



Footprints

THE NEWSLETTER OF Right To Life New Zealand

Defending life from conception to natural death

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Supreme Court Confirms Duty of Abortion Supervisory Committee to Hold Certifying Consultants Accountable for Abortions they Authorise

Right to Life welcomes the judgment of the Supreme Court following the hearing on the 13th March 2012 in the proceedings Right to Life v the Abortion Supervisory Committee. The judgment released on the 9th August declined the appeal of Right to Life by three to two.

The Court however;

- Affirmed that it was the duty of the Abortion Supervisory to enquire from Certifying Consultants how they were approaching their decision making in general.
- Noted that the Committee was mistaken in believing that it had no judicial authority to inquire of certifying consultants how they were authorising abortions on mental health grounds. The Committee had the power to revoke the appointment of certifying consultants where inquiries the Committee makes, lead it to believe that consultants are holding views incompatible with the tenor of the Act. The Committee may refer to the Health and Disability Commissioner or the medical disciplinary authorities, the case of a consultant authorising abortions inconsistent with the abortion law.



Right to Life, is however, disappointed that the Supreme Court dismissed the first grounds of our appeal of the judgment of the Court of Appeal. This ground sought recognition that the Committee had the power to review or scrutinise the decisions of certifying consultants and form its own view about the lawfulness of their decisions to the extent necessary to perform its functions.

Right to Life notes that 98 per cent of abortions, are authorised on the grounds of mental health. Right to Life also notes that a previous chairperson of the Abortion Supervisory Committee, stated in a national newspaper in November 2000, that she did not believe that all these women were suffering from mental ill health and that consultants were using mental health grounds to provide abortion on demand.

The Supreme Court judgement is an unprecedented one. It now places certifying consultants on notice that the Committee has power to make generalized inquiries into the way they are carrying out their functions. The judgment also informs the Committee that they were mistaken in believing that they had no statutory duty or power to make these enquires.

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

Prison for Praying outside Abortion Clinic - Canada

OTTAWA, Ontario, June 8, 2012 (LifeSiteNews.com) – The Supreme Court of Canada dismissed an appeal by pro-life prisoner of conscience Linda Gibbons on Friday morning as she continues her 18-year battle to overturn a Toronto injunction banning pro-life activity outside of abortion facilities.

Gibbons was appealing a criminal charge of disobeying a court order by arguing that while the 18-year-old temporary injunction she is accused of violating was instituted by a civil court, she has since been tried in criminal courts.

Gibbons has spent about 9 of the last 18 years behind bars for repeated violations of the injunction because she steadfastly refuses to accept a bail condition that requires her to stay away from the abortion facilities. She told LifeSiteNews in 2011 that signing



Linda Gibbons

the bail papers would be like saying, “Yes I will cease defending innocent unborn children that are about to be killed.”

“If a two-year-old was being murdered next door, you’re not going to sit down and write a letter to your MP,” she explained. “When we’re having unborn children slaughtered at the rate we are in Canada, ...should our lives go on as normal?” she asked in response. “It’s not normal to live in the Holocaust and sort of pretend it’s not happening.”

The 1994 injunction was instituted by Bob Rae’s provincial NDP government amidst calls for a government crackdown against the pro-life movement after they were declared guilty by the media for the 1992 bombing at abortionist Henry Morgentaler’s Toronto facility. Charges were never laid in that bombing, however, and the prime suspect was the father of a child aborted at the facility. Nevertheless, the injunction has had the effect of silencing pro-lifers’ freedom of speech, and effectively impeding the life-saving work of sidewalk counselors and vigil-keepers.

Gibbons told LifeSiteNews in 2011 that she will continue to challenge the injunction “as long as God gives me life and breath. If I can get out of bed and put my feet on the floor, then I want to continue.” “When we begin to suffer for the unborn, our identification with them, that’s when we’re going to impact society, when they see that,” she added. “The Church is not hurting enough for the unborn. When we start feeling their hurt in a real concrete way, then things are going to change, because then we’re saying very clearly that this cannot go on.”

“Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to death; don’t stand back and let them die.” - Proverbs 24:11

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Right to Life expects that with the implementation of this judgment that:

- It should place restraints on the abortion on demand regime that prevails in New Zealand.
- It advances the human rights of unborn children in receiving the full protection of the law.
- It advances protection for the health and welfare of women, from the violence of abortion.

