

LIFE:

WHAT REALLY MATTERS?



LIFE INSTITUTE

A CULTURE OF LIFE

"The culture of life means respect for nature and protection of God's work of creation. In a special way, it means respect for human life from the first moment of conception until its natural end."

Pope John Paul II 2003.

A Culture of Life respects and cherishes human life at all stages. It supports families, defends the unborn child, cares for the elderly, the sick and the vulnerable, and works towards creating secure and stable societies.

Everyone benefits from a Culture of Life. That's why it's so important that informed views on life, society, and family are heard. When it comes to deciding on crucially important issues, we need to inform and engage as many people as possible so that we can make life-affirming decisions together.

The Life Institute aims to build a Culture of Life. We provide information, undertake research, and produce national campaigns. Above all, we aim to empower and involve the silent majority, and to make their views on life, family and culture heard.

**JOIN US IN BUILDING A
CULTURE OF LIFE TODAY**



The Irish Constitution protects the family based on marriage. That's a good thing, since the family is the bedrock of society. We need strong, stable families to have a secure and happy society.

Yet government policies are actually working against the family. For example, the State abolished tax-relief for children. Tax credits are given for all sorts of things, but the State takes the money you earned for your family as if your children did not exist. In doing so they are making it more difficult for families to raise children.

Other policies also undermine the family's right to housing, assistance and representation. With marital breakdown on the rise, and the numbers of broken families increasing, we need better State policies for families.

**SUPPORTING THE FAMILY MAKES
FOR A BETTER SOCIETY**

Rish tax laws severely punish families where one parent cares for children full-time. The policy of tax individualisation actually forces families with a full-time Mum or Dad to pay up to €7,500 a year in extra taxes.

Many mothers want the option to stay at home to look after their own children, especially when those children are young. But now the State will punish them for doing so. At the urging of the EU, they introduced a tax regime which forces families with a single-income to pay more tax than families where both parents are earning a wage. That penalty, charged by forcing single-income families to begin paying a higher rate of tax at a much lower income, can reach up to €7,500 every year!

Research has shown that children fare best when cared for by their mother or father in the early years of their lives, and that most parents want the option of caring for young children themselves.

Yet because of harsh government policies, many mothers feel they have no option but to be separated from their young children. We need to get real choices for parents and end tax penalties that are hurting families.

**MOTHERS AND CHILDREN MUST
BECOME A PRIORITY FOR THE STATE**

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair, smiling warmly. She is holding two children. In the foreground, a newborn baby is crying. Next to the baby, a toddler is smiling and looking towards the camera. The woman's face is partially visible in the upper right, looking down at the children.

MOTHERS



LIFE

Life is our most precious gift. Abortion, the deliberate taking of human life, has no place in a compassionate society. Killing children and harming women is a backward and inhumane solution to a crisis pregnancy. Mothers and babies deserve better.

The majority of Irish people are opposed to abortion. Opinion polls show that up to 70% of Irish people oppose the legalisation of abortion in Ireland.

We can do more for mothers with crisis pregnancies than the quick-fix of abortion. State-funded agencies are selling abortion as a 'positive option'; but in reality the abortion industry claims two victims: a dead baby and a grieving mother.

Abortion destroys the innocent baby in the womb, and mothers are the second victim of the abortion industry which is profiteering from the suffering of others. New studies by Dr David Fergusson and others show that some 85% of women suffer mental health issues after an abortion.

Life is a right, not a privilege. Abortion creates a society where life is disposable. We need to ensure that Ireland remains abortion-free.

**PROTECT MOTHERS AND BABIES :
STOP ABORTION**

There are three times more people on the planet than there were in the 1950s, but people are three times more prosperous.* Growing numbers of people have meant growing markets, and as populations have increased, access to education, efficiency of food production, and standards of living have improved.

But hysteria about population control has turned the balance of nature on its head. A 2005 report by the EU Commission entitled *Confronting Demographic Change*, highlighted the plummeting birth rates across Europe, which, experts fear, will bring growth and prosperity crashing to a halt. The UN, in a 2009 report, also warned that the number of elderly people worldwide will outnumber children for the first time in 2045. With a dearth of children being born, who will pay the pensions of the future?

