

## **Abortion is a right**

Abortion in Ireland is defined as the intentional killing of foetus or embryo.

Abortion is not the intentional killing of a child in the womb even if a child dies. It is the woman's body and it is about respecting that not killing a baby.

Woman, it is most important that your body and your life be protected. Nobody, not even your child, can take your organs to live even if you can spare them. Not even your own child has the right to demand your organs to live. Suppose you have to donate organs to save the lives of three people and you will be on a machine for the rest of your life nobody says you are obligated to do it. You cannot be forced to save these lives. A case for abortion then can be made along these lines.

The life and welfare of a grown woman comes before the life of a what is developing into a human being. An embryo cannot have the same rights as an adult or existing child. It does not have the developed brain of an adult. However, abortion of an unborn child at the later stage of pregnancy is certainly murder.

When a woman gets pregnant, it is her body. She may have an abortion if she doesn't want a baby. The earlier abortion takes place the better. The new life at conception cannot have the same right to life as a foetus of six months or a newborn baby. Denying this is disregard for the newborn. The morning after pill and abortion pills must be freely available so that women are not compelled to have later abortions.

Those who say, "Abortion should only be allowed when the mother's life is in certain danger" are asking us to wait until the mother gets seriously ill before terminating the pregnancy. This is extremely cruel and she might still die.

Being pregnant is a threat. The woman is under a risk of damage to her body, her way of life and to her life. The risk of death may be small but it still matters. The idea that an unborn child is not an unjust aggressor overlooks how it is still a threat for it is the woman's body that has to incubate it. It is not fair that nature damages woman in pregnancy.

### *Encouragement for those who work for the Right to Choose*

A woman has the right to have an abortion without the consent of the father or father-to-be. It is her body.

The objection that nobody has absolute rights over their own body is actually irrelevant here. People who argue that a woman having the right to decide what happens to her body does not imply that she has the right to slay her child in the womb. She might not have the right to amputate her own hand just for kicks but unwanted pregnancy is different. It is not like she would be harming herself or mutilating herself by having the pregnancy terminated.

It is not deliberate murder to end the life of a being you believe is not a person yet - even if you are wrong. It is accidental then.

We use laws to prevent many forms of lesser good such as murder, stealing and rape and so on. And we want this to continue. But there are some kinds of lesser good that we have to allow such as abortion and giving pain-killer drugs to dying people that also result in accelerating the dying process so that they die sooner.

Abortion is open to abuse. Anything that is allowed can be abused. We must allow abortion nonetheless. Do we want women attempting DIY abortions or going to backstreet abortionists?

You must recognise that not everybody agrees with you if you think abortion is wrong. If you think that then use all caring and legitimate means to get that message out but do not start campaigning for the law of the state to prohibit abortion. If abortion is wrong that does not mean it ought to be illegal. If it is legal and wrong, that doesn't matter as long as women see that it is wrong and don't have abortions. When the law forbids abortion, it must lay down penalties to punish those who have abortions. A law that does not punish is only a mockery not a law. Few agree that women having abortions should be punished. Let there be no attempts to make the law declare abortion illegal.

Women have a right to choose. We must support that right.

### *A Message of Comfort to Those Preparing for an Abortion*

What you know must be taken into consideration more than things you only believe in. Things you believe in must be taken into consideration more than things you only guess are true. If you know medicine x will cure an illness, it would be wrong to choose another medicine when you only believe in its power. You must put the greatest certainties first.

There is one thing each person can be sure of. It is that he or she exists. They cannot prove they lived a second ago. That could have been an illusion or dream. They cannot prove that other people are real. You cannot deny that your experience that you exist now is true. You have to exist to be able to try and deny it! You have to put you first. If you are a pregnant woman, you come before the baby in your womb. And the shorter the time you have been pregnant, the more you may put yourself before the baby.

A woman need not feel guilty unless the abortion takes place in the later stages.

### *The Care of a Woman having an abortion*

Catholic medical professionals sometimes refuse to care for women who are having abortions and supervise those who perform them.

They claim it is against their conscience which says that it would amount to assisting in murder.

But there is no concern for the safety of the woman.

They are not directly ending the pregnancy for the women so conscientious objection should not apply.

There is thus no right to refuse to delegate and support and supervise medical professionals who are performing an abortion.

Judges during Edinburgh's Court of Session ruled that the right of conscientious objection "extends not only to the actual medical or surgical termination but to the whole process of treatment given for that purpose".

This ignores the fact that conscientious objection if given for indirect involvement would create too many problems for the law. It would mean that a Muslim has the right to stop planning permission for a Catholic Church just because he feels he cannot encourage the Catholic faith for his own faith is the true faith.