



Footprints

THE NEWSLETTER OF Right To Life New Zealand

Defending life from conception to natural death

December Issue Vol 25, 2018

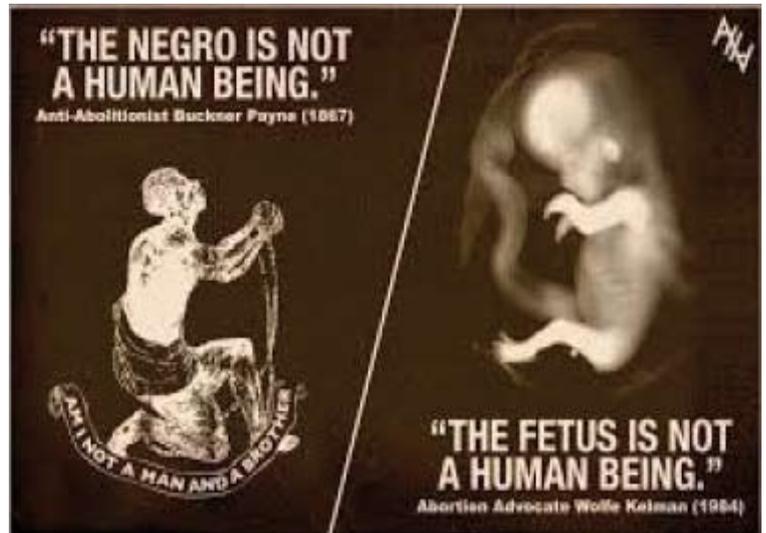
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Abortion: 21st Century Slavery

By seeking to decriminalise abortion the Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern and her government would be introducing slavery for our unborn. This is the ultimate tyranny of the powerful over the defenceless unborn. If she succeeds in removing the killing of the unborn from the Crimes Act, this will:

- Deny the humanity of the unborn child.
- Deny the child's inalienable God given right to life.
- Grant property rights to the mother over her child.
- Mean that it is no longer a crime to kill an unborn child.
- Grant the "right" of the mother to terminate the life of her child.

Those who promote abortion today share the same philosophy as those who supported the ownership of slaves in the United States in the nineteenth century. Everyone who supported slavery was free and everyone who supports abortion is born. Slavery tore American society apart and ended with a civil war. Likewise abortion is a burden on the conscience of this nation and we carry its blood guilt.



- * Slave owners claimed that Negroes were not human beings and had no human rights. Abortion supporters claim that unborn children are not human beings and do not have a right to life.
 - * Slave owners claimed that they had a human right to own slaves. Supporters of abortion claim that abortion is a human right.
 - * Slave owners claimed that slaves were "property and that they could do with them as they wished."
- Abortion advocates claim that unborn children are the property of the mother and that it is her choice whether she has a live baby or a dead baby.
- * Slave owners claimed that they had a human right to choose to own slaves. Abortion supporters claim that they have a human right to choose abortion.
 - * Slave owners claimed that owning slaves was for the good of the slaves as they were fed and clothed. Abortion promoters claim that killing a child in the womb is a kindness and that it is unkind to bring a child into the world who is "unwanted" or who has a disability.

Both slavery and abortion are intrinsically evil;

The movement for the abolition of slavery, did not compromise, it was the total abolition of slavery, nothing less, likewise the pro-life movement must not compromise, and the goal is the total abolition of the murder of the innocent.

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

Abortion: 21st Century Slavery

It was our own Court of Appeal in the infamous judgement of 2011, in the case of Right to Life versus the Abortion Supervisory Committee, that declared that, "the unborn child is not a human being and has no right to life. It only became a human being when it was born," a cruel legal fiction.

The arguments of the slave owners are all too familiar, "It is my right to choose to own slaves, if you are opposed to slavery, don't own them." Those who are opposed to slavery were condemned as being anti-choice, endeavouring to impose their morals on others and are infringing on my human rights. The pro-choice position overlooks the rights of the victim. The slave had no right to choose freedom over slavery and the unborn child has no right to choose life over being killed.

The pro-life movement should be supremely confident that the day will come when like the abolition of slavery movement, the murder of the unborn will be outlawed and the war on women stopped.

Right to Life calls on the community to join with it in working for the total abolition of abortion.