The Supreme Court found that Justice Miller in the High Court, "did not go too far when he appeared to question the lawfulness of abortions authorised by certifying consultants. To a large extent he was repeating or paraphrasing remarks already made by the Committee itself in its reports to Parliament." Justice Miller had said in his judgment, "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."

Unborn children are the weakest and most defenceless members of the human family. Right to Life is confident that the government will ensure that women and their unborn will now receive the full protection of the law afforded by this judgment.

According to the New Zealand Crimes Act 1961 the unborn child does not become a human being until it is born

The Supreme Court comprised, Justice Elias presiding with Justices Blanchard, Tipping, McGrath and Young. Justices Young and McGrath gave a strong dissenting opinion to that delivered by the majority. The Justices said that they disagreed with the conclusions of the majority and upheld the submission of Right to Life. The strong opinion of

the dissenting Justices recognises the substantial case presented to the Court by Right to Life and fully vindicates our Society in bringing these matters to the Court. Right to Life is most grateful to our counsel, Peter McKenzie QC, NZOM, Dr Ian Bassett LLB, Hons, LL.M [Cambridge] and Miss Rachael Wong, for their commitment and dedication in representing our Society in the High Court, the Court of Appeal and finally in the Supreme Court.

According to the New Zealand Crimes Act 1961 the unborn child does not become a human being until it is born. Right to Life is disappointed that its substantial case for legal recognition of the unborn child as a human being was rejected in the High Court and on appeal by the Court of Appeal. In the High Court Justice Forest Miller stated in his judgment that, "the rule according human rights only at birth is founded on conscience rather than medical or moral grounds.

A legal right to life would be incongruous in such a law, for it would treat the unborn child as a separate legal person, possessing a status fundamentally incompatible with induced abortion, far from modifying the born alive rule, the abortion law rests on it.."

These proceedings commenced in the High Court in Wellington in May 2005. Our Society is also most grateful to our members and supporters who have generously funded these important legal proceedings. The total cost of these proceedings for our Society was \$119,000. The legal costs incurred by the Crown were nearly \$280,000 which does not include the costs for the Crown's appearance in the Supreme Court. It is now expected that the Ministry of Justice or the Crown Law Office will do a careful analysis of the judgment to establish the new and full statutory responsibilities of the Abortion Supervisory Committee [ASC] and certifying consultants. This document will then be submitted to the Committee for its implementation. The Committee is subject to regular review by the Parliamentary Justice and Electoral Select Committee and it is expected that this Committee will ensure that the ASC complies with the requirements of the judgment. Right to Life is committed to ensuring that the ASC holds certifying consultants accountable for the lawfulness of the abortions that they authorise.



This judgment is a positive step towards Right to Life's objective of the legal recognition, that from the moment of conception, every human being is endowed with human rights, the foundation right being the right to life. These rights are inalienable and universal. From conception, the new human being should be accorded the respect and protection due to the person. Abortion is violence against women and their unborn and a violation of the human rights of the mother and her unborn child. This is the justice issue of our era.

The belief that self autonomy is of such a high value that it trumps the sanctity of human life is one of the foundational lies that is destroying our culture our country and our world

– Right to Life NZ

New Zealand Down Syndrome Association [NZDSA] - New Position Statement

Right to Life commends Mike Sullivan and the dedicated members of Savingdowns, for their untiring efforts to promote respect and love for those persons with Down syndrome. They are assured of our unconditional support in seeking protection for their right to life. Mike has advised that the NZDSA has amended its position statement. The NZDSA now intend to support our submission on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [CRPD] to the Human Rights Commission. The reference "that the submission is centred on disability rights" means that they are supporting it on the basis that the submission is based around disability rights arguments founded in the CRPD and that the organisations supporting the submission are only disability advocacy groups. This is consistent with what we have previously discussed in relation to the HRC submission. Right to Life together with the members of Savingdowns welcomes the positive changes in the NZDSA position statement and their support for the submission to the Human Rights Commission.

The NZDSA have also completed their consultation with their members on their proposed new position statements and will be adopting the following position statement on prenatal screening:

The New Zealand Down Syndrome Association believes that people with Down syndrome have a right to life.

- We value babies, children and adults with Down syndrome.
- We believe people with Down syndrome lead full and satisfying lives and enrich the lives of those around them.
- We provide support and information to parents, whanau and people with Down syndrome.
- The NZDSA advocates that the primary goal of prenatal screening should not be to reduce the birth prevalence of Down syndrome in the population, but rather to improve prenatal health care and delivery care for the mother and baby.

