



**LIFE IS A RIGHT
NOT A PRIVILEGE**

I'M PRO-LIFE
BECAUSE THERE'S ALWAYS A
BETTER ANSWER THAN ABORTION

THE LIFE BOOK

ABORTION IS NOT NEEDED TO SAVE WOMEN'S LIVES.

CARE FOR MOTHERS

The then Chairman of the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Prof John Bonnar, told a Dáil Committee:

“It would never cross an obstetrician’s mind that intervening in a case of pre-eclampsia, cancer of the cervix or ectopic pregnancy is abortion. They are not abortion as far as the professional is concerned, these are medical treatments that are essential to save the life of the mother.”

NEVER A NEED FOR ABORTION

Medical experts have confirmed that abortion is not needed to treat pregnant women - and that no conditions arise in pregnancy which require the direct killing of the unborn child.

Our ban on abortion meant our doctors were always free to intervene to protect the lives of mothers. Treatments for conditions such as cancer, pre-eclampsia, or ectopic pregnancy were never denied to women in Ireland, even if the life of the baby was sometimes lost.

These treatments were not considered abortion, since the intention is to treat the condition, NOT to kill the baby. Doctors did their best for both patients.

This led to excellent standards of maternal health-care in Ireland, where both mother and baby were best cared for, and women’s lives were not put at risk. Leading obstetricians, testifying before a public hearing in 2013, said that women did not die in Ireland because of the ban on abortion.

In fact, Ireland, without abortion, was named as one of the safest places in the world for a woman to have a baby (UN, 2007). The Dublin Declaration, which states that abortion is not medically necessary, has been signed by more than 700 medical professionals to date. Sadly the medical evidence was ignored by the Irish Government who have now legalised abortion.



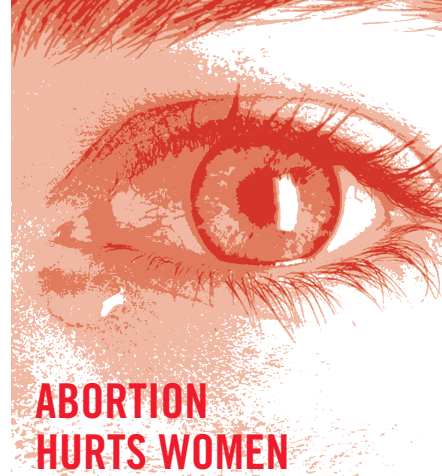
SAVITA'S TRAGIC CASE

Savita Halappanavar died tragically in 2012 from an infection in the blood (sepsis) arising from E-Coli ESBL, a dangerous strain of bacteria resistant to most antibiotics.

Official inquiries into her death found that the real issue was the management of sepsis - not abortion. Sadly, the official inquiry found that her medical team missed 13 opportunities to intervene and save Savita's life.⁽¹⁾ Staff failed to diagnose the infection which led to her death, and did not therefore understand that Savita's life was in danger.

Savita's tragic case was used by abortion campaigners to demand legislation. The truth is, under Irish law, doctors were free to intervene to give Savita all necessary medical treatment, even if that treatment resulted in the unintentional loss of her baby's life.

An official inquiry found that Savita's medical team MISSED 13 OPPORTUNITIES TO SAVE HER LIFE. THIS CASE WAS ABOUT SEPSIS NOT ABORTION: but Savita's tragic death was used by abortion campaigners to push their own agenda.



ABORTION HURTS WOMEN

Not only does abortion end the life of the unborn child, it can also hurt and harm women.

PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS

- A major study found that women who had abortions were 6 times more likely to die by suicide than women who had given birth.⁽²⁾
- Women who had abortions had a 30% higher incidence of mental health problems according to a 30-year study in New Zealand.⁽³⁾

Effects can include:

- Depression and/or anxiety
- Relationship problems
- Substance abuse
- Suicide and deliberate self-harm

PHYSICAL EFFECTS

- Higher risk of Breast Cancer⁽⁴⁾
- Uterine Rupture
- Ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage
- Death: an Irish woman died in 2013 following a so-called safe, legal abortion in Britain⁽⁵⁾

(2) M. Gissler, "Injury deaths, suicides and homicides associated with pregnancy, Finland 1987-2000," *European J. Public Health* 15(5):459-63, 2005

(3) Prof Fergusson Study, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, April 2013

(4) Yubei Huang et al, *Cancer Causes and Control*, Nov 2013

(5) Irish Times, 22 July 2013

RAPE & ABORTION

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?

- Irish figures show that - contrary to what many people may believe - more than eight out of ten rape victims who become pregnant do not have an abortion. ⁽¹⁾
- In the first study of rape victims who became pregnant, Dr. Sandra Mahkorn found that most sexual assault victims refused abortion. ⁽²⁾
- 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.
- Women made pregnant by rape who did not abort said that hostile and negative feelings towards the baby changed during pregnancy.

