



Footprints

THE NEWSLETTER OF

Right To Life New Zealand

Defending life from conception to natural death

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David Cunliffe Declares Support for the Killing of Unborn Children

Right to Life believes Labour Party Leader David Cunliffe position on abortion and his failure to oppose violence against women and their precious unborn children will have serious consequences for him and the Labour Party at the next general election.

Right to Life is disappointed that the new leader of the Labour Party supports violence against women and their unborn children. At a recent meeting, the three contenders for the leadership of the Labour Party were asked what their positions were on abortion. David Cunliffe responded by stating:

"I want to see a woman's right to choose protected. The current law hasn't been reviewed for many years and I think that is now urgent. The Law Commission would be best placed to undertake this review as it is a conscience issue which splits across parties."

As a potential future Prime Minister his response is very disturbing and frightening.

As Prime Minister and the head of a government we have a right to expect him to uphold the rule of law. The first duty of the State is to legislate to protect the lives of every human being from conception to natural death and not to preside over their destruction. His position is based on the assumption that a woman has a right to choose to kill her baby. There is no such right recognised in the New Zealand Bill of Rights or in the laws regulating the performance of abortion in New Zealand. There is also no human right to abortion recognised by any United Nations Convention or Treaty. His position then has no basis in either law or morality.

Mr Cunliffe should be aware that the Contraception Sterilisation and Abortion Act 1977 was passed by Parliament to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission set up to advise Parliament. The Royal Commission after hearing evidence from around the world concluded, that life began at conception and that the unborn child as the weakest and most defenceless member of the human family had a right to life and deserved respect and legal protection.

Mr Cunliffe's support for a right that does not exist is a threat to the women of New Zealand and their babies. New Zealand does not require an "urgent" review of the abortion laws by the Law Commission, rather to address the tragic plight of women and their unborn children, we need courageous political leadership that:

- Recognises the urgent need for an amendment to the New Zealand Bill of Rights, to give recognition to the inalienable right to life of the unborn child.
- Will ensure that the abortion legislation is upheld as passed by Parliament in 1977.
- Will promote abstinence based sexuality education.



David Cunliffe

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FOOTPRINTS

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 P.O. Box 668,
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 Phone: (03) 385 6111
 Email: admin@righttolife.org.nz
 Web Page: www.righttolife.org.nz

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

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Right to Life requests that Mr Cunliffe becomes a defender of life and a promoter of a culture of life, by recognising that abortion is violence against women and their babies.

He was also asked if would support Maryan Street's Euthanasia bill that would allow doctors to kill their patients or assist in their suicide. His response was:

"Yes it is my intention to do so, but I want to check that sufficient safeguards are in place"

Abortion is the Ultimate Child Abuse

Right to Life fully supports the Minister of Social Welfare in her resolve to stop child abuse in New Zealand. The Minister Paula Bennett states, "We have all had enough." It is pleasing that the government has a bill which will provide more protection for vulnerable children. The legislation is timely as New Zealand has one of the highest rates of child abuse in the OECD. All New Zealanders will welcome this important legislation to protect our most vulnerable children. Right to Life wrote to the Minister of Social Development, Paula Bennett and asked her why her legislation was not concerned with child abuse in the womb. The Minister replied in October thanking us for writing to her and confirmed that abortion is outside the scope of our work to prevent child abuse. Why is the Minister refusing to acknowledge that tearing the limbs off a child in the womb is not her concern? This is an intolerable injustice.

Why is it that the government refuses to acknowledge that child abuse begins in the womb? How can the government say that you may not abuse your child after birth but you may kill the child before it is born?

The Minister is rightly concerned that 50 children were killed after birth in the last five years but why is she not also concerned at the 82,728 children violently killed before birth in the previous five years? We will not reduce our child abuse in this country until we acknowledge that abortion is violence and the ultimate in child abuse.

It is entirely logical, that if we violate our prohibition against violence against the unborn the weakest and most defenceless members of the human family, it will weaken our prohibition of inflicting violence against the born child.

New Zealanders are deeply ashamed of our child abuse record. It is a terrible burden on the conscience of the nation. As a society we experience no difficulty in recognising child abuse and responding with horror, sorrow, grief and a determination to stop the abuse of the innocent and defenceless children. Why is it then that as a nation which is implacably opposed to child abuse we allow each day in this country the equivalent of two classrooms of children to be violently dismembered and killed in abortions in our hospitals' sanctioned and funded by the government? It is also violence against the mother. The government has institutionalised child abuse.

Abortion is the ultimate in child abuse, the unborn child terrified, its mouth open in a silent scream, heart beating furiously as it frantically endeavours to avoid the suction tube of the abortionist paid by the State and determined to terminate the life of the child.

We all have a duty to defend life; it is always wrong to kill the innocent. As a nation we are suffering from a crippling and destructive blindness, a refusal to acknowledge the truth that we have a duty to protect the lives of all children, born and unborn, they are all members of our human family and God's precious children. When will Parliament act to protect all of our children born and unborn?