David Seymour's Bill would undermine suicide prevention

David Seymour's Bill would undermine suicide prevention

The number of suicide deaths in New Zealand have increased for the third year in a row. The provisional suicide statistics released today show:

- 606 people died by suicide in the 12 months to June 2017 – almost twice the road toll (363 for the 12 months to 28 August).
- Males are represented in about three-quarters of suicide deaths.
- The highest number of suicide deaths are among 20 - 24 year-olds.
- Maori continue to have the highest suicide rate of all ethnic groups.

"It is concerning that there is an assisted suicide bill before Parliament, despite our high suicide rate", says Renee Joubert, executive officer of Euthanasia-Free NZ. "Essentially the only difference between suicide and assisted suicide is the number of people involved in bringing about the death. In both cases the person likely desires death due to feeling that they're suffering unbearably and/or have no hope for a better future. "If suicide is to be prevented, assisted suicide should be prevented also."There is definitely a demand for 'assisted dying' as a means of suicide", says Ms Joubert.

"We regularly receive phone calls and emails from suicidal people inquiring about ways to access euthanasia because they can't bring themselves to executing other suicide methods. They usually start out talking only about their emotional reasons, and later mention physical medical conditions that would make them eligible for assisted suicide and euthanasia under David Seymour's End of Life Choice Bill. "Even if depression would be explicitly excluded from the eligibility criteria, suicidal people would still be at risk of accessing 'assisted dying'. Depression and suicidal ideation can too easily be denied, hidden, dismissed or misdiagnosed. Even mild, subclinical depression could still affect a person's will to live.

'Assisted dying' legislation would send the message that death is an appropriate response to suffering – a dangerous message to people who are emotionally vulnerable.

Such a law would change the role of doctors from only helping to prevent suicide, to also facilitating suicide. Euthanasia-Free NZ call on politicians and the public to reject ACT MP David Seymour's End of Life Choice Bill in principle.

From Scoop.co.nz by Euthanasia Free NZ 28 August 2017

Abortion Grief Significant Suicide Risk for New Zealand Women

It is a tragedy that seven grieving women killed themselves within forty-two days of having an abortion in New Zealand between 2006 and 2016.

This information was provided under the Official Information Act to Right to Life by the Health Quality & Safety Commission New Zealand. The Commission advised that there were 28 maternal suicides during that period and that, 'around a quarter of maternal suicides occur following a termination of pregnancy.'

'maternal death is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy (miscarriage, termination or birth), irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management. It does not include accidental or incidental causes of death of a pregnant woman.'

Right to Life respectfully asks our Prime Minister, (who we know is genuinely concerned about women's health), if she intends to institute a national study into the damage done to women's health by abortion and enquire why innocent and grieving women are resorting to suicide to end their grief and pain. Fathers also commit suicide in despair, because they cannot protect their precious child from being killed by an abortionist.

Right to Life acknowledges that the circumstances around suicide are complex and that there may be other contributing factors such as mental ill-health. Right to Life believes that these seven suicides are just the tip of the iceberg as it is believed that many women commit suicide many years later as a direct result of an abortion.

Right to Life estimates that as a consequence of the 500,000 abortions performed since 1978 that there have been significantly more than twenty-five reported maternal deaths by suicide following an abortion.

These statistics dispel the myth propagated by Family Planning and the pro-abortion movement that abortion is safe and that since 1977 no woman has ever died as a result of having an abortion. Every abortion kills a defenceless and innocent child in the womb and wounds and sadly sometimes kills a grieving mother. Both abortion and suicide are cries for help from women in despair. In both instances the woman is lonely, is in a state of despair and facing insurmountable odds.

"The link between abortion and suicide in women is well established. A study conducted by the Elliott Institute, a post-abortion research and advocacy organization, examined the death records linked to Medi-Cal payments for births and abortions for approximately 173,000 low income Californian women. Researchers found that over an eight year period of time, women who aborted their children had a 154 percent higher risk of death from suicide.

These findings concurred with a large record-based study of 600,000 women conducted in Finland in 1997 which found that women who chose abortion over birth were six times more likely to die by suicide in the year following the pregnancy."

There were 668 suicides in New Zealand in the year 2017/18, the highest total ever recorded. There were 193 women or girls who committed suicide, a thirty per cent increase over the previous year. Right to Life believes that this disturbing increase could be a result of grief and guilt following an abortion that may have been inflicted on the women many years previously.