(1) Rape Crisis Network Ireland, 2010 National Rape Crisis Statistics and Annual Report

(2) "Pregnancy and Sexual Assault," Sandra K. Mahkorn, in The Psychological Aspects of Abortion ed. D. Mall and W.F. Watts, (Washington D.C.: University Publications of America)

**RAPE VICTIMS
DESERVE
BETTER
THAN THE
'QUICK-FIX
SOLUTION' OF
ABORTION**

FURTHER VIOLATION

TRAGIC CASE Miss C

- Abortion will never reverse a rape, or address the emotional and psychological trauma endured. Instead, it punishes an innocent child for the crime of its father, and can heap further trauma on a vulnerable woman.
- Studies have shown that abortion can lead to severe and prolonged psychiatric problems; is it fair that an already traumatised rape victim should undergo a procedure which may further damage her mental state?
- There is no quick-fix solution in these very difficult circumstances. As a society, we need to offer more support, more compassion and better options for women and think of the possible long-term effects and consequences following abortion.
- We also cannot ignore the fact that the innocent child is not to blame for the manner in which they were conceived – they are as human as every other child, and therefore deserve the same respect and protection afforded to all others.
- Abortion should not be considered as a treatment for incest, because it does not solve the underlying cause. In fact, the 'disposal' of the evidence of incest through abortion can subject the victim to continued exploitation.

Consider the case of 'Miss C', a young Irish girl who became pregnant following a brutal rape. Leading abortion campaigners used the case to demand the legalisation of abortion in Ireland. Miss C's baby was aborted in a clinic in the UK.

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,' she said. '.. for me, it has been harder to deal with than the rape.'

Once Miss C had spoken out, she was never mentioned again by abortion campaigners. She didn't suit their agenda anymore.

"I grieve for my lost baby every day": Irish Independent, 4 May 2013

THE FACTS OF LIFE



@ 3 DAYS

Every new individual receives 23 chromosomes from each parent. He or she is truly a unique individual human being, never to be repeated. A new person has been created. Any further formation is purely a matter of development, growth and maturation.

@ 6 WEEKS

Six weeks after fertilisation the cells are full of life, the heart is beating, blood is being pumped through the umbilical cord and the whole embryo is in constant motion. The embryonic heart has 140-150 fluttering beats a minute - twice as many as its mother's.

2 MONTH OLD MALE SWIMMING IN AMNIOTIC FLUID



“ While giving an anaesthetic for a ruptured ectopic pregnancy.... I was handed what I believe was the smallest living human ever seen... this tiny human was perfectly developed with long tapering fingers, feet and toes... the baby was extremely alive and swam about the sac approximately one time per second, with a natural swimmers stroke.”

Dr. Paul Rockwell

@ 8 WEEKS

@ 11 WEEKS

The baby is about 50mm long and at 22g weighs as much as his first birthday card! With his tiny proportions and profile, this baby looks like a perfect miniature doll. He's become very expressive, wrinkling his forehead, turning his head, opening and closing his tiny lips.

Credit: Life Issues Institute

He is about the size of a clenched fist now, and he can clench his own fist! He is now leaping and bounding almost constantly and his movements are smooth and fluid. His neck is getting longer, helping his head to stand more erect. He is beginning to sprout hair and eyebrows. He has the co-ordination to wiggle his fingers and toes and even suck his thumb!

@ 14 WEEKS

Credit: Life Issues Institute

7 weeks

13 weeks

7 weeks

9 weeks

13 weeks



Arms and hands develop earlier than legs and feet. By 2 months, the lines of footprints are already engraved in the skin.

Though still a lightweight at only 800 - 900g (150mm long) this baby is complete, needing only nourishment, warmth and a chance to grow. In fact, infants as young as 5 months have been able to survive premature births. The mother feels fluttering kicks and movements from her little one. There is evidence that the baby hears outside noise - music, traffic, TV, people talking and, of course, his favourite sound - his mother's voice.

@ 20 WEEKS

I AM
CREATED
EQUAL



MY ABORTION

CLARE (not her real name), had an abortion at 18 years of age. She spoke to the *Derry Journal* about the after-effects of her abortion.

"When I was just 18 I became pregnant. I collapsed on the street and was taken to the hospital where a young house doctor there told me I was pregnant. I kept saying over and over again 'I don't want to be pregnant' to the doctor. He asked me if I wanted a termination and I didn't know what that was either. He told me that there was nothing there and that a termination would sort all my problems so I told him to 'go ahead'.

I was taken to the theatre where instead of having my problems 'sorted' they were only just beginning. 35 years later I can still see the face of the anaesthetist who knocked me out before they did the abortion. I came out of that hospital a different person. I began neglecting my health, drank too much, was suicidal and had terrible nightmares where I would dream about a baby who was falling and I would be trying to catch her. I bought a doll that cried and carried it about with me everywhere and took it to bed with me at night. I was on a path to total self-destruction."

