

The Secretary

Abortion Supervisory Committee,

Private Bag 32001

Panama Street,

Wellington.6146

28th Dec 2012

Dear Ms Cole

Abortion a Justice Issue

Our Society wishes to comment on a statement made in your Committee's report for 2012.

Your Committee states,

“ Although the Contraception Sterilisation and Abortion Act 1977 is administered by, and the Committee is supported by, the Ministry of Justice, contraception sterilisation are health, not justice issues...”

It is with respect that our Society wishes to challenge this conclusion for the following reasons:

- The Royal Commission on Contraception Sterilisation and Abortion in its report to Parliament in 1977, clearly saw the killing of unborn children as a justice issue as they made recommendations that the law governing abortion should be in the Crimes Act.
- It was the intention of Parliament in 1977 in passing the Contraception Sterilisation and Abortion Act and amending the Crimes Act that abortion was to be treated as a justice issue
- Abortion, the killing of an unborn child, is a justice issue. The killing of an unborn child is a serious crime included in Part viii, crimes against the person in the Crimes Act 1966. Under s 182 Killing unborn child a person on conviction, may be sentenced to up to 14 years imprisonment.
- The law providing grounds for abortion to be performed without prosecution is found in s 187A.of the Crimes Act. It was the intention of Parliament in 1977 in passing the Contraception Sterilisation and Abortion Act and amending the Crimes Act that abortion was to be treated as a justice issue.

- There is no pathology that the killing of an unborn child will remedy. The killing of the unborn is not a legitimate health service. Ninety –eight per cent of abortions are authorised on what is widely believed to be for socio-economic reasons masquerading as psychiatric.
- It is demeaning to women to pretend that it is necessary to kill their children to protect their health. It also devalues the intrinsic dignity of the unique and unrepeatable miracle that every child in the womb represents.

It is of great importance that abortions continue to be recognised as a justice issue and not a health issue. The pro-life movement is aware that the Family Planning Association supports abortion being recognised as a health issue and not a justice issue. The Association seeks to have abortion decriminalised with the killing of unborn children being a private matter between a woman and a doctor of her choosing. A woman could then obtain an abortion for any reason or no reason. Abortion would then become just another form of contraception; this would be to the detriment of women and their unborn. Abortion would then become a part of “reproductive health services.”The Association seeks to downplay the right of the unborn child to have legal protection for its human rights, the foundation right being an inalienable right to life. Women who are pregnant are vulnerable, they have a right to the protection of the community for their health and wellbeing. They also have a right to protection for their unborn. This is a very important justice issue, it is not just a health issue.

Contraception too is a justice issue because the modern contraceptive pill is an abortifacient and may destroy a human embryo before implantation. I would be grateful if you would advise me:

- Does the Committee support the retention of the current provisions in the Crimes Act that govern the performance of abortion and provide protection for mothers and their unborn?
- Does the Committee oppose the decriminalisation of abortion with abortion being considered a health issue and not a justice issue?

Yours Sincerely

Ken Orr

Secretary