Labour Party Makes War on Women

THE GREATEST DESTROYER
OF PEACE TODAY IS

ABORTION

BECAUSE IT IS A WAR
AGAINST THE CHILD
A DIRECT KILLING OF
THE INNOCENT CHILD
MURDER BY THE MOTHER
HERSELF

Mother Teresa



The Labour Party has not adopted the following policy presented at its Conference in Christchurch. The Party Conference instead recommended that the proposal to decriminalise abortion be referred, on becoming the government, to the Law Commission for an opinion. **David Cunliffe has recently publicly stated that he supports the decriminalisation of abortion**, and also supports the Law Commission being asked to provide an opinion.

This was the ploy used by the Labour government in Victoria in 2008 and it is now going to be tried on here in New Zealand. It is clear that the Labour Party supports the decriminalisation of abortion but knows full well that many of its supporters do not. So in view of the coming general election in 2014 Labour realises that it is politically expedient to side step this controversial justice issue until after the election. This is nothing more than a cynical attempt to deceive the electorate as to the true intentions of the Labour Party. The electorate will not be deceived.

Here is the policy, which is being driven by Young Labour.

1. That Labour is committed to women's health and well-being, and strongly endorses a woman's right to make her own decisions about her body. Therefore, Labour in Government will:

- a) **Adopt measures to ensure that a pregnant woman has the opportunity and freedom to make the best decision for her own circumstances;**
- b) **Decriminalise abortion;**
- c) **Ensure that access to abortion is available to women throughout the country**

Decriminalisation promotes violence against women and their unborn and reveals the Labour Party as being hypocritical.

The Labour Party is opposed to child abuse yet it is promoting abortion which is the ultimate in child abuse.

Decriminalisation is a great offence to the Creator. Human life begins at the moment of conception. At that moment the new human being is endowed with human rights, the foundation right being an inalienable right to life. From the moment of conception the new human being should be accorded with the respect that is given to the human person. Every human being is a unique and unrepeatable miracle of creation.

Decriminalisation is a cruel betrayal of women and their precious unborn. The killing of the child is presented as a commitment to women's health and well-being. How is a woman's health improved or her wellbeing enhanced by killing her child? The policy is hypocritical. The 2011 Labour Manifesto on children's policy stated: "**Labour is putting giving children the best start in life at the heart of our social policy.**"

Decriminalisation is a threat to the right to life every person in the community. It denies the inalienable right to life of every human being from conception to natural death. If the State may deny the right to life of the unborn is there anything to prevent the state in the future withdrawing protection of the law for the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

A Labour government is pledged to support the decriminalization of abortion. It will then be no longer a crime to kill an unborn child for any reason or no reason at any time up to birth. We can expect that we will have partial birth abortions as performed in the United States. Late term babies will be inducted and before the head of the child leaves the birth canal the abortionist plunges scissors into the back of the child's head and then proceeds to suck the brains out of the child's head.

The lack of care and compassion for women faced with an unplanned pregnancy was revealed at the Conference when commendable attempts to provide genuine help for women to choose life for their child was defeated and rejected by the Conference.

The support for the decriminalisation of abortion, ignores the plight of women often coerced into an unwanted abortion by the father of the child who refuses to accept responsibility for the child that he has fathered. The decriminalization of abortion will encourage more men to exploit and abandon women.

Woe to the Labour Party that turns its back on vulnerable women. The Labour Party used to have a social conscience that cared for the poor and marginalized in society. Michael Savage the first Labour Prime Minister and his Party were opposed to the decriminalization of abortion. It has now become unelectable and will reap a just reward of a resounding electoral defeat at the general election in 2014.



Progress | YoungLabour

Maryan Street's Euthanasia bill Withdrawn from Ballot

Maryan Street, in an unprecedented step, has withdrawn her "End of Life Choices Bill" from the ballot. The Member claims that she was concerned that if it was drawn from the ballot in an election year it would be an election year football.

Right to Life now requests that for the good of the nation and the Labour Party, she finally discards this bill and makes a commitment to the community to refrain from placing this contentious bill back in the ballot. This bill has no place in our Parliament. The first duty of government is to protect the lives of all in the community, especially the most vulnerable and not to preside over their destruction. We cannot but point out a consequence of Labour's assumed support for this destructive bill is that many will question whether the Labour Party is a responsible and suitable political party to govern our nation. Right to Life is committed to making this Controversial bill an election issue.

This is a bill to legalise murder that would if enacted into law, give doctors the right to kill their patients or assist in their suicide. There is no dignity in being murdered by your doctor. Ms Street claims unconvincingly that she is not being pressured by her caucus to withdraw this highly controversial bill. Right to Life wrote to all the Labour MPs on 24th July 2013, lobbying them to use their influence to have this destructive and controversial bill removed from the ballot as it would be a major distraction if drawn in an election year. Right to Life believes that this lobbying has been successful.

Ms Street has vowed to put the bill back in the ballot following next year's election. The community is tired of the social engineering of the Labour Party. In 2003 we had the Prostitution Reform Act. Labour gave us brothels, street prostitution and the right to sell women's bodies. Now we have this bill seeking to allow doctors to murder their patients. High on the list of priorities for the Labour Party if elected, according to David Cunliffe, Labour will seek to legalise violence against women and their unborn by decriminalising abortion. If he is unable to see the hypocrisy in this policy then something is seriously wrong.

