

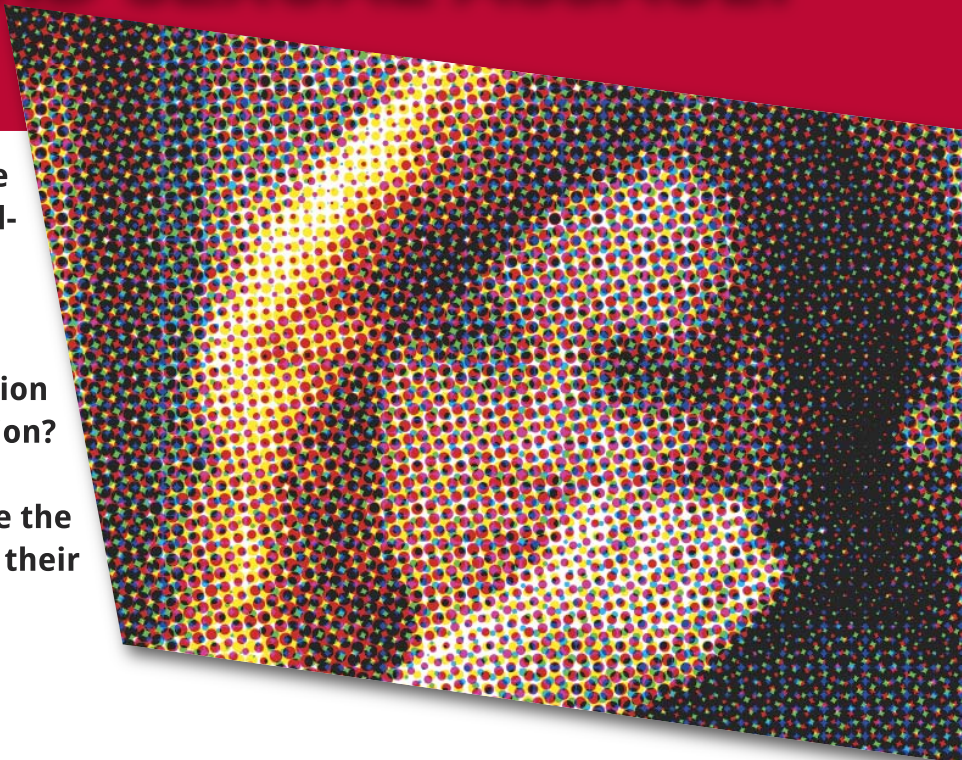
ABORTION AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

/a second violation










Rape is a shocking crime, and rape victims deserve the full and unfailing support of society.

But we need to ask: where a rape victim becomes pregnant, is abortion the answer, or is it a second violation?

And does the abortion industry use the trauma of rape victims to further their own agenda?



Here are the facts:

-  Irish figures showed that - contrary to what many people may have believed - more than eight out of ten rape victims who became pregnant did not avail of abortion. ¹
-  Less than 1% of all abortions are carried out on children conceived through rape. ²
-  In the first study of rape victims who became pregnant, Dr. Sandra Mahkorn found that most sexual assault victims refused abortion. ³
-  Most women in Dr. Mahkorn's study felt that abortion was an act of violence and that issues relating to the rape experience, not the pregnancy, were of primary concern in counselling and rehabilitation. ⁴
-  Women made pregnant by rape who did not abort said that hostile and negative feelings towards the baby changed during pregnancy. ⁵
-  A recent British Journal of Psychiatry review showed women who had had abortions had an 81% increased risk for mental health problems, including substance abuse, suicidal behaviours, depression and anxiety. ⁶
-  A survey of hundreds of rape victims by U.S.-based Fortress International discovered that women who aborted their 'rape babies' reported more pain, guilt, and anger than women who did not abort. ⁷
-  In 2004, the Ad Hoc Committee of Women Pregnant by Sexual Assault (WPSA) sent a petition to the US Congress, stating that women who have been raped did not want or need abortions, and asked legislators to 'hold public hearings at which we and other women who have become pregnant through sexual assault will be invited to discuss our unique needs and concerns.' ⁸
-  In March 2012, an Iowa abortionist was suspended by the state for inappropriately sedating and possibly assaulting two female patients after other clinic staff had left for the day. ⁹
-  Abortion is used to cover up rape and incest. In 2009, an Australian Marie Stopes Clinic provider was found guilty of unprofessional conduct for failing to obtain consent before performing a late-term abortion on an intellectually disabled woman who was raped by her father. This same clinic was the site of a botched abortion death in 2011. ¹⁰

THE REALITY

Consider the case of 'Miss C', a young Irish girl who became pregnant following a brutal rape. She had been taken into care to protect her from the rapist, but social workers then insisted that she wanted an abortion. When her parents opposed the abortion they became the subject of a vicious media campaign. Leading abortion campaigners used the case to demand the legalisation of abortion in Ireland. 'Miss C's' baby was aborted in a clinic in Britain.

But then, twelve years later, 'Miss C' spoke out. She said that she had never requested an abortion, and that she had wanted her baby to be given up for adoption. 'I woke up ... and I asked for the baby and they told me there was no baby,' she said.

'To this day I'm still suffering. I went to get a death certificate done for the baby. I named her Shannon. So, like, that was pretty hard for me to do as well. But I had to have some dignity to say that that child was there,' she said in a major radio interview.

Once 'Miss C' had spoken out, she was never mentioned again by abortion campaigners. She didn't suit their agenda anymore. **We need to listen to rape victims, and not simply offer the quick-fix of abortion.**

**INTERVIEW WITH MISS 'C'
TODAY WITH PAT KENNY,
RTÉ RADIO 1
17 JULY 2009**



REBECCA - CONCEIVED IN RAPE

Have you ever considered how really insulting it is to say to someone, 'I think your mother should have been able to abort you.'? It's like saying, 'If I had my way, you'd be dead right now.' And that is the reality with which I live every time someone says they are pro-choice or pro-life 'except in cases of rape' because I absolutely would have been aborted if it had been legal in Michigan when I was an unborn child, and I can tell you that it hurts. I do hope that, as a child conceived in rape, I can help to put a face, a voice, and a story to this issue. Being thankful that my life was protected in no way makes me pro-rape.

REBECCA KIESSLING, LAWYER

ELIZABETH - PREGNANT THROUGH RAPE



Elizabeth Cameron, 19, is to train to be a primary teacher. 'Everyone, save for mum, thought I should have an abortion,' she says. 'My dad even made an appointment at the clinic, and they showed me the little blob on the scan, I presume, to convince me that it was just a mass of cells and the whole thing would be over quickly. 'But I couldn't go through with it. 'At school, my friends - most of whom didn't even know about the rape - couldn't understand why anyone my age would want to have a baby rather than an abortion. And the few I did tell were even more horrified that I would want to go through with the birth. But I did. And I don't regret it for a moment. Every time I look at Phoebe, I know I made the right decision. I never wanted to end my baby's life just because of how she came to be.'

**'I WAS RAPED AND LEFT PREGNANT AT 16,
BUT I STILL LOVE MY BABY,'
DAILY MAIL, 09 AUGUST 2008.**

lifefacts/backup

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