

# I'M PRO-LIFE... AND I'M NOT RELIGIOUS

/science supports life

**Abortion advocates like to portray that opposition to abortion comes only from religious people using faith-based arguments.**

**But while a number of people use faith to guide their decisions and choices, there are also a large number of pro-life advocates who see abortion as a human-rights issue and advocate the right-to-life on scientific facts and secular views.**



## ➔ Life-affirming arguments

- 1. The foetus/embryo is a human being (therefore a person), and deserves human rights.**  
 Science supports this statement on the basis of biological development. Science may not make the claim that personhood begins at conception [the issue of personhood is not biological but philosophical], but a new, individual human organism undoubtedly begins at fertilisation. The zygote contains unique DNA that separates it from the host, or mother. Upon conception, there is no moment in time that could separate personhood from non-personhood without that moment being entirely arbitrary. Because we, as a society, value life for ourselves and for others, including those who are dependent upon others for survival (ie, infants, the elderly, and those with medical ailments), we must, as rational law-makers and human-beings, extend this value of life for all humans. This would then include the unborn child. His or her right to life must be protected under the same statute as that of any other person.
- 2. Based on an egalitarian view of human justice, the value of the foetus/embryo is equal to that of the mother and should therefore be protected.**  
 Having established that the child in utero is a human being and also a person deserving human rights, we can also state that its value is equal to the mother. She cannot assert that her right to bodily autonomy is paramount to that of the unborn, unless she argues that she is in some way to superior to it. To disregard the rights of the unborn is to discriminate against a voiceless class. It perpetuates a system of dominance and human-hierarchy in which women hold a position over an unborn person. To state that a person is less valuable because of its lack of history, its dependence, its lack of mental capability, or so on sets up situations that allow for discrimination against other groups, such as the mentally disabled or those on life support. A consistent life ethic holds that all human beings are equal in value.

Article Three of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."



### **3. Abortion is an indication of a problem, not a solution to it, and it, in fact, exacerbates an already present system of inequality toward females.**

According to the Guttmacher Institute (the research arm for Planned Parenthood, a major abortion provider in the United States), about 85% of women have abortions for social reasons – which include “can’t afford a baby now” and “having a baby would dramatically change my life” as the top two rationales.<sup>1</sup> What this indicates is that the majority of abortions are due to a system that forces women into tough corners. Therefore, the prevalence of abortion is due to a lack of support and resources for pregnant women & families.

By providing abortions, the real issue at hand can be ignored longer and longer. Additionally, abortion can cause further problems for women – including emotional, psychological, and physical damage. Abortion advocates rally for a woman to make her own decision – she can declare “this is mine!” without regard to the father. This, then, sets up men to be non-present in the lives of their children, and further forces women into traditional child-raising roles. Additionally, allowing abortion for women but not for men holds women to a lesser degree of accountability. Historically, when a man commits an act of violence against a pregnant woman that results in the termination of the unborn, he is convicted of murder of the “child in utero”. It does not correlate, then, that a man is held to a higher standard by law than a woman whose actions have the same result.

Doing so devalues the judgment-making-ability of women and sets them up as mentally inferior.



### **4. The availability and legality of abortion creates and/or enforces a societal mindset that children that are unwanted by a parent should be disposed of.**

In the United States, child abuse rates have gone up and the well-being of children has gone down in a direct correlation with the availability of abortion.<sup>2</sup> The years in which abortion rates were highest (the late 1970s to early 1990s) match the years in which social health rates were lowest. (NB: Correlation does not necessarily show causation, but the direct relation at least indicates a similarity between negative actions.) Children have been “unwanted” throughout history, but unwanted to the point of termination gives more leeway to physical abuse. On a more individual level, studies have shown that children born to post-abortive mothers have a higher chance of being abused than children born to non-abortive women of similar backgrounds. One possible explanation for this is that women who have had abortions develop a separation between themselves and the developing child during pregnancy as a way of dealing with the abortion.

On a more individual level, she may be unable to bond with her children because of this emotional separation, and this lack of connection extends past birth. Another explanation relates to PASS - Post-Abortion Stress Syndrome - and suggests that many women who have had abortions deal with some kind of emotional trauma after an abortion and may express their grief in the form of violence upon people around them. Allowing abortion, according to statistics, seems to increase child abuse.<sup>3</sup>

## **LIFE BEGINS AT FERTILISATION**

The development of the human being begins immediately upon fertilisation. According to biology-online.org, human development is “The study of the chronological processes or changes that occur from fertilization to the formation of the single-celled eukaryote (zygote) through to the formation of a human in utero and development of the human from birth through puberty to adult.”

**WWW.BIOLOGY-ON-LINE.ORG/Dictionary/HUMAN\_DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Secular Pro-Life**

<http://secularprolife.org>

#### **Feminists for Life**

[www.feministsforlife.org](http://www.feministsforlife.org)

#### **All Our Lives**

[www.allourlives.org](http://www.allourlives.org)

#### **Socialistes Pour La Vie**

<http://socialistes-pourlavie.blogspot.ie/>

#### **Atheist & Agnostic Pro-Life League**

[www.godlessprolifers.org/home.html](http://www.godlessprolifers.org/home.html)

#### **International DS Coalition for Life**

[www.idscforlife.org](http://www.idscforlife.org)

#### **Libertarians for Life**

[www.l4l.org](http://www.l4l.org)

## **lifefacts/backup**

1. ‘Abortion Facts and Figures: How Many, When, Where, By Whom and for What Reason,’ Guttmacher Institute (<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/3711005.pdf>)

2. ‘Index of Social Health,’ Institute for Innovation in Social Policy, (<http://iisp.vassar.edu/ish.html>)

3. ‘Induced Abortion and Child-Directed Aggression Among Mothers of Maltreated Children,’ <http://www.ispub.com/journal/the-internet-journal-of-pediatrics-and-neonatology/volume-6-number-2/induced-abortion-and-child-directed-aggression-among-mothers-of-maltreated-children.html>