The Street Euthanasia bill is opposed by the New Zealand Medical Association [NZMA], Hospice New Zealand and the Catholic Bishops Conference. The Chairman of the NZMA has said, "Euthanasia is unethical and cannot be condoned." The World Medical Association [WMA] is the umbrella for over a 100 National Medical Associations, representing physicians from some 90 countries around the world. It is totally opposed to euthanasia. This bill is a mortal threat to the medical profession. In a media release made on behalf of Euthanasia-Free New Zealand by spokesperson Professor Emeritus David E. Richmond



MD FRACP FRCP(Lond.) he stated that the withdrawal of Maryan Street's bill until after the next election will provide the much needed time to educate the N.Z. community and Members of Parliament about the hazards of legalising euthanasia. Public opinion polls that appear to show a majority in favour of legalising euthanasia, reflect the simplistic nature of the questions asked that encourage support for euthanasia.

Bob McCoskrie, National Director for Family First welcomed the news of the withdrawal of the bill. In a media release he stated that the bill if passed, "would place large numbers of vulnerable people at risk, in particular those who are depressed, elderly, sick, disabled, those chronically ill with limited access to good medical care and those who felt themselves to be under emotional or financial pressure to request early death."

The community should not be lulled into a false sense of security. This deadly bill is like a ravenous wolf that seeks who it may devour. It is mortal threat to the elderly, the disabled and the ill. It is in fact a threat to every living soul in our community. The reason for this is simple. Nowhere in the world where Euthanasia or Physician Assisted Suicide has been legalised or decriminalised, has any country been able to hold it back. For the moment this bill has slunk into the shadows to avoid being seen. We must not allow this wolf in sheep's clothing loose in our community, for once loose it will not be able to be contained. The right to die would soon become a duty to die.

Lest we forget

Our experience with the T4 Nazi Euthanasia programme which started in Germany in October 1939, commenced with the killing of disabled newborns, the mentally sick, the disabled, Jews and Gypsies and finally all non-Germans. There were between 250,000 and 350,000 Germans killed in the Euthanasia programme. It all started with calls from pro-euthanasia groups for mercy killing, death with dignity and the right to choose the time of one's death.

Right to Life Considers Abortion Supervisory Committee Derelict in Fulfilling its Statutory Responsibilities

Right to Life asks; when is Parliament going to demand that the Abortion Supervisory hold certifying consultants accountable for the lawfulness of the abortions that they authorise. Dame Linda Holloway, the chairwoman of the committee, was quoted in a revealing statement in the Sunday Star Times on 13 October 2013, that the Committee does not support any attempts to change the abortion law, for fear that it might be more restrictive of abortion (the killing of the unborn).

Dame Holloway said that any move towards liberalisation would be **“a difficult political argument and from a pro choice position it doesn't really matter.”** She went on to say..

“The chances of changing the abortion laws in New Zealand at this time are sub-zero. At the moment we have assured successive ministers of justice that we can operate under the law as it is.” and...

“If we start opening the whole thing up to do new legislation my concern is that we might end up with something that is worse than what we have got. The chances of that are quite high.” Dame Holloway said she would prefer to “soldier on”. “If I thought we could get a perfect world I would be all for it.”

Dame Holloway states that, “from a pro choice position it doesn't really matter”. Why does it not matter? Because, with the active support of the Committee we have had since 1978, seen the killing of the unborn on request, with every woman who seeks an abortion having one and this all sanctioned and funded by the state.

The Committee is failing abjectly in its duty to women. It should be a strong and courageous advocate for the protection of women from violence. It should be the champion and protector of unborn children, who are the weakest and most defenceless members of the human family. Why is the Committee not doing this? The Committee was not appointed to be an advocate for the so called “right to choose” of women to kill their children. It was set up to administer the provisions of the Contraception Sterilization and Abortion Act and one of the provisions of this act was to protect the right to life of the unborn child.

Abortion is violence against women and their unborn. Society is appalled that ancient civilisations offered up human sacrifice to appease the deity of the underworld, yet today in our cities we have killing centres with abortionists, the new high priests offering up the human sacrifice of innocent and defenceless unborn on the altar of “reproductive freedom” History tells us that civilisations that killed their own children were soon destroyed. A nation that destroys its own children does not have a future.

It was evident to the Supreme Court that the Committee was not ensuring that the right to life of the unborn was being protected. **Right to Life asks why is the Committee not fulfilling its statutory duty as directed by the Supreme Court, in its judgment of August 2012 ?** The Court directed the Committee to hold certifying consultants accountable for the lawfulness of the abortions that they authorise. When is Parliament going to demand that the Committee stop the unlawful killing of children before birth?