Pic posed by model

Clare is not alone. Research carried out by Dr David Fergusson and others, published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* in 2008, found that women who had abortions were 30% more likely to experience mental disorder. It's time women were offered positive, life-affirming alternatives to abortion.

Poem from an aborted child

Mammy keep me safe, Mammy keep me warm,
And with all your love, help me to form.
I'm six weeks today and a birthday gift to me,
Is a pair of bright blue eyes so that one day I might see.
I've already got my arms, I have a pudgy little nose,
And at the end of my feet are funny little things called toes.

I'm looking forward now to life; ice-cream, snails,
Teddy bears and long fairy tales.
Where are you going I wonder today?
In a bus, in a car, far far away.
Why are you lying down being pushed on wheels?
This shouldn't happen - how funny it feels.

Banging through doors - all people in green,
If they hurt you Mammy; Mammy just scream.
Don't go asleep Mammy, don't leave me alone.
Mammy I'm scared, I want to go home.
Mammy what's happening, I'm starting to cry.
Run quick Mammy, I don't want to die.

They're killing me Mammy, they're pulling me apart.
My legs, my arms, they're cutting my heart.
Goodbye Mammy; Mammy, Mammy Goodbye.
Thanks for trying, but I won't see the sky.
I won't see the birds or the grass or the trees,
I won't sing sweet songs or feel a strange breeze.
I love you, dear Mammy, I really, really do
And I hope dear Mammy, that you loved me too.

**THE ANSWER
TO A CRISIS
PREGNANCY IS
TO ELIMINATE
THE CRISIS,
NOT THE CHILD**

ABORTION!



ADOPTION!



THE LEGAL SITUATION


Fine Gael, with the Labour party, legalised abortion on suicide grounds in Ireland. To their shame, Fine Gael broke the 2011 election promise they made not to legalise abortion, and forced legislation through the Dáil.

The government ignored evidence given by leading medical experts who repeatedly stated that abortion is not a treatment for suicidality, and that abortion is not necessary to save a mother's life.

They also ignored opinion polls showing public opposition to abortion, and denied the Irish people our right to vote on such a crucial issue.

A European Court judgment asked Ireland to clarify the situation regarding abortion in Ireland: but the key word here was to clarify, not legalise abortion. Clarity could have been achieved by implementing guidelines or regulations for doctors on caring for mothers and babies. Instead, the government legalised the deliberate killing of the unborn child.

Lord David Steele was the architect of the 1967 British Abortion Act, which legalised abortion on supposedly limited mental health grounds - similar to the grounds used to legalise abortion in Ireland. But now, almost 200,000 babies are aborted each year in Britain, over 98% on mental health grounds. David Steele now says: "I never envisaged there would be so many abortions."



**REPEAL THIS CRUEL AND
UNJUST LAW - BECAUSE
A PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY
SHOULD OFFER MOTHERS
AND BABIES BETTER
THAN ABORTION**

ABORTION

For everyone of us, life began at conception. From that moment, every baby is an individual, distinct from her parents. But 50 million babies are killed every year by the abortion industry. This is the reality of the abortion industry.

KILLING METHODS

- **MEDICAL ABORTION** [Up to 9 weeks] Abortifacient pills cause the woman's body to starve the baby of nutrients and oxygen.
- **SUCTION ABORTION** [6 to 14 weeks] A tube with a knife edged tip is inserted into the uterus. The baby is torn apart by suction from the tube, and sucked into a container. The head is crushed.
- **DILATION AND CURETTAGE** [Up to 12 weeks] The mother's cervix is dilated and the living child is cut to pieces with a curette knife.
- **DILATION AND EVACUATION** [12 to 24 weeks] The baby is manually crushed so he can fit through the cervix, a pliers-like instrument is then used to crush the skull, legs and arms
- **INTRACARDIAC INJECTION** [From 10 weeks up to full term] The child is injected with a lethal dose of poison into the heart.
- **PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION** [Late term abortion performed up to birth] The living baby is partially delivered with only its head remaining in his/her mother's womb. The head is pierced and the brain removed with a suction curette in order to collapse the skull. The child, now dead, is then removed.

Abortion is the deliberate killing of the child in the womb. Every abortion destroys a unique, precious human life. The evidence shows that it also harms women.



CHILD OR 'CHOICE'

THIS IS A
CHILD;
SHE SHOULD
NOT BE
A CHOICE



I want to get involved!

GREAT! Delighted to have you!

You can help protect mothers and babies:

- Take part in local and nationwide pro-life events and activities: get in touch for more information
- Distribute leaflets in your area
- Contact your politicians to tell them you oppose abortion and want the law changed
- Help spread the pro-life message on social media
- Join or start a pro-life initiative in your area: whether that's on campus, outside abortion referral agencies, online, on the street or wherever the pro-life message needs to be heard. You'll be glad you did!



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