Right to Life believes that the proposal of Jacinda Ardern to decriminalise abortion will result in more women killing themselves in an attempt to end their pain and to allow them to be with their child that has been so cruelly taken from them. We should mourn for our women, innocent victims of abortion and suicide. Their deaths are a tragedy for their families and for our communities.



Andrew Little's Campaign of Misinformation is a Threat to Women and the Unborn

The Minister of Justice is responsible for the administration of the Crimes Act which provides legal protection for the right to life of every member of the community from implantation in the womb to natural death. It is his privilege and duty to ensure that all are equal before the law.

Right to Life is disappointed that at the direction of the Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern the Minister is conducting an unprecedented campaign to remove women and their unborn from the protection of the Crimes Act, under the pretext that the killing of the unborn should no longer be a crime. This proposal is unjust, a violation of the human rights of the mother and her child and is highly offensive and insulting to women.



The Minister in response to an Official Information Act request dated 28 September 2018 from Right to Life, asked three important questions. He responded on 2nd November. Here are our questions and his responses;

We asked, "What evidence do you have to support your government's contention that it should no longer be a crime to kill an unborn child in an abortion?"

The Minister had no evidence but said, "I have publicly expressed my personal view that abortion should be treated as a health issue." How dare the Minister declare that the killing of a child in the womb is not a crime but rather a "reproductive choice for women." How dare he decide such a critical and consequential change to our laws, put in place to protect the unborn child, be removed because **it is his personal opinion**. How dare he direct the Law Commission to investigate how to remove abortion from the Crimes Act, without also directing the Commission to fully investigate the consequences and to determine whether such a move was in the country's best interests. How dare Jacinda Ardern use her privileged position as the Prime Minister of this country to drive her personal agenda to destroy the protection in law afforded to our unborn children. This proposal is a serious and grave injustice, which cannot go unchallenged.

It is an immutable truth upheld by humanity since the beginning of time that from conception, the child has an inalienable right to life. It is totally unacceptable for the Prime Minister to direct the Minister of Justice to proceed to remove women and their unborn from the protection of the Crimes Act, in order to facilitate the killing of the unborn as a health issue of choice for women.

When Right to Life asked Little, "What evidence do you have that women are treated like criminals?",

He replied: – "Abortion is unlawful unless it is lawful. An abortion in accordance with the Contraception Sterilisation and Abortion Act is effectively a defence to what would otherwise be a crime under the Crimes Act 1961. Section 44 of the Contraception Sterilisation and Abortion Act criminalise women who 'procure their own miscarriage,' making them liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$200."

This section of the Crimes Act, is there to protect women from being violated by another person with an instrument with the intention of killing the child in her womb. A breach of this Act is an offence, it is not a crime. Why is the Minister trying to intimidate women by calling it a crime? The killing of an unborn child in an abortion is always a serious crime. Section 187A of the Crimes Act provides for protection of doctors from prosecution, if they exercise honest belief in the limited grounds for an authorisation of an abortion, set out in that section.

When we asked Little, "What evidence do you have that women considering an abortion are not treated with care, dignity and respect?"

The Minister replied, I am refusing your request as the information requested does not exist. **Why does the Minister make serious claims for which he has no supporting evidence?** The Minister's false claim is disparaging of health professionals and it infers that the only way to treat women with care dignity and respect is to speedily provide for the violent killing of the unborn child when requested.

How do we show respect and care for women by killing their children? When will our politicians wake up to the fact that his proposal will certainly be harmful to and not in the best interest of the unborn children of this country or their mothers.

Right to Life believes that Andrew Little is failing badly in his duty and is being negligent in not giving consideration to the findings of the Royal Commission on Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion appointed by the Labour government in 1975.

Why is Andrew Little Ignoring the Findings of a Royal Commission?

The Minister of Justice proposes to introduce a government bill to remove women and the unborn from the protection of the Crimes Act, this is an unprecedented attack on the right to life of the unborn. The Crimes Act Part VIII Crimes against the Person provides legal protection for the lives of every human being from implantation to natural death. The Act recognises that abortion is violence against women and the unborn and that it is a serious crime to kill an unborn child by abortion.