The NZDSA respects the rights of parents and realises that parents need to choose whether to decline or engage in prenatal screening and that this decision is influenced by a complex interplay of factors.



Mike Sullivan and daughter

If parents choose to have prenatal screening, the NZDSA believes that screening must be presented in a way that does not discriminate against people with Down syndrome. In addition, people must not be pressured into having prenatal screening for Down syndrome.

The NZDSA are now awaiting to determine if members are in favour of a neutral position on terminations or whether as members are indicating they wish to adopt the following position statement:

'The New Zealand Down Syndrome Association does not consider Down syndrome in itself a reason for termination.'

Zandra at the NZDSA indicated that there has been a major shift in membership views on this issue and we credit this to Savingdowns, with the associated media coverage, having played a pivotal role in this process. Statistics released from the Ministry of Health for the births of children with Down Syndrome indicate that the new national ante-natal screening programme for Down and other disabilities appears to have not substantially affected the number of births for babies with that condition.

Year of data	Number of discharges
2007	58
2008	54
2009	44
2010	51
2011	60

"There is a big difference between the choice to have a child and the choice to kill a child. Because abortion kills a child who already exists, it is in no way a "right."

– Father Frank Pavone

Lower Abortion Statistics in 2011

Good News for Mothers and their Unborn

Right to Life is encouraged that the number of abortions in 2011 announced by Statistics NZ, reveals a further continuing reduction in the number of unborn children killed before birth. The total number of abortions reported in 2011 was 15,863 the lowest total since 15,501 abortions were reported in 1999. The increased availability of the emergency contraceptive pill (ECP) may have contributed to the reduction in abortions. The ECP is abortifacient and destroys a human embryo before implantation.

The general abortion rate (abortions per 1,000 women aged 15 – 44 years) decreased from 18.1 per 1,000 in 2010 to 17.3 in 2011. This rate is the lowest since 1995 when it was 16.1 per 1,000. The lower abortion rate indicates that the decrease in the number of abortions was “due to fewer women having abortions rather than to changes in the size or age structure of the population,” said Dallas Welch, the acting government statistician.

In the year ended December 2011:

- 15,863 abortions were performed in New Zealand, the lowest number since 1999 (15,501).
- The general abortion rate was 17.3 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years, down from 18.1 per 1,000 in 2010.
- Women aged 20–24 years had the highest abortion rate (33 abortions per 1,000 women aged 20–24 years).
- The median age of women having an abortion was 25 years.
- Most abortions (62 percent) were a woman's first abortion.
- 55 percent of abortions were performed before the 10th week of the pregnancy.

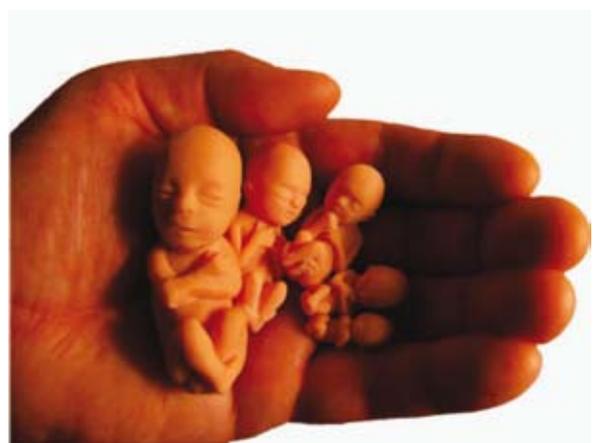
The number of repeat abortions was 38 per cent. Right to Life considers that this statistic is conservative, as studies done in the United States reveal that 50 per cent of abortions there are repeat abortions. There were 6,042 women who were having a repeat abortion. Why so many? How many women are using abortion as a

form of contraception?

The repeat abortion statistics released by Statistics New Zealand are a cause for concern.

Why does the Abortion

Supervisory Committee believe that the solution is more long term contraception? Contraception is not the solution. The total of repeat abortions for 2011 were 6053, 38 per cent of the total 15,863, 3,974 were having their second abortion, 1,398 were having their third, 446 were having their fourth, 143 their fifth, 52 their sixth, 18 their seventh and 11 their eighth or more. While it is always wrong to kill the innocent, we should also be concerned about the damage abortion is doing to women's health. The international literature on the subject of repeat abortions reveal that there is substantial evidence that repeat abortions result in an increased threat to the psychological and physical health of woman in future pregnancies. Masochism or self punishment has been identified as a factor in motivation for repeat abortions. A study of women at the Boston Hospital for Women concluded that women who had two or more abortions were 2.7 times more likely to have future first trimester spontaneous abortions and 3.2 times more likely to have a second trimester incomplete abortion than were women with no history of induced abortion.