The chairman Professor Linda Jane Holloway DCNZM, of the Abortion Supervisory Committee was elected to the Committee by Parliament in June 2007. She was appointed as chairman in April 2010. She is from Dunedin and previously held the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor of health sciences, at Otago University. She is a highly respected anatomical pathologist who has served on the Medicines Assessment Advisory Committee and was one of the advisers to Dame Silvia Cartwright during the inquiry into the treatment of cervical cancer at National Women's Hospital. The other two members of the Committee are, Dr Tangimoana Habib of Hamilton and Reverend Patricia Allan of Christchurch.



Dame Linda Holloway

Human life begins at conception and every human being has been endowed with an inalienable right to life.

Do you know that Right to Life has run a website for over ten years?
Visit us at www.righttolife.org.nz to keep up to date with all the latest Pro-life news from Right to Life and around New Zealand and the world

You might want to subscribe to our site which will enable you to receive the latest posts on our site regularly in the form of an email e-zine.

Same Sex Marriage a Cruel Charade

It is a very sad day for our community when members of the homosexual community are duped into playing out their belief that they now have marriage equality. Same sex couples do not have marriage equality and will never have equality. Marriage was instituted by our Creator for the happiness of mankind and the procreation of the human race. It is God's plan that marriage is an institution exclusively for one man and one woman. It has been accepted by man since the beginning of time that God does not include same sex couples in marriage.

It was a breath-taking arrogant assumption for our Parliament to pass the Marriage [Definition of Marriage] Amendment Bill to include same sex marriage, in defiance of God's plan. God will not be mocked. No act of Parliament can change what God has set in place for the happiness of mankind. Parliament, in passing this Bill, has inflicted a great injustice on the homosexual community and the community at large.

Only a man can make a woman a mother and a wife and only a woman can make a man a father and a husband. It is only in the traditional family that children have the opportunity to be loved and nurtured by their biological father and mother. It was a cruel charade inflicted on the homosexual community by Parliament to impose on the homosexual community this pretence that two persons of the same sex constituted marriage.

Our friends in the homosexual community are important members of our community, they deserved better than this.

The Catholic Church and the Anglican Church are to be applauded for their defence of marriage as being exclusively between one man and one woman. The other Churches in New Zealand are encouraged to support this stance.

The Marriage [Definition of Marriage] Amendment Bill, is an unjust law and one that is a threat to the common good. As it is an unjust law citizens have a serious duty to refuse to co-operate with the law, to vigorously oppose the law and to work with determination for its repeal.

Chemical Warfare against our own Children

The Prime Minister, John Key rightly deplores the Syrian civil war and the recent chemical gas attack in Damascus where an estimated 1,429 civilians including 426 children were killed. He described the attack as "abhorrent and a disgrace". The attack has been described by the American President as a crime against humanity.

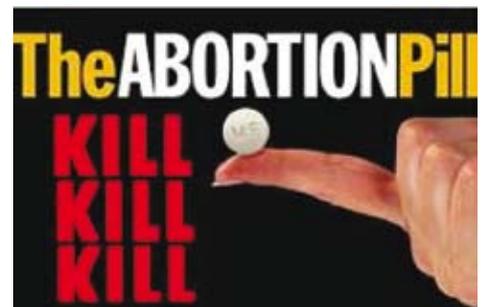
It is inconsistent for the Prime Minister to denounce this crime against humanity while at the same time giving approval for the use of weapons of mass destruction in chemical warfare in New Zealand in a bloody civil war against our own children. The Abortion Supervisory Committee reported to Parliament in 2012 that 984 pre-born children were killed in their mother's womb with the lethal chemical Mifegyne RU 486. This chemical was approved for the killing of children by the Minister of Health Annette King, in August 2001. The Minister in her media release on 30 August 2001 stated that, "Mifegyne RU486 meets the international standards of safety and effectiveness required for medicines".

Mifegyne RU 486, is not a medicine and pregnancy is not a disease. The lethal drug is certainly not safe for the unborn child, nor is it safe for women. It is however, as the Minister claims, highly effective in killing the unborn. Since the introduction of this new chemical warfare against the unborn there have been nearly 10,000 unborn killed in New Zealand by this drug. This chemical war is also violence against women who are the second victims of this war.

Mifegyne acts by depriving the endometrium of a hormone that the human embryo requires to flourish. The embryo thus dies of starvation. This highly effective chemical warfare is approved and funded as a core health service by the government and is used in a number of Public Hospitals. The Family Planning Association is an ardent supporter of chemical warfare with Mifegyne and in April commenced killing unborn children at its Tauranga clinic. The Association is working to fulfil its objective of extending this chemical warfare to its other 29 clinics throughout our country.

Chemical warfare has been raging against our own children in the womb for more than fifty years. It is hypocritical for our government to condemn crimes against humanity in other countries while actively waging a war against our own children which is approved and funded by the government. This is a crime against humanity.

Right to Life asks when is the government going to stop this insane civil war against our own children? There will be no peace in New Zealand until this devastating war against our nation's children in the womb is stopped.