The Minister seeks to make the killing of the unborn a reproductive health choice for women. It would no longer be a crime to kill an unborn child up to birth and the State would have no interest in protecting the lives of New Zealanders in the first nine months of life.

The Minister has a serious duty to tell the nation why he considers that his opinion, devoid of any evidence, should override the following important and authoritative conclusions of a Royal Commission established by the Right Hon. Bill Rowling, Prime Minister of the third Labour government. The Minister advised Right to Life in March that he did not consider the report of the Royal Commission relevant today, having been written in 1975.

The Minister of Justice is not serving the best interests of women and the unborn by ignoring the learned findings of the Royal Commission on Contraception Sterilisation and Abortion which made the following conclusions in its report to Parliament in 1977.

- "The unborn child as one of the weakest, the most vulnerable and most defenceless forms of humanity, should receive protection."
- "From a biological point of view there is no argument as to when life begins. Evidence was given to us by eminent scientists from all over the world. None of them suggested that human life begins at any other time than at conception"
- "From implantation to birth, changes which take place in the unborn child are of a developmental nature only. There are no changes of a qualitative nature. The three events suggested as being of significance, namely quickening, viability and brain development are no more than stages in that development and are not indicative of any qualitative changes in the developing foetus which would make it non-human."
- In rejecting the argument that some degree of development should be reached before the unborn child be accorded status the Commission said, "If some stage of physical or mental development has to be accepted as indicating whether or not human life is in being, so a stage may be reached at the other end of life where a person who has become senile or has lost consciousness may be disposed of."
- The Commission rejected abortion at the request of the mother, as it would then accord to the unborn child only that status which the individual woman herself chose to give it.
- The Commission recognised that abortion was violence against women and the unborn and supported the retention of section 182, Killing of Unborn Child in the Crimes Act, stating that it was necessary to differentiate between homicide and the crime of abortion, the killing of an unborn child.

Right to Life asks the Minister: "What evidence do you have that the findings of the Royal Commission were wrong or are not relevant in 2018?"

Does the ill-informed opinion of the Minister now override justice? If the Minister succeeds in acceptance of the killing of the unborn as a health issue of choice it will soon become a duty to terminate the life of the unborn, deemed unwanted by the State

"Abortion is the last in a long line of non-choices. If the child is unwanted, whether by her or her parents, it will be her duty to undergo an invasive procedure and an emotional trauma and so sort the situation out. The crowning insult is that this ordeal is represented to her as some kind of a privilege. Her sad and onerous duty is garbed in the rhetoric of a civil right."

Germaine Greer (The Whole Woman, Doubleday, 1999)

Will National Protect Women and the Unborn from Increased Violence?

New Zealand desperately needs a statesman who is prepared to defend the right to life of our most vulnerable. Will Simon Bridges accept this challenge?

Right to Life is very disappointed that the leader of the National Party, Simon Bridges has withdrawn from his previously stated position of opposition to the decriminalisation of abortion and making the killing of the unborn 'health care'.

On 28 May 2018 Simon Bridges stated on TV1 News that he would be "loathe to take it out of the Crimes Act", and that his personal position was, "that abortion should be rare, safe and legal". On 28th October, he appears to have changed his mind, now saying that "women's health must be the primary focus of any policy position". When pushed by the Radio New Zealand interviewer as to why he had changed his views, he said that the Commission's briefing would need to be looked at before giving any further comment. Right to Life asks, why the change in his personal position?



The Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern proposes to decriminalise abortion and remove women and the unborn from the protection of the Crimes Act. She proposes that the killing of an unborn child in an abortion, not be a crime but rather a reproductive health choice for women.

The National Party was founded in 1936 and has commendably and courageously defended and upheld the Crimes Act 1961, Section 182 Killing an Unborn Child and section 183, Procuring abortion by any means, which recognises: -

- That the unborn is a human being endowed with a right to life.
- That abortion is violence against women and the unborn.
- That the killing of an unborn child is a serious crime.

Why then is National now not prepared to maintain the high moral ground and continue its defence of women and the unborn under the Crimes Act?