Song Contest

The 5th Voice for Life National Pro-Life Song writing Contest will be held in Auckland this year, on 24th November. For information go to the website:

<http://voiceforlife.bravehost.com/index.html>

“I notice that everybody who is Pro-Abortion has already been born.”

- Ronald Reagan

Why Beneficiaries are the Victims of Paula Bennett's Social Engineering Policies

Right to Life is disappointed that the government is victimising women on the Domestic Purposes Benefit. The Hon Paula Bennett has announced the introduction of free contraception for women on the DPB and for their daughters over the age of 16. The contraception comprises the intra uterine device, [IUD], Depo Provera and long term Jadell implants.



Hon Paula Bennett

The contraceptive programme was included in the recommendations of the Welfare Working Group as being a **compulsory requirement** for women to receive the DPB. Right to Life views this as a gross violation of the human rights of women. The community should vigorously oppose this programme. If today we accept this programme offered under the guise of choice, tomorrow it may become a compulsory requirement for women who seek the DPB to be subject to long term contraception to prevent them having further children while on the DPB. We are living in dangerous times when the government may in the future consider using contraception as a weapon to control the community. We could follow China with its one child family policy, with forced abortions and sterilisations. The government's proposed programme is morally reprehensible:

The programme is insulting, discriminatory and demeaning to women. The introduction of this programme wrongly infers that women on the DPB are promiscuous and irresponsible. The truth is:

- Contraception is part of a culture of death, is contrary to the natural law, violates a woman's body and is intrinsically evil.
- The programme upholds the government's failed Family Planning style comprehensive sex education and its so called "safe sex" programme that promotes sexual activity outside of marriage.
- Offering free contraceptives to the daughters of those on the DPB is giving the message to young girls that being promiscuous is acceptable.
- The Jadell long term implant releases the hormone levonorgestrel into a woman's body. The long term effects on a woman's health are unknown.

The programme is insulting, discriminatory and demeaning to women. The introduction of this programme wrongly infers that women on the DPB are promiscuous and irresponsible. The truth is:

- There are 112,000 persons on the DPB, the vast majority are women. Teenagers number only 1165, which is only 2.7 per cent of the total. Only 20 per cent of women on the DPB have additional children while on the benefit.
- The government claims that the programme's objective is to reduce benefit dependency. This is untrue, 67.7 per cent of women are on the DPB for four years or less, hardly a lifetime choice.
- Women on the DPB are the most maligned sector of our community; it is often claimed that many are defrauding the government. This is untrue; in 2007 Social Welfare set up a special fraud intelligence unit to detect benefit fraud. The Department checked 29 million records and found that benefit fraud rate amounted to only 0.10 per cent (in plain terms one in a thousand) that showed that women receiving the DPB were exceedingly honest.



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Always remember that when it comes to personal relationships, tolerance is a virtue; but when it comes to truth, tolerance is a travesty

- anon

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The Welfare Working Group has failed;

- To address the plight of many women who have been abandoned by the fathers of their children.
- To take into account the social and economic contribution that those who are on the DPB make to society in raising their children.
- To recognise the limited availability of work for those on the DPB.
- To acknowledge the extent of poverty among those on the DPB.
- To address the availability of and affordability of child care.

It is not beneficiaries who have failed society, it is the government which has failed beneficiaries. Offering free contraception to those on the DPB is not the solution, it is part of the problem. Women who have courageously chosen life for their children instead of abortion deserve our admiration and support.

The government continues to promote the killing of unborn children as a “core health service”, that has unlimited funding and no waiting list. It is not a health service and it has no place in our public health system. Women who are faced with an unplanned pregnancy deserve compassion and practical assistance to bring their child to birth. The killing of the child is not the solution to this important social issue. No child is unwanted as there are many families that are unable to have children, who would love to adopt a child in an open adoption that allows the birth mother to have an on-going relationship with their child. Why does the government continue to refuse to promote adoption as the loving option?

The killing of unborn children is a violation of the right to life of the child. It is also a violation of the human rights of the mother who is entitled to the love, protection and support of the community. This is the justice issue of our time. It is intolerable that the government should require that taxpayers have the blood of innocent children on their hands. All taxpayers are required to fund the killing of the innocent and see damage being inflicted on vulnerable women.