*When a woman is pregnant, she has a choice,
a dead baby or a live baby.*

Abortion Supervisory Committee - Abortion Licence Issued Unlawfully

Right to Life has challenged the Abortion Supervisory Committee on the lawfulness of the abortion licence issued to the Family Planning Association for its clinic in Tauranga. Family Planning commenced killing children in their first nine weeks of life in April 2013. The law requires that the holder of the licence has adequate surgical equipment for the performance of surgical abortions and that there are in the facility trained staff to perform surgical abortions. Right to Life has written to the Committee expressing concern and asking why a licence has been issued contrary to the law. The Committee responded 3rd October stating that as the FPA was only performing medical abortions the other provisions don't apply. It is clear to this Society that the law is to be upheld as passed by Parliament and as a consequence the licence is unlawful. Peter Doody our Society's lawyer has written to the Committee advising them that the Committee is required to function within the law and that the Committee is requested to provide a legal opinion in support of the Committee's opinion.



NETHERLANDS REPORT INDICATES THAT EUTHANASIA DEATHS INCREASING OUT-OF-CONTROL

**By Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director and
International Chair Euthanasia Prevention Coalition**

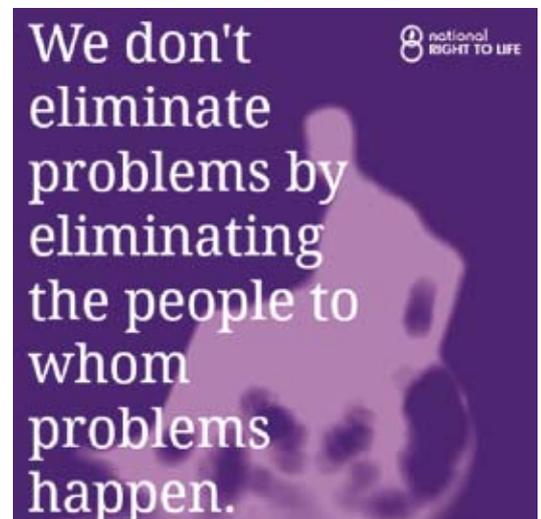
The Netherlands have reported that the number of reported euthanasia deaths increased by 13% to 4,188 in 2012, more than 3% of all deaths. The report stated that 42 people with dementia and 13 people with psychiatric conditions died by euthanasia in the Netherlands in 2012. The number of euthanasia deaths for people with dementia will likely increase since the Dutch Medical Association provided more clarity for doctors concerning the euthanasia of people with dementia. These statistics should affect the debates in Quebec and France which are considering the legalization of euthanasia.

As bad as these statistics are, they only tell part of the story. On July 11, 2012, The Lancet published a meta-analysis study concerning euthanasia and end-of-life practices in the Netherlands in 2010, including a comparison to the previous meta-analysis studies that were done in 2005, 2001, 1995, and 1990.

The Lancet study indicated that in 2010 there were 3,859 euthanasia deaths and that 23% of all euthanasia deaths went unreported in the Netherlands. Since 20%-23% of all euthanasia deaths in the Netherlands are not reported, we can estimate that the actual number of euthanasia deaths in the Netherlands was likely between 5,025 and 5,151.

Assisted suicide deaths are separate section in the official Netherlands statistics. Since there were 192 assisted suicide deaths in the Netherlands in 2010 and since the number of euthanasia deaths have increased by 18% in 2011 and 13% in 2012, it is likely that there were 226 assisted suicide deaths in 2011 and 255 in 2012.

Therefore the total number of assisted deaths in the Netherlands in 2012 was likely between 5,280 and 5,406. The report indicated that health inspectors investigated 10 cases where the legal requirements for euthanasia had not been met. Two of those cases involved people with dementia. It is important to recognize that the number of reported euthanasia deaths in the Netherlands increased by 13% in 2012, 18% in 2011, 19% in 2010 and 13% in 2009.



William Wilberforce 1759-1833

Slavery, one of the great social evils and scourges of the 18th Century, has many similarities to abortion, the great evil of our age.



William Wilberforce

Slaves were considered non-humans. Referring to the 132 slaves that were thrown overboard to drown from the slave ship Zong, the Chief Justice of England said in his 1783 judgment, that slaves were “a case of goods and chattels” and that it was “exactly as if horses had been thrown overboard.”

At the age of 21 William Wilberforce was elected to Parliament at Westminster representing York. He immediately became an eloquent advocate for social justice. In 1787 in the face of strong opposition in the community and from government, he courageously presented the first private member’s bill for the abolition of the slave trade. However it was quickly and soundly defeated.

Undeterred and convinced of the justice of his cause, Wilberforce continued zealously to present to an intransigent Parliament the same private member’s bill year after year. Finally in 1807 the bill finally succeeded and the British slave trade was stopped. It had taken 20 years.

Faithfully and courageously, Wilberforce campaigned for the freeing of British slaves in the West Indies, finally succeeding with the Emancipation Act 1833.

His dedication to justice is an inspiring example for the Pro-Life movement, especially for those MPs who claim to be pro-life but never risk presenting a private member’s bill because the time is not right. Wilberforce did not wait for public opinion to support him, nor did he wait for the election of an anti-slavery Parliament to come first.

