

FORCED TO CHOOSE?

/coerced abortion

The abortion industry sells abortion as a 'choice', but the evidence shows that many women don't have a choice when it comes to abortion. And this coercion is increasing.

The author and commentator **MELINDA TANKARD REIST**, noted: 'The more abortion has become entrenched, the more difficult it has become for women to resist the pressure to avail themselves of it.'

It begs the question, is this 'choice'?

Studies have revealed that:

- In a national study of women, 64% women who aborted felt pressure to do so by others. ¹
- According to the Guttmacher Institute, at least 30% of women have an abortion because someone else, not the woman, wants it. ²
- In 95% of all cases, the male partner plays a central role in the abortion decision. ³
- Many women are pressured by clinic staff, who are financially rewarded for "selling" abortions. ⁴
- 84% of women were inadequately counselled beforehand, 79% were not informed or were deceived about resources. ⁵
- A former clinic security guard testified that women were routinely threatened and abused by the boyfriends or husbands who took them to the clinics to make sure they underwent their scheduled abortions. ⁶
- Pregnant women are often at higher risk for domestic abuse and death, as their partner strives to prevent the birth of their unborn child. ⁷
- Homicide is the leading cause of death to pregnant women. ⁸

MELINDA TANKARD REIST

**THE EVIDENCE IS CLEAR:
ABORTION IS OFTEN ABOUT
COERCION, NOT CHOICE**

THE REALITY

In Florida, Glenda Dowis was charged with forcing her daughter at gunpoint to go to an abortion clinic.

According to a staff member, Glenda Dowis said that if Brittany did not have the abortion, "I'm going to blow her brains out." Police said Glenda Dowis told staff to perform the abortion even though her daughter "may seem a bit teary." The young woman had pleaded with her parents to let her have the baby.

'FORCED TO ABORT'
WASHINGTON TIMES,
18 JANUARY 2009

Jeremy Powell pleaded guilty to forcing his way into his girlfriend's New York home and beating, kicking, and punching her after she refused to have an abortion. The victim, who was three months pregnant, told police Powell said to her, 'I'm going to beat that baby out of you.'

**'MAN GETS JAIL IN
ABORTION BEATING CASE'**
ASSOCIATED PRESS,
21 JULY 2002

lifefacts/backup

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3. Mary K. Zimmerman, *Passage Through Abortion* (New York, Prager Publishers, 1977)
4. Carol Everett with Jack Shaw. *Blood Money* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah Books, 1992). See also Pamela Zekman and Pamela Warwick, 'The Abortion Profiteers,' *Chicago Sun Times* special reprint, Dec. 3, 1978 (originally published Nov. 12, 1978), p. 2-3, 33
5. Ibid: VM Rue (2004)
6. Brian McQuarrie, 'Guard, clinic at odds at abortion hearing,' *Boston Globe*, April 16, 1999.
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8. I.L. Horton and D. Cheng, 'Enhanced Surveillance for Pregnancy-Associated Mortality-Maryland, 1993-1998,' *JAMA* 285(11): 1455-1459 (2001); see also J. McFarlane et al., 'Abuse During Pregnancy and Femicide: Urgent Implications for Women's Health,' *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 100: 27-36 (2002)



ACTRESS CAME UNDER PRESSURE TO ABORT

Actress Hunter Tylo won a discrimination suit against the producers of the Fox TV show *Melrose Place* after she was fired from the cast because she was pregnant. Her lawsuit alleged that one of the producers remarked, 'Why doesn't she just get an abortion? Then she can work.'

REUTERS, 19 OCTOBER 2007

FORCED ABORTIONS IN GOSNELL'S CLINIC

The investigation into the abortion clinic ran by Dr Kermit Gosnell in Philadelphia found that forced and coerced abortions were part of the practice. Underage girls were amongst those who were drugged before inducing labour and killing the baby. One woman, Davida Johnson, said she decided to keep the baby at the last minute - but medics in the clinic hit her and continued with the abortion. She said the clinic was full of dazed women sitting in dirty, bloodstained recliners when she went for the abortion in 2001. She explained to the Associated Press: 'I said, "I don't want to do this," and he smacked me. They tied me down and gave me more medication.'

AP, DAILY MAIL AND OTHERS, 24 JANUARY 2011

Meriam Serefi, the operator of an abortion clinic in Johannesburg, was charged with performing a forced abortion on a 17-year-old girl who was five months pregnant. The teenager said her boyfriend, a police constable, had taken her to the clinic promising an ultrasound, while he had made prior arrangements for an abortion. She told police that the nurses assaulted her when she refused to abort her child.

**'CLINIC OWNER IN JOHANNESBURG ACCUSED
OF FORCIBLY ABORTING A 17-YEAR-OLD'**
THE SOWETAN, 9 DECEMBER 2009