Abortion is also a violation of a woman’s body. It is intolerable that this violation is inflicted by doctors paid by the state in public hospitals under a law that was intended by Parliament in 1977 to protect both the mother and her child. We should weep for our lost children. We should also weep for the grief and sorrow imposed on women and the spiritual, physical and psychological damage inflicted on them. Our abortion holocaust is the result of the introduction of the contraceptive pill in the 1960s.

Right to Life commends those brave and courageous women who when faced with an unplanned pregnancy chose life for their child. These are truly heroic women who deserve our admiration and support. Right to Life longs for the day when women are treated with the respect that they deserve and when we stop seeing the killing of their unborn children as a “health service”

Right to Life again asks; why are many of our churches silent on this crucial justice issue?



Once 90% of Down Syndrome Children have been aborted, then it is very easy to pay lip service to the rights of the disabled. It is much harder though, not to see the vile hypocrisy.

– Right to Life NZ

News in Brief

Auckland University – Attempt to Silence ProLife NZ



A motion to disaffiliate the pro-life group ProLife NZ from membership of the Auckland Students Association was soundly defeated at a special general meeting of students on Wednesday 18th July. The motion was that the group be disaffiliated for distributing a pamphlet that “contained misleading information” The pamphlet advocated a woman’s right to know essential health information on the serious risks to women’s physical and mental health. Right to Life congratulates the students at the Auckland University who voted 227 -125 to defeat a motion to disaffiliate the pro-life group, ProLife NZ. This was a victory for democracy and the right of free speech protected by the New Zealand Bill of Rights. Section 14, states: **“Freedom of expression, Everyone has the right to freedom of expression including the freedom to seek, receive and impart**

information and opinions of any kind.” It is imperative for a truly democratic society that we uphold this fundamental freedom to exercise the freedom of expression. It is disappointing that there are some students who are opposed to information being provided to students that exposes the damage to women’s health resulting from the killing of an unborn child. The members of ProLife NZ are to be commended and supported for their efforts to promote a culture of life that recognises the inalienable right to life of every human being from conception to natural death. ProLife NZ deserves the full support of the whole student body. It is always wrong to kill the innocent. A nation that kills its own children does not have a future.

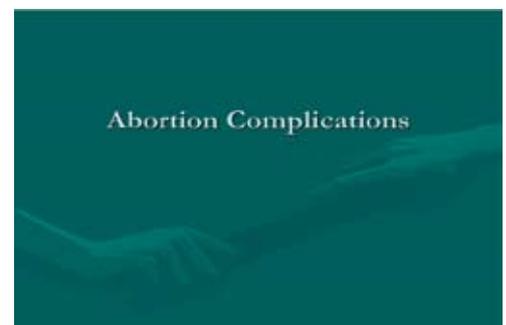
United Nations – Pressure on New Zealand to Liberalise Abortion Laws

The New Zealand government delegate at a recent Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women [CEDAW] Committee review of New Zealand’s

Abortion laws, in response to request from a member of the Committee to liberalise our laws stated, “there is no appetite by government members or other parties to discuss or modernize the legislation.” This is encouraging news.

Aborted Women Admitted to Hospital

A total of 877 women were admitted to hospital in New Zealand for the treatment of complications following abortions in 2009 to 2011. The total number of bed-days totalled 1047. These important statistics reveal that abortions not only kill an unborn child but can result in damage to a woman’s health. This information was obtained under the Official Information Act, from the Ministry of Health. Information on the nature and severity of the complications is not available. Why was it necessary to utilise the Official Information Act to obtain important information concerning the health of women that should be freely available in the public domain?



There were a total of 52,120 abortions reported to the Abortion Supervisory Committee in 2009 to 2011. The hospital admittance rate for women being treated for complications arising from abortions was 1.68 per cent. This important information is not included in the Committee’s annual report to Parliament.

Abortionists are required to report to the Committee any complications that result from abortions prior to the woman being discharged. It is noted that a number of the 877 women admitted for treatment for complications would have been admitted to hospital immediately following the abortion, however, their hospitalisation is not required to be advised to the Committee. The remainder of the women would have been discharged from the abortion facility after their abortion and then subsequently readmitted to hospital.