In New Zealand today the position of the unborn child is even more precarious than it was for slaves in 18th Century Britain. Our Crimes Act 1961 states that the unborn child is not a human being until it is born. The abortion lobby claims that the unborn child is the property of the mother and it is a human right for the mother to decide if it will live or die.

The Court of Appeal in its judgment, in the Judicial Review of the performance of the Abortion Supervisory Committee, declared that the unborn child was not a human being and did not have a right to life. This is an intolerable injustice that Right to Life is committed to overturn.

The decision of the Court of Appeal was reminiscent of the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the famous Dred Scott case of 1857, when the Court found that Dred Scott who was a Negro slave was not a human being and was the property of his owner. He would only be considered a human being if he was freed. The arguments used by the pro-slavery lobby in the United States are reminiscent of the slogans used by the pro-abortion lobby today. “Don’t force your morality on me,” “It is my right to choose,” “if you are opposed to slavery, don’t own slaves.”



Both denied the humanity of an entire class of people

Both claimed to be on the cutting edge of human enlightenment

Both had advocates who hid behind the “personally opposed, but...” excuse

Both claimed it was for the victim’s own good

Both took drastic measures when democracy didn’t get them what they wanted.

It’s clear why allusions to the enslavement of black men and women outrage those who defend the slaughter of innocent children: because they can’t handle looking at history and seeing a mirror image stare back at them.

Euthanasia New Zealand

Right to Life wrote to the New Zealand Medical Association, [NZMA], The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners, [RNZCGP] and the Australian New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine, [ANZSPM], requesting that they consider requesting their members to write to Maryan Street MP asking her to not return her End of Life Choices Bill to the ballot after the general election in 2014. There has been no reply from the NZMA. The NZMA has had a long standing policy of opposition euthanasia as being unethical. The ANZSPM which also has a long standing opposition to euthanasia, recently released a new position statement. “Euthanasia is not a solution to patient suffering, and that legalising the procedures would take attention away from the real issue - a lack of access to palliative care. The Association called for more government funding for respite care, so as “decrease the sense of burden for many patients at the end of life.”

It was disappointing to receive a reply from the RNZCGP advising that the College did not have a position on euthanasia.

Saving Downs in United States Supreme Court



Saving Downs is a party with the Jerome Lejeune Foundation USA and the International Down Syndrome Coalition in supporting a petition to the United States Supreme Court with an amicus brief that focuses on disability rights. The petition is being presented by the State of Arizona to have a decision of the 9th Circuit of Appeals to overthrow the State's newly passed law to ban abortions over 20 weeks gestation overturned. The Court of Appeals decision reversed a federal district court opinion that found a compelling state interest in protecting the lives of unborn children capable of feeling pain. This is a very important initiative. There are 10 States that have passed a law banning abortions after 20 weeks. The US Congress has recently passed a federal law banning abortions after 20 weeks and has now gone to the Democrat controlled Senate where it is expected to be defeated. There are many States which are in the process of passing a similar law.

The disability rights amicus brief highlights Arizona's additional interests in protecting the integrity and ethics of the medical profession from engaging in eugenic decision making, and by disfavoured discriminatory abortion and even proposals for infanticide of unborn children identified as having a disability, in accord with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other federal law.

The brief explains that the U.S. Supreme Court's abortion jurisprudence has not and should not protect disability-selective abortions.

Many of the dedicated members of Saving Downs are members of Right to Life. Our Society fully supports the work of Saving Downs in seeking legal recognition for the inalienable right to life of those with Down Syndrome or other disabilities. We are all God's children and those with disabilities are valued and loved members of our community, they don't lose their right to life because of a disability. Right to Life has written to the Abortion Supervisory Committee seeking its support for a similar law change in New Zealand.

News in Brief

Life Member – Right to Life- Lillian Carr

Right to Life warmly congratulates Lillian Carr, our distinguished life member, on attaining her ninetieth birthday on the 11 December 2013. Lillian is a foundation member of our Society when it was inaugurated in 1973 as the Canterbury Branch of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child. Lillian has served our Society for many years as a member of the executive of SPUC. Lillian has for many years been in attendance at our Annual General Meetings, generous with her time assisting with the folding and posting of our newsletter and assisting with other Society work. Lillian is an outstanding role model in the promotion of a culture of life. We hope and pray that Lillian will be blessed with good health and happiness.

Tasmania

The Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide bill was defeated in the Tasmanian Parliament on 17th October by 13 to 11. This bill was hotly debated and its defeat attributed to considerable lobbying by the pro-life movement and by submissions from the Tasmanian Law Society and doctors. This pernicious bill was co-sponsored by the Labour Premier, Lara Giddings and Green Party leader, Nick McKim.