Jacinda Ardern and her government are opposed to these immutable truths. She is wrong in that the primary issue is not women's health but legal protection for the right to life of New Zealanders in the first nine months of life. The issue of women's health is a smoke screen used by the pro-abortion movement to hide the killing of the weakest and most defenceless members of the human family. Pregnancy is not a disease or an illness and abortion, the killing of the child, is NOT health care. The unborn child is a unique and unrepeatable miracle of God's creation. It does not pose a threat to its mother or to society. It comes endowed with talents to enrich our society and It longs to love and to be loved. Why do we see our children as the enemy to be destroyed? The normal life protecting conclusion for every pregnancy is birth, not the killing of the child.

Right to Life believes that the National Party has a duty to women, our unborn and to the nation to continue to defend women and the life of the unborn by bravely holding the high moral ground by adopting as a non-negotiable party policy continued recognition of the right to life of the unborn and protection for the health of the mother provided by the Crimes Act.

PUT LIFE INTO YOUR WILL!

When writing or updating your Will in the future, give thought to saving a life and put aside something for Right to Life New Zealand. Just inform your solicitor or include a section in your Will.



Law Commission's Law Review Betrays Women and the Unborn

The Law Commission's report portrays a day of infamy, betrayal, shameful injustice and the denial of the dignity of women and of motherhood. It is also a callous denial of the humanity of our precious unborn and their inalienable right to life. Shame on this government that tramples on the human rights of our precious unborn and the right of women to be protected from the violence of abortion, it has forfeited its right to govern.

The report of the Law Commission on recommendations for taking abortion law out of the Crimes Act and treating it as a health issue, was presented to the Minister of Justice. The review had been requested by the Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, who has abandoned protecting women.

The government has no mandate from the people of New Zealand to remove women and their unborn from the protection of the Crimes Act. There is to be no public consultation or debate about the contents of the review prior to the government presenting a bill to Parliament.

The three legal models presented by the Commission represent an unprecedented attack on the sanctity of life of the unborn child, the weakest and most defenceless member of our human family. These proposals constitute an unprincipled denial of the humanity of the child in the womb.

The models proposed provide for the unborn, deemed by the mother as unwanted, to be removed from the protection of the Crimes Act, Part VIII Crimes against the person which recognises abortion as violence against the mother and the unborn. It states that abortion is a serious crime that on conviction the accused may be imprisoned for up to 14 years. The models provide for the killing of the unborn, effectively up to birth, to be a reproductive health issue of choice for the woman.

It will then be no longer a crime to kill an unborn child, but a health service. This is a blatant lie perpetrated on women.

It is the duty of the state to protect the lives of every member of our community from conception to natural death and not to preside over their destruction. The decriminalisation of abortion will allow the government to declare that they have no interest in protecting the lives of New Zealanders in the first nine months of their lives and that they are prepared to preside over their destruction.

The Law Commission proposes that doctors "who do not wish to provide health services in connection with abortion because of a conscientious objection to refer women to someone who can provide the service." The unborn child is a patient and doctors have an absolute right to refuse to be involved in the killing of another human being.

The government admits that it has no evidence to substantiate the claim that in a modern society it should not be a crime to kill an unborn child. The government intends to replace truth and justice with personal opinion, which is the basis of the advocacy of the Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern and the Hon. Andrew Little for the decriminalisation of abortion.

Right to Life requests that the Labour Party return to the high social principles of its founders to uphold the sanctity of life ethic and to protect the lives of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Right to Life part of the March for Life to Parliament

Right to Life was part of the organising committee for the March for Life to Parliament held in Wellington on Saturday 8th December. Here is Chris O'Brien, President of Right to Life on the left holding the banner with a supporter. The count for the number in the March was 1,200. The theme for the March was "Love them both" The purpose of the March which finished at Parliament was to give a message to Parliament that we are opposed to the decriminalisation of abortion.



Overwhelming support for retaining protection of the Crimes Act for the lives of women and the unborn.



A huge majority, 69%, were opposed to the decriminalisation of abortion, with 49 % specifically supporting retaining abortion in the Crimes Act with an additional 20% supporting legal protection for the child in the womb. The remaining 31% did not address the issue of decriminalisation.

The Law Commission have advised Right to Life under the Official Information Act that there were 3,419 submissions received on the review of the abortion laws in New Zealand. There were 1,677 submissions opposed to removing women and their unborn children from the protection of the Crimes Act which since 1856 has recognised the killing of an unborn child in an abortion as a serious crime and violence against women. There were only 603 submissions that supported making the killing of an unborn child in abortions a health issue and a choice for women. The authentic feminist position is to oppose the decriminalisation of abortion.