In 2010 Right to Life obtained from the Committee under the Official Information Act statistics of complications reported by abortionists to the Committee in 2010. The information revealed that there were a total of 73 complications reported in the performance of 17,550 abortions, a complication rate of 0.4 per cent. These statistics are collated by Statistics New Zealand on behalf of the Committee. The Abortion Supervisory Committee does not include these statistics in its annual report to Parliament on the grounds that the incidence of complication is so small and not

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There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

– Proverbs 14:12

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worthy of report. **Right to Life believes that there is considerable under reporting of complications by abortionists which give women a false impression that abortion is a safe procedure.**

The Committee also excludes from its annual report to Parliament any statistical information on the number of women who are admitted to hospital for the treatment of a complication arising from abortion. The Committee has for many years congratulated abortionists for their skill in providing the women of New Zealand with “safe” abortions.

Why was it necessary to utilise the Official Information Act to obtain important information concerning the health of women that should be freely available in the public domain?

There are many complications both physical and psychological that damage a woman's health. Right to Life sought information under the Official Information Act from the Ministry of Health of the number of women who were admitted to hospital for psychiatric treatment following an abortion, our Society was advised that this information was not recorded.

A study of the medical records of 56,741 California Medicaid patients revealed that women who had abortions were 160 per cent more likely than women

delivering a baby to be hospitalised for psychiatric treatment in the first 90 days following abortion or delivery. Rates of psychiatric treatment remained significantly higher for at least four years. A five year retrospective study in two Canadian provinces found that 25 per cent of aborted women made visits to psychiatrists and were more likely than others to require admission to a psychiatric hospital.

The Committee has a statutory duty under the Contraception Sterilisation and Abortion Act to provide an annual report to Parliament. Section 14 states that the Committee has a duty “To monitor, analyse, collate, and disseminate information relating to the performance of abortions in New Zealand: Right to Life asks:

- Why is information about the number of women admitted to hospital for the treatment of complications resulting from an abortion not included in the Committee's annual report to Parliament?
- How does the Committee reconcile a complication rate of .03 per cent with a hospital admittance rate of 1.68 per cent?
- What action is the Committee taking to ensure that all complications resulting from an abortion prior to the discharge of the woman are notified to the Committee?
- Why does the Ministry of Health not record the admittance of women to a psychiatric hospital for treatment as a result of having an abortion?

Enticement to Abortion

Staff at the Level J Abortion Clinic at the Wellington Hospital and the Lyndhurst Abortion Clinic at the Christchurch Hospital have been encouraging vulnerable women to choose to kill their unborn child. The actions of the staff are unethical and reprehensible.

Women are being given a pamphlet titled, “Women Know”. Some of the statements in the pamphlet are:

- “We know when the choice of abortion can prevent the harsh consequences of bringing a child into the world when we are not ready or able to do our child justice.”
- “We act out of compassion when we wait to have a child until the time when we can give it the kind of life every child deserves.”
- “We act out of love when we consider what we would be taking away from the child or children we already have if we brought another child into our family now.”
- “We take care of our spiritual well – being each in our own way, trusting our faith to provide: Infinite love, complete understanding, unlimited forgiveness and boundless compassion”

We do not take care of our spiritual health by offending God. Abortion is intrinsically evil and it is always wrong to

kill the innocent. The killing of God's precious infants gives grave offence to God. Our conscience tells us to avoid evil and to do good. This pamphlet seeks to confuse vulnerable women, by falsely inferring that God supports and accepts abortion. God does not. It is an attempt to make evil virtue and virtue evil.



To use emotive words such as love, compassion to disguise a culture of death and to seduce women into believing that terminating the life of a defenceless and innocent unborn child is an act of love is appalling. Right to Life requests, that the Capital and Coast and Canterbury District Health Boards immediately remove this pamphlet. The Boards should also advise the community why this disturbing and damaging pamphlet is being given to vulnerable women in their abortion facilities and what action they are taking to protect vulnerable women from being exploited by false and desensitising pro abortion propaganda?

“How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers.” – Mother Teresa

Southern District Health Board – Child Killing - Abortion Clinic Invercargill

Right to Life opposes the proposal of the Southern District Health Board, [Southern DHB] to establish a killing centre for Southland unborn children at the Southland Hospital. The proposal is bad news for the women of Southland and for their unborn and indeed for the whole community of Southland. It is a violation of the right to life of unborn children and a failure to provide proper care for vulnerable and distressed women. Is this the best “service” that the Southern DHB can offer the women of Southland?

