



Abortion

By abortion we mean direct abortion, which is the deliberate termination of a human life.

Our Position

We are opposed to the deliberate ending of any innocent human life from the first moment of its existence, conception. It is scientifically established that from the moment of conception when a single-cell embryo is created, a new human being or organism exists. To terminate the life of this individual is fundamentally unjust and discriminatory. To deprive an entity of his/her life on the basis of qualities such as size or level of development is to contend that it is these qualities which give the entity the right to life. We take the position that every human being has an inherent right to life by virtue of being human: no-one has the right deliberately to bring about the death of an innocent human being.

We campaign for repeal of the Abortion Act 1967 which allows abortion up to 24 weeks, and up to and even during birth where the unborn child is thought to be disabled.

The Morning After Pill is Abortive

The morning after pill is advertised as “non-abortive” because it does not terminate a pregnancy - or so it is claimed. The dispute lies in the definition of pregnancy, as opposed to the start of human life. Pregnancy is often defined as implantation (when an embryo implants in the mother’s uterus) whereas the beginning of human life is defined as conception (when sperm meets egg).

The term pregnancy is being exploited by abortion advocates. While the morning after pill will not terminate the life of an implanted embryo, it will terminate the life of an embryo who has not yet attached to the mother’s womb. It will prevent the embryo from implanting in the uterus, thus destroying a human life.

It is extremely misleading to advertise this pill as “non-abortive”, since it performs the same task as surgical abortion, namely the deliberate destruction of an unborn child. Women considering use of the morning after pill may be deceived by this misrepresentation. Unbeknownst to them, they could be active participants in the destruction of human life.

Eugenics and Disability

The eugenic practice of aborting babies with a disability is a particularly horrifying act of discrimination. In 2003, out of a total of 190,660 abortions performed in England and Wales, 1,941 were for suspected handicap. What message are we sending to children and adults living with disability if we exterminate pre-born babies as “sub-standard”? And if

this discriminatory practice is indeed logical and ethical (as advocates of the practice contend), why do we recognise a right to life in born disabled people? Disability groups are rightly offended by the provision of abortion up to birth for disabled babies. Moreover, some procedures aimed at discovering disabilities carry a serious risk of causing a miscarriage.

What About Rape?

Abortion is often recommended in cases of rape. But abortion does not undo the rape; instead it compounds violence with violence. It is an indefensible response to a complex situation. Putting aside the injustice of an innocent child being killed for her father's crime, there is evidence that abortion only deepens the trauma of the rape victim as well as taking the innocent life of her child. A rape victim requires special emotional care regardless of whether or not she obtains an abortion. By recommending abortion as a quick and easy way to "lessen the impact", a disservice is done to raped women.

By promoting abortion specifically in the case of rape one implicitly argues that the means of conception determines the value of a human life. This line of reasoning fails to acknowledge that, biologically speaking, there is no difference between a human being conceived by a loving couple and a human being conceived by rape. Are we to deem born children conceived by rape as having no right to life?

It is also worth noting that statistically speaking, violent rape is extraordinarily unlikely to result in pregnancy; moreover, women tend to love their babies even if they hate the father. Rape cases make up a very small proportion of the hundreds of thousands of abortions every year in the U.K.

What About Backstreet Abortions?

At the time of the 1967 Abortion Act much play was made of the prevalence of backstreet abortions and the dangers they posed. In fact the legalisation of abortion had no significant impact on the maternal death rate. This applies to other countries in the developed world, regardless of when they made abortion easier (or even in four cases harder) to obtain. It was better medicine, particularly the use of antibiotics, that brought down the maternal death rate. In contrast, legalising abortion has certainly resulted in countless deaths of unborn children who would not otherwise have died. If direct abortion is the taking of an innocent human life, should we really respond by making it easier and safer to obtain?

With all the concern about backstreet abortions harming women, it is important to note that legal abortions are not as safe as many believe. Many women who have legal abortions have complications needing treatment in hospital, many more go to the doctor for physical or psychiatric help, and the increased risk of suicide after abortion compared with giving birth means that more, not fewer, women die.

What If the Life of the Mother is Threatened?

Very rarely, the baby's death is brought about indirectly, for example, as a side effect of medical treatment to save the life of the mother, such as removal of a cancerous womb, or a damaged fallopian tube in the case of ectopic pregnancy. This is very sad, but it is not

an abortion. It is not the deliberate ending of a life. It has never been illegal, and no one is against it. In other, still rare, cases, doctors may be able to save mother and baby by letting the pregnancy continue until the baby can survive outside the womb.

Abortion Harms Women

Abortion is also harmful to women, many of whom suffer psychologically and sometimes physically as a result of their decision. We do not judge, blame or condemn women who have had an abortion. We understand the pressures, the lack of accurate information, support and time to think clearly, which may have led to a rushed and often bitterly regretted decision. Positive practical assistance is crucial in helping to prevent this painful outcome.

Pro-Women and Pro-Life

We are totally in favour of a woman's rights over her own body, her right to give or refuse consent to sexual intercourse. We are against a woman's "right" to choose to abort her baby for the same reason as we are against a man's "right" to beat his wife, or anyone's "right" to keep a slave, namely that this infringes the rights of another human being.