There is no doubt that the uncertainty brought to family life by divorce, falling marriage rates, and anti-family policies has impacted on the fertility rates in Ireland and across the EU. It's leading us to an unprecedented demographic crisis: the EU predicts that despite the rise in retirement age, the falling population will cause annual economic growth to be halved by 2040.

The State needs to wake up and realise we need new policies which welcome children.

AN AGEING, SHRINKING EUROPE NEEDS TO WELCOME CHILDREN

A close-up photograph of three young children, two girls and one boy, smiling warmly at the camera. They are positioned in the foreground, with their faces filling most of the frame. The background is softly blurred, showing hints of a colorful striped pattern.

CHILDREN

* (Irish Times, 17 July 2010)



the HUMAN EMBRYO

Stem cell research is an exciting and promising area of research - but not when those stem cells are obtained by killing human embryos. Embryonic stem cell research always destroys human life, and produces no cures.

It's a long-proven scientific fact that life begins at conception. Here's another fact: more than twenty years of research on human embryos has failed to deliver even one cure. This is in contrast to the success of ethical adult stem cell research, which has produced more than 70 successful medical treatments for patients to date.

Where embryo research relies on hype, adult stem cell research is delivering hope - to patients with cancer, Parkinson's disease, and other serious conditions. That's where the future lies: that's where Ireland's focus should be.

Some unethical scientists, backed by greedy pharmaceutical companies, want to continue to experiment on human embryos in the hope of making profits. The push for embryo research in Ireland is being driven by politically powerful lobbyists, the EU and big business. We must insist that the government protects human life from conception - and outlaws embryonic stem cell research and embryo destruction.

PROTECT LIFE FROM CONCEPTION



END OF LIFE

Euthanasia targets the vulnerable, the sick and the elderly. It has no place in our health system. The people we love deserve better.

But the HSE recently sponsored a lecture in Cork University Hospital entitled “Why Euthanasia should be legalised”. Supporters of euthanasia view the seriously ill and elderly people as a “waste of resources”. That view is getting more extreme.

In Britain, a leading euthanasia advocate, Baroness Warnock, said that people with dementia had a “duty to die”. Calls are now being made in the UK to introduce involuntary euthanasia - where patients are killed without their consent. Irish doctors have warned against the slippery slope euthanasia brings; and they say it will be the poor and the vulnerable who will suffer most.

**END OF LIFE CARE IS A HUMAN
RIGHT: SAY NO TO EUTHANASIA**

IT'S YOUR LIFE

Join us in actively seeking a better society for everyone

- Let's start by insisting that human life, from conception to natural death, is respected and protected.
- Families and marriage should be supported. The State must stop discriminating against families, and recognise their importance to society.
- Mothers are not valued or given the option to raise their own children. We need to demand that tax individualisation is immediately scrapped.
- The State should actively support the family by taking steps to ensure families can afford decent housing. All families need a home.
- We need a progressive and welcoming attitude towards children. The State needs to realise that a shrinking population will damage any chance of economic growth.
- Demand your rights! Get the best for everyone by building a Culture of Life.

**JOIN THE LIFE INSTITUTE FOR A BETTER
LIFE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY**



HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO YOU

BE AWARE: Join the Life Institute in building a Culture of Life. We'll send you regular updates on important issues, tell you what's happening, and inform you what you can do to get involved.

BE INVOLVED: Help us to undertake important pro-life and pro-family campaigns, and to carry out important research to protect life and the family. Give your time, your prayers and, if possible, a donation to the work we do together.

BUILD A CULTURE OF LIFE: You can be part of a growing network of people who are making a simple demand to the State - life and the family must come first. Together we can build a Culture of Life.

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Name:

Address:

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I would like to receive your news email bulletins

I would like to receive information on events and activities

I am between the ages of 15 - 25

25 - 45

45 - 65

over 65





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