The proposed killing centre is opposed by many of the staff of the Southland Hospital and by many in the community. The Southern DHB have not consulted the community and are imposing this Abortion Clinic on the citizens of Southland; why is this? The citizens of Southland and the churches should vigorously oppose this culture of death posing as a health service.

The Chief Medical Officer of the Board stated that the Southland Hospital is expected to be able to perform abortions from July and that the service would ensure women had “adequate access to care in their own district”. It is a travesty to call the killing of an innocent and defenceless child in the womb, care! How do we provide care for a vulnerable woman by killing her baby and then call it a service?

The Board does not have a statutory duty to establish an abortion clinic at the Southland Hospital. There is no requirement in the Contraception Sterilisation and Abortion Act 1977, [CS&A Act] that mandates that it apply to the Abortion Supervisory Committee for a licence to terminate the lives of unborn children. The decision and responsibility of inflicting this “service” on the people of Southland rests solely with the Board.

Since the passing of the C S & A Act in 1977, the staff at Southland Hospital and the citizens of Southland have a proud record of promoting a culture of life by refusing to permit the establishment of an Abortion Clinic in their Hospital. Let us keep Southland abortion free.

The Board has a duty to the community that it serves to provide health services that protect life and promote health. Abortion is not a genuine health service and there is no place for a culture of death in the Southland hospital which is dedicated to protecting the life and the health of patients. It is abhorrent that healthy babies in potentially normal pregnancies should be terminated in pseudo-legal abortions in a hospital where heroic efforts are made to save premature babies.

The establishment of abortion facilities in Invercargill should be vehemently opposed by the citizens and churches of Southland. It is always wrong to kill the innocent and we all have a duty to defend the right to life of every human being especially unborn children who are the weakest and most defenceless members of the human family.

Abortion not only kills an unborn child, it is also damaging to women’s health. It can result in a lifetime of sorrow and regret for the mother, sterility, an increased risk of breast cancer and premature deliveries in subsequent pregnancies. Women who face an unplanned pregnancy deserve compassion and help in bringing their child to birth. No child is unwanted. There are many families that would love to adopt a baby in an open adoption.

Doctors and nurses at the Kew Hospital should seek the protection of section 46 of the C S & A Act and refuse on conscience grounds to be involved in abortion.



Australia – Dr Peter Singer The Australian government has granted the highest civil honour in the Queen’s Birthday honours to the notorious philosopher, Peter Singer. He has been made a Companion of Australia for “eminent service to philosophy and bioethics as a leader of public debate and communicator of ideas in the areas of global poverty, animal welfare and the human condition”.

Peter Singer advocates that animals have a right to life that is equal to that of a human being. There is something naive about this catalogue of Singer’s achievements. Around the world, his name is synonymous with arguments that legitimise infanticide. He claims that because the unborn child is not a person it is morally acceptable to kill the child. He has been advocating this case since at least 1979, when he published his most influential book, Practical Ethics. He says: “A week-old baby is not a rational and self-aware being, and there are many non-human animals whose rationality, self-awareness, capacity to feel and so on, exceed that of a human baby a week or a month old. If, for the reasons I have given, the fetus does not have the same claim to life as a person, it appears the newborn baby does not either.”

Euthanasia isn't mercy. It is abandonment

- Wesley J Smith

Abortion and Eugenics before the European Court of Human Rights

International Criminal Court – The Hague

Right to Life has been invited by the European Centre for Law and Justice to support them as a third party in making a submission to the European Court of Human Rights [ECtHR] in a number of important cases concerning abortion. The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) currently has before it an unprecedented number of cases relating to abortion. Because the principles established by the Court in its case law are binding on the 47 member states, the next few months will be decisive for the respect of human life and dignity. The European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ), which intervenes as a third party in many of these cases, wishes to draw attention to these very important cases¹.

Among the cases that the European Court must now judge on, there is the case of a Polish mother who complained of difficulties in obtaining permission for her minor daughter to have an abortion², there is also the case of a woman who died during pregnancy, (allegedly) due to conscientious objection exercised by doctors³. In another case, a woman who became sterile following an abortion complained of not having been properly informed of the risks⁴. In two other cases before the Court, the women who gave birth to children with disabilities complain of not being able to have abortions⁵. Finally, on a related topic, the Court also has before it a case involving a ban by the Italian legislature of pre-implantation diagnosis⁶.