There were 1,139 submissions that did not address this issue, of these 671 expressed supports for legal protection for the lives of unborn children. The Minister of Justice at the direction of the Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern had requested the Commission on February 27 to provide advice, "how best to make changes to ensure New Zealand's abortion laws are consistent with treating abortion as a health issue that is a reproductive choice for women, rather than as a criminal issue." The Commission was to give no consideration to the sanctity of life of the unborn and the right to life nor to comment on the duty of the state to protect the lives of our unborn.

The overwhelming opposition to decriminalisation expressed in these submissions provides a clear message to the Prime Minister and her government that they do not have a mandate from the people of New Zealand to remove the protection of the law for the lives of vulnerable women and their unborn children.

The people of New Zealand should be aware that the government is using the Law Commission review as a subterfuge to give legitimacy to Jacinda Ardern's unprecedented attack on women and their precious unborn, she is determined to inflict on women the appalling lie that women have a "right" to kill their own children as an issue of choice.

Prime Minister, as a loving mother with a beautiful child, you are aware in every fibre of your being that the killing of a defenceless child in the womb is an unspeakable crime. Why are you not at the forefront in opposing the decriminalisation of abortion?

Right to Life lodged Official Information Act requests with the Minister of Justice and the Prime Minister asking what "information that you have that would justify changing the law to make it no longer a crime to kill an unborn child in an abortion." The reply from the Prime Minister was that there was no evidence.

The Minister of Justice in his reply, produced no information to support his claim and said that "my personal view is that abortion should be treated as a health issue and not a criminal one."

Right to Life wrote to all government MPs on 9 August asking them what evidence they had to support the government's claim that abortion, the killing of the unborn child should no longer be a crime, not one MP produced any evidence.

The community should be aware that the Law Commission was precluded by the Minister of Justice from giving any consideration to the findings of the authoritative and respected report of the Royal Commission on Contraception Sterilisation and Abortion given to Parliament in 1977. This Commission recognised that human life began at conception and from implantation deserved the protection of the law for its right to life. It recognised that there was no stage in the development of the unborn child when it should not be recognised as a human being.

Right to Life earnestly requests the government to reaffirm the duty of the state to protect the lives of all from conception to natural death by retaining abortion in the Crimes Act. It should always be a crime to kill an unborn child.

Is Jacinda Ardern's government in breach of the Treaty of Waitangi?

Right to Life believes that Jacinda Ardern is in breach of Article three of the Treaty of Waitangi. Jacinda Ardern proposes that abortion should be taken out of the Crimes Act and treated as a "reproductive issue of choice for women". It is her belief and that of her government that the killing of children before birth should not be a crime, this includes Maori children. It is contended that Jacinda Ardern has a duty to the community to explain why she believes that it should not be a crime to kill an innocent and defenceless Maori unborn child?



When the treaty was signed in 1840, the Crown gave an assurance that Maori would have the Queen's protection. It is believed that that protection was to include protection for the right to life of Maori from conception to natural death, which was provided by the common law of England and carried on in the New Zealand Crimes Act since 1856.

The Minister of Maori Development, Nania Mahuta has in a letter to Right to Life expressed support for the decriminalisation of abortion and refused to write to the Waitangi Tribunal to seek a decision on whether the government's proposal to decriminalise abortion is a potential breach of the Treaty of Waitangi.

The Crimes Act section 182. "Killing Unborn Child" provides protection for the life of Maori in the womb. It is a serious crime to kill an unborn child and on conviction a person may be imprisoned for a term up to 14 years. Section 183. "Procuring abortion by any means" prohibits unlawful abortion, this is also a serious crime and every one on conviction, is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 14 years. This section also states that; "the woman or girl shall not be charged as a party to an offence against this section." This legal protection for the lives of unborn children has been in the Crimes Act since 1856.