Decriminalisation of Abortion in Tasmania

The Labour/Green government of Tasmania has passed a bill to decriminalise abortion in Tasmania titled the Reproductive Health (Access to Terminations) Bill. It provides for a woman to have an abortion up to 16 weeks for any reason. After 16 weeks, two doctors have to certify that continuation of the pregnancy would result in a greater risk to the woman's health than termination due to "current and future physical, psychological, economic and social circumstances". This bill is the most draconian abortion law in the world. It removes the right of doctors to exercise conscientious objection. A doctor with a conscientious objection to abortion must refer a woman to another doctor. No penalty is specified, but non-compliance might lead to deregistration. A counsellor who refuses to refer a woman to an abortion clinic could be fined A\$32,500. This will affect pro-life counselling services. A protester who exhibits a placard or utters negative words about abortion within 150 metres of a clinic could be fined \$9,750 and jailed for one year. (The two busiest churches in Hobart are located within 150 metres of a abortion clinic.)

The health minister told Parliament that she wants to ban silent and peaceful protests because they are "an expression of disapproval". This legislation is **a warning to the pro-life movement in New Zealand if a Labour/Green government is elected in 2014.**

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

News in Brief *continued*

Family Planning & Women's Health Action Trust

Right to Life made a formal complaint to the Internal Affairs Department in December 2012, against the New Zealand Family Planning Association and the Women's Health Action Trust for allegedly breaching their charity status. The complaint was that the two organizations had announced in a combined media release in September 2012 that they were instituting a national campaign to promote legislation to decriminalize abortion in New Zealand. Both organizations in response to our complaint, advised the Internal Affairs Department that they were no longer conducting a national campaign. Information received from the Charities Division of the Internal Affairs Department, under the Official Information Act, indicated that these organizations ceased their campaign due to fears that this political activity would endanger the government funding they received.

United States

It is encouraging for the international pro-life movement to note that since 2011, 58 abortion facilities have closed down in the United States. That is almost one in ten. Since 1992 two thirds of the abortion facilities have closed down. America's conscience is becoming more and more sensitive to the reality of what takes place in abortion clinics. That's why the American people have taken action through their elected representatives to end elective abortion in the states, and why this movement will only grow. Planned Parenthood is the biggest abortion provider in the United States. It is an affiliate to the International Planned Parenthood Federation. In 2013 it closed 24 abortion facilities. Planned Parenthood scandals have taken a public relations toll and have led to efforts to defund the abortion giant. Recently, the Planned Parenthood has been placed under investigation by the Governmental Accounting Office, which is looking into widespread allegations of financial fraud.



The New Zealand Family Planning Association is also an affiliate of the IPPf and receives millions of dollars each year in government funding. Right to Life recently wrote to the

Minister of Health drawing his attention to the American government's fraud investigations and asked the Minister if there were audit processes in place to prevent the fraudulent use by Family Planning of taxpayer money. An assurance was given that appropriate processes were in place. Right to Life is totally opposed to the government funding of Family Planning, the biggest abortion referral agency in New Zealand.

Status of Unborn Children

Right to Life is committed to pursuing legal recognition of the status of unborn children as human beings endowed with an inalienable right to life. In pursuit of this objective, a submission was made to the Constitutional Review Panel requesting that the Human Rights Act 1990 be amended to recognize unborn children as human beings endowed from conception with human rights. Our submission incorporated our substantial case presented in the Court of Appeal, in 2012. The Review Panel was appointed by government to make recommendations on the need for a constitution and amendments to the Human Rights Act.

A similar submission was made to the Law Commission. The Commission has the responsibility of making recommendations to government on amendments to legislation.

North & South Magazine

The October issue of North & South included an article titled "The Value of Life." The article contained the following statement by Dr Simon Snook one of New Zealand's busiest abortionists.

He is quoted as saying:

"I have never met anyone who is flippant about doing a termination. But I don't view an embryo or fetus as having the same rights as the person potentially having to raise it in the world. For me to have to say she is mentally unwell - or will be if the pregnancy continues - is a misnomer. This is about choice."

This statement portrays a view on the law that is incompatible with his appointment as a certifying consultant. **It suggests that he is authorising abortions that are unlawful. This is a very serious matter and a complaint has been made to the Abortion Supervisory Committee requesting that his appointment as a certifying consultant be revoked.** A complaint was also laid with the Press Council on the grounds that the article lacked accuracy, fairness and balance. The complaint unfortunately has not been upheld.

Our Changing Land (from NZ 2012 statistics)

Fifty years ago, 8 per cent of births were ex-nuptial.

Last year, 48 per cent of births were ex-nuptial.

About 80 per cent of Maori women give birth ex-nuptially.

About 50 per cent of Pakeha women give birth ex-nuptially.

About 13 per cent of Asian women give birth ex-nuptially.

15 in every 1000 ex-nuptial births is to a woman aged between 40 and 44.

25 in every 1000 ex-nuptial births occur to women aged between 15 and 19.

News in Brief *continued*

Doctors told me to abort my baby, but now she's the light of my life

by Lindsey Musgrave of Secular Pro-Life

Tue Sep 17, 2013

September 17, 2013 (Secular Pro-Life) -

I hope that this story emphasizes the importance of researching all options and even getting a second opinion when faced with a prenatal diagnosis. Sometimes, things truly are bad when it comes to prenatal anomalies, but not always, and hope is a wonderful thing to have.

