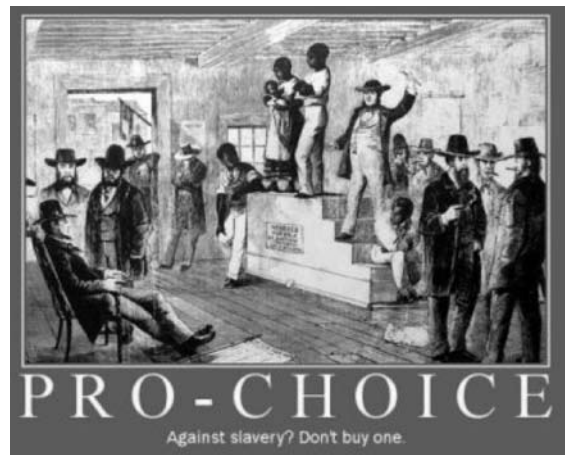
For many years so called women's rights groups and campus-affiliated "reproductive right's groups have infiltrated Student Unions and promoted dangerous anti life and pro abortion agenda which do not have the support of the majority of students. It is ironic that these groups which have the support of the Abortion Law Reform association of New Zealand support the right of women to choose to kill their unborn children, yet deny the right of university students to choose if they wish to pay subscriptions to an Association that funds and promotes groups that have an agenda that is anti-life and anti-women.

Universities are very important to society as places of learning, culture and free speech.

Students have an inalienable right to come together to form groups in the University to promote respect for life, the dignity of women and the importance of the family as the foundation of a healthy society. It is an intolerable assault on free speech when pro-abortion groups seek to silence those who wish to speak up on campus in defence of life. It is also intolerable to deny them the right to be recognised and affiliated to a Students Association.

It is important for the future of New Zealand that we have University educated leaders who will promote a culture of life and who respect for the sanctity of life of every human being from conception to natural death. ALRANZ which has minimal community support, is greatly concerned that its ability to impact young students with their pro-abortion agenda will be curtailed. The Association knows that if it loses the battle in the universities, it will ultimately loose in the wider community.

The passing of this enlightened legislation will herald a new dawn. It is fervently hoped that the darkness and the culture of death which is being promoted by ALRANZ in our University student bodies will be vanquished. The much needed legislation will encourage Students Associations to be responsive to the needs of the students.



Prolife Auckland re-affiliates

Prolife Auckland – the pro-life club at the University of Auckland has successfully re-affiliated with the AUSA (Auckland University Student Association). The affiliation process at the AUSA requires a vote at an open forum in the AUSA quad with AUSA members voting. At the meeting on 4 May there were two clubs on the agenda to

affiliate who were focused around abortion. Auckland Pro-choice and Prolife Auckland. Prolife Auckland was firstly affiliated last year after a 8 year discriminatory ban against pro-life clubs was removed. Auckland pro-choice is a new group set up this year. Prolife Auckland spoke in defence of the freedom of speech and urged everyone to vote for the affiliation of Auckland Pro-choice and Prolife Auckland. Prolife Auckland was affiliated on a vote of 46 to 26. Dame Margaret Sparrow, from ALRANZ was in attendance seeing democracy in action. The battle to defend the right to life will be won or lost in our Universities, as this is where our future leaders are being taught. Right to Life congratulates Pro-Life Auckland on its affiliation to the AUSA and commends them for standing up for life and the freedom of speech.



He who passively accepts evil is much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it.

Martin Luther King Jnr

Mother's Day 8th May

Mothers are the heart of the family and a culture of life, Right to Life pays tribute to the love and often heroic sacrifice that Mothers make in nurturing new life especially those mothers who rejected abortion and choose life for their unborn child in the face of abandonment by the father, these are truly heroic women. We should also reach out with compassion to those mothers who were coerced into having an abortion and are now faced with a lifetime of grief and sorrow. The late Cardinal Mindszenty said that the most important person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honour of having built Notra Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any Cathedral, a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body... The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven. Only a mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature. God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation... What on God's earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother.

Prime Minister Supports Euthanasia Bill

Right to Life is disappointed at the very recent support of the Prime Minister, for Parliament to give consideration to legislation to provide euthanasia in New Zealand.

In considering euthanasia it is important to recognise that euthanasia is about doctors killing their patients or assisting in their suicide. Euthanasia may be voluntary, involuntary or compulsory. If voluntarily administered by oneself, it is a form of suicide. If administered by another in an involuntary or compulsory way, it is a form of murder. Legislation permitting doctors to kill their patients would make them the most dangerous persons in the land.

The American statesman, Thomas Jefferson stated that the care of human life and happiness and not their destruction, is the first and only legitimate objective of good government. It is not the prerogative of good government to provide for the killing of the ill or elderly.

There is no need for Parliament to give further consideration to euthanasia legislation. Parliament has previously considered, so called 'Death with Dignity Bills'. The first, that of Michael Laws in 1995 that was defeated at its first reading by 61 to 29 and the second, the Bill of Peter Brown in 2003 that was defeated by 60 to 57.

The Prime minister should be aware that we have excellent palliative care for the terminally ill and that the New Zealand Medical Association is totally opposed to legislation that would allow doctors to kill their patients or assist in their suicide.

Euthanasia is a threat to the elderly and the ill. In Holland in 2009, 2636 patients were put to death by their doctor. In addition there were 400 deaths where the doctor assisted in the death of the patient and 550 deaths where the doctor killed the patient without explicit consent or request.

The prime Minister should recognise that abortion and euthanasia emanate from a culture of death. Euthanasia will continue to threaten our society until Parliament provides effective legal protection for the right to life of unborn children who are being killed and which killing is being, sanctioned and funded by the state.

Right to Life requests that the Prime Minister withdraws his support for euthanasia and actively promotes a culture of life that protects the right to life of every human being from conception to natural death.



Ministry of Social Development – Hon Paula Bennett

The Minister of Social Development in May 2011 concerned about the high rate of child abuse in New Zealand announced that she was to present a Green Paper to introduce a national debate on how we value, nurture and protect children. Right to Life wrote to the Minister and made a submission that child abuse began in the womb and that this debate should include discussion around the fact that the most dangerous place for an unborn child, was in its mother's womb and that abortion was the ultimate in child abuse. The Minister responded on 13 July, stating that she welcomed our concerns regarding the abuse of unborn children but that abortion was outside of the scope of the Green Paper. Right to Life encourages supporters to engage in the national debate provided by the proposed Green Paper and to make a submission on abortion being the ultimate in child abuse.



Hon Paula Bennett

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**If you could spare one hour a week or less frequently please contact:
Maria or Sandra 351-3225**

Right to Life

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