It is the government's intention to make it no longer a crime to kill an unborn child in an abortion. Those children who are classified as unwanted will be taken out of the Crimes Act in order that they may be killed as a health service and a "reproductive choice for women" These children will effectively lose the protection of the Crown. The children who are wanted will retain the protection of the Crimes Act and the protection of the Crown

The decriminalisation of abortion would be a violation of the human rights of all unborn children including Maori and an attack on the dignity of Maori mothers, it would be a statement from the state that we have no interest in protecting the life of your child or protecting you from the violence of abortion, the child is your property and it is your choice whether the child lives or is killed. If we followed the Victorian model, abortion for any reason, is available up to 24 weeks if a doctor agrees. Abortion from 25 weeks to birth is available for any reason if two doctors believe that an abortion is desirable. Victoria effectively has abortion on demand up to birth

The abortion rate for Maori is disturbing. In 2017 there were 13,285 abortions reported in New Zealand, 3,111 of these abortions were on Maori women. I believe that if abortion is decriminalised it will result in more pressure and coercion imposed on Maori women to terminate the life of their child by the fathers of the children who threaten to abandon the mother if she does not have an abortion.

*A nation that kills its own children is a nation
without hope.*

**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**

Abortion Statistics – Thirty-six Children Murdered Every Day in New Zealand

In 2017 there were 13,285 abortions reported in New Zealand. This represents a 3.6 per cent increase on the 12,823 abortions reported in 2016. We should mourn with these women who are grieving the loss of their precious child. This represents 36 babies murdered every day in New Zealand. If this number of children were taken out of our kindergartens each day to be murdered there would be riots in our cities and towns. Why does our Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern now want to make this killing a “reproductive health choice for women?” Right to Life is concerned at this increased killing. However, we applaud the heroic and sacrificial women who rejected abortion and chose life for their precious infants. They deserve the generous support of the whole community. Right to Life also grieves with the women who were so often abandoned by the father of the child in the time of the woman’s greatest need and were coerced into an abortion that was chosen for her. It is a cruel mockery and charade for society to pretend that it is “a woman’s right to choose.” “Choosing” an abortion is a decision of despair and a cry for help. The abortion statistics are an indictment on our Parliament which sanctions and funds the killing of the innocent as a core health service with unlimited funding and no waiting list; our women deserve better. The statistics disguise the reality that every child violently dismembered in the womb of the child’s mother is an unrepeatable miracle of God’s Loving creation. The statistics are also an indictment on the media which have generally ignored the media release on abortion statistics made by Statistics NZ this morning. It was Joseph Stalin who said the killing of one human being is a tragedy and the killing of tens of thousands just a statistic. Since 1977 more than 500,000 children have been violently killed in their mother’s womb, a massive violation of human rights. Why is the media so coldly indifferent to the killing of New Zealand children in their first nine months of life?

Right to Life requests that the government introduce abstinence sexuality programmes to replace Family Planning school sex education programs which encourage promiscuity with abortions arranged without the knowledge or consent of parents as a backup for failed contraceptives.

Repeat abortions totalled 4,844, 3,106 were having their second, 1,158 were having their third, 376 were having their fourth, 138 their fifth, 37 their sixth, 19 their seventh and 10 their eighth or more. Right to Life believes that these statistics are under reported. Studies conducted in the United States, reveal that repeat abortions are actually 50 per cent of the total abortions reported.

Key Facts Abortion Statistics 2017

- The general abortion rate was 13.7 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years, up from 13.5 per 1,000 in 2016.
- Women aged 20–24 years had the highest abortion rate (21 abortions per 1,000 women aged 20–24 years), unchanged from 2016.
- 54 percent of all abortions were for women aged in their 20s
- Most abortions (64 percent) were a woman’s first abortion.
- 59 percent of abortions were performed before the 10th week of the pregnancy, up from 57percent in 2016
- 18 percent of known pregnancies (live births, stillbirths, and abortions) ended in an abortion.
- 99 young women under the age of 16 years had an abortion in 2017, 67 alleged that they had notified their parents or guardian of their abortion, 32 did not. Note; there is no way of determining whether those who had told their parents had actually done so.
- 12,925 abortions were authorised on the grounds of mental health, the grounds used by certifying consultants to provide abortion on demand. This is 98 percent of the total. There were 49 abortions authorised on the grounds of danger to life/ and or physical health.

For the question remains, do women want abortion? Not like she wants a Porsche or an ice cream cone. Like an animal caught in a trap, trying to gnaw off its own leg, a woman who seeks an abortion is trying to escape a desperate situation by an act of violence and self-loss. Abortion is not a sign that women are free, but a sign that they are desperate.