³ *Z v. Poland*, No. 46132/08

⁵ *Kruzmane v. Latvia*, No. 33011/08 ; *Ozçakmak v. Turkey*, No. 24573/08

⁴ *Csoma v. Romania*, No. 8759/05

⁶ *Costa and Pavan v. Italy*, No. 54270/10

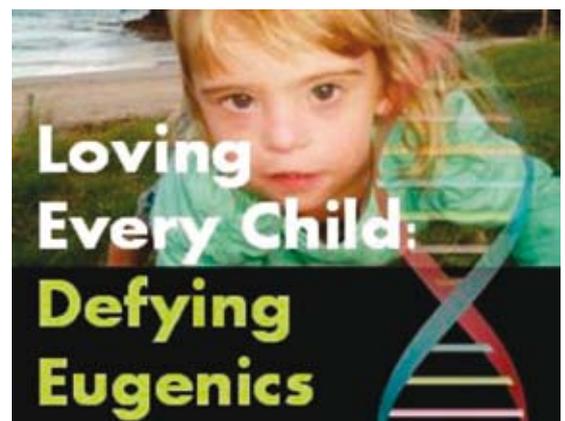
The ECLJ submitted its written observations on 2 April in the case of Anita KRŪZMANE against Latvia in which a mother complains of not having been able to abort her Down's syndrome daughter. She alleges in particular that her doctor had breached an obligation to prescribe a screening test for Down's syndrome. Pretending the existence of a direct causal link between the absence of testing and the birth of her daughter with Down's syndrome, the applicant claims to have suffered a violation of her right to respect for private life, a private life which includes - according to the applicant - the right to decide to have an abortion. In summary, it is a question of whether or not eugenics has become a human right.

There is no doubt that the KRŪZMANE case and other cases now pending before the court are used strategically to try to advance the "rights" to abortion and eugenics. Eugenics, like abortion, is in danger of becoming a social normality; those who still see the inhumanity of these practices are becoming increasingly rare. In fact, postmodernism creates the inhumanity of post-humanity, and eugenics is one of the instruments of this post-humanity which aims at surpassing the human nature.

Jérôme Lejeune Foundation

The Jerome Lejeune Foundation is also making a submission to the ECtHR in the case concerning the Down syndrome baby. The Foundation has also asked Right to Life to support their submission and to alert people of the threat of eugenics. Declaring a "right to kill because of one's state of health" as a "human right" would be revolutionary. Moreover this is the first time that the European Court has been called on to decide whether or not the life of a sick person is worth living. Recall that the ECHR is the guarantor of human rights and fundamental freedoms, superior and inviolable norms for all European citizens. The decisions handed down by the ECHR therefore always include a clarification as to the contour and content of the fundamental rights that are invoked. These decisions have a particularly forceful impact, because they establish principles that the member States cannot bypass.

That is why large-scale concerted action is urgently necessary at the European level, to condemn this case publicly and to challenge Strasbourg judges concerning the ethical tidal wave that they would cause by ruling in favour of this application. If such a right to eugenics is recognized, then European democracy and our humanity as a whole are threatened. If the Court declares that eugenics is a human right it will ultimately affect the way we view eugenics in New Zealand.



Bioethicists? Yeah right - the new name for Eugenicists

- Mike Sullivan (Saving Downs)

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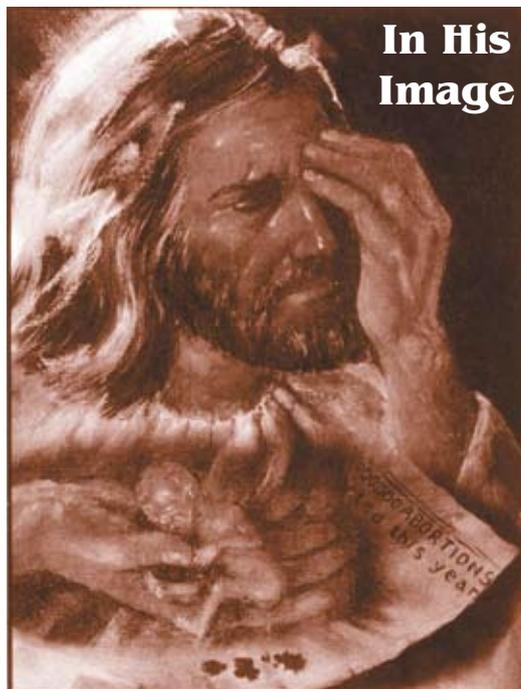
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