We went in for our routine fetal anatomy ultrasound, around 21 weeks gestation. I was so naive. I was just happy to learn the sex of our new baby. Anomalies—the true reason for ultrasounds—were the last thing on my mind. For 15 euphoric minutes while my husband and I sat in the waiting room, we blasted all over social media and sent texts to family and friends that we were having a beautiful baby girl we named Marlena. Then we were called back into a room. A doctor sat us down and explained that something was wrong with her brain. It wasn't clear to me. "Should I be crying right now?" is all that I could ask, not able to immediately grasp the seriousness of a brain anomaly.

My ultrasound technician is someone I will always look back on as a person I respect so much. Marlena's brain problem is not a subtle problem. Instead of lots of gray imaging, representing brain tissue spread throughout her circular head on the ultrasound, it was a gaping black void; black representing fluid. Nothingness. Her brain was being pressed against the sides of her skull by the immense pressure of fluid that had nowhere to go, like sticking a balloon on a water faucet and letting it fill non-stop. After she was done with her job of checking on all of Marlena's fetal anatomy, she asked me if I thought she was a boy or a girl. I said boy. She then said, talking to my baby, "Nope! Your mommy's intuition was wrong. You're a girl!" That ultrasound technician knew, without a doubt, that something was very wrong. Yet she kept cool, never letting on. She referred to my little one as a person when addressing her.

Luckily, we were able to see a specialist the same day because of a cancellation. They confirmed the problem. Our unborn daughter was diagnosed with severe hydrocephalus. It was the closest I've ever seen my husband come to tears. I was in shock, and struck with grief instantaneously. I had no time to process this. It was the type of emotional hurt that you physically feel in your chest. It was despair. My doctor then told us she would likely be mentally and physically challenged and that she may not even survive birth. We were encouraged to get an abortion and told that we needed to decide quickly, as time was running out.

I went home and researched hydrocephalus. I met other parents of children with hydrocephalus and they were all so happy to have their children. I've not met a single parent of a child with hydrocephalus that isn't happy they have their child with them.



I researched abortion as well. I will not lie and say that I didn't have selfish thoughts. What I learned is that abortion is dismemberment. Abortion is stopping a beating heart. Abortion is barbaric. Abortion is destroying a child. Abortion is erasing smiles before they've been given a chance to shine. Abortion is a light in this world snuffed out. The amount of time I considered abortion, albeit not long, was the worst time of my pregnancy, despite the diagnosis.

Marlena is now two and a half years old. She is the light of my life. It pains me to think about what life would be like without her here. Every piece of her was decided at conception through genetics. Her now toddler arms are the same arms she had when she was inside of me. Her now toddler legs are the same legs that formed in the womb. A doctor wished to take those from her body. Her same arms. Her same legs. All because she was "less than perfect."

Marlena underwent brain surgery a day after her birth. I mentally prepared myself as much as I could to parent a child who may have vision impairment, hearing impairment, seizures, developmental impairment, physical impairment, a feeding tube, and even possibly a breathing tube, but ultimately, those things didn't matter to me. All that mattered was that we took this journey together as mother and child.

She has none of those challenges. She is advanced intellectually and has amazing cognitive and reasoning ability. As her shunt has drained fluid away, her brain has drastically physically improved in terms of volume, but there are some parts that have atrophied under the pressure and will never be normal.

Marlena's first year of growing outside the womb blew my mind. She has taught me to be thankful for piles of folded towels knocked over and crayon on the wall. She taught me that to validate life through statistics and imperfections is to siphon the enchantment of what it means to live.

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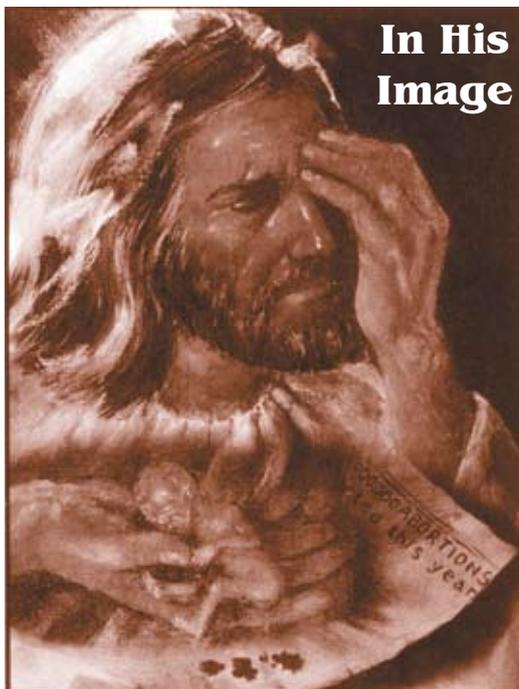
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'Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.' (Luke 23:24)



When a woman intentionally terminates her pregnancy she may experience some degree of grief and/or trauma. Abortion or termination can alter a woman's view of herself, her sense of womanhood, maternity, her present and future relationships, her world view. Partners/spouses, other family members and friends, may also be affected.

P.A.T.H.S. offers trained support for those hurting from a recent or past abortion/termination experience.

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