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

News in Brief

Parliamentary Justice Select Committee

Right to Life made a substantial written submission opposing the End of Life Choice bill of David Seymour to the Select Committee. This bill is a threat to the lives of the elderly, the disabled and those seriously ill. Philip Creed and Ken Orr later made a fifteen minute oral submission to the Committee in Christchurch. Members are encouraged to lobby their local electorate and list MPs to vote against this dangerous bill at its second reading expected to be in March 2019.

Decriminalisation of Abortion

Right to Life is conducting a correspondence with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice opposing the government's proposal to decriminalise abortion and remove women and the unborn from the protection of the Crimes Act. We have also written to all MPs asking them what evidence do they have that the killing of the unborn in an abortion should no longer be a crime. Only Duncan Webb, Labour MP for Christchurch Central responded stating that it was his opinion that it should not be a crime. Dr Webb was formerly a Professor of Law at the Canterbury University Law School.

Law Commission Review of Abortion Law.

Right to Life made a substantial written submission to the Law Commission opposing the removal of abortion from the Crimes Act. We also engaged in correspondence with the Commission submitting a number of Official Information Act requests. This was a phony review as the government directed the Commission to exclusively provide advice on how to treat abortion as a health issue and not a justice issue. The Commission was specifically asked not to review the effectiveness of the present legislation in protecting the right to life of the unborn or to consider the important findings of the Royal Commission.

March for Life – Wellington

Right to Life was part of the organising committee for the march and sent two of its executive to Wellington to participate in the march and encouraged its members to also participate. Our Society also funded the travel expenses of two members of the Christchurch Catholic Youth Team executive to participate in the march.

Fatal Flaws Anti- Euthanasia Film

Right to Life conducted a screening in Christchurch in November of the anti-euthanasia documentary film Fatal Flaws produced by the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, further screenings will be organised. Our Society sent the film to Simon O'Connor MP who is encouraging fellow MPs to view this important film.

Right to Life National Petition Opposing the Decriminalisation of Abortion.

RTL with the generous support of the Catholic Legion of Mary and others has conducted a successful national petition in churches. The petition is still open and has attracted the support of more than 15,300 petitioners. Copies of the petition may be downloaded from www.righttolife.org.nz. Parliamentary Services have advised that the wording of the petition precludes it being presented to Parliament until a bill to decriminalise abortion is actually before Parliament. The Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, had previously publicly pledged to present a bill early in 2018. Right to Life will vigorously oppose this bill.

Media Outreach

RTL issues regular media releases on important life issues which are sent to all media outlets newspapers, TV and radio. The releases are also sent to all Members of Parliament and to members of RTL and others who wish to receive them. RTL also writes regular opinion articles and letters that are sent to all newspapers. Fourteen daily newspapers have published 54 opinion articles from RTL in the last two years.

Right to Life Website

RTL has an excellent website that publishes all our media releases, articles and letters sent to government and other organisations. It also features important articles on life issues from overseas. RTL's website's address is www.righttolife.org.nz. RTL is also on facebook.

**HELP US
END THE
ABOMINABLE
CRIME OF
HUMAN
ABORTION**

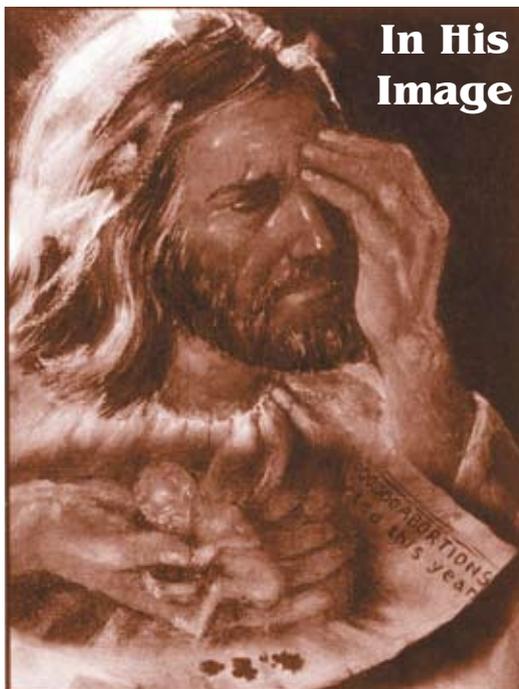
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Image**

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

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it as he who helps
to perpetrate it.*

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protesting
against it is really
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