



CULTURE OF LIFE



Dec. 2016
Quebec
Life
Coalition

Defending the Human Person, From Conception to Natural Death

Irish Citizen's Assembly,

Do not make the same mistakes other countries have made on abortion.

A movement is afoot in Ireland to repeal the 8th amendment to the Irish Constitution (the pro-life amendment), which provides legal protection to both mother and baby in pregnancy.

Though not having any statutory power, the Citizens' Assembly, which is composed of 99 citizens and chaired by a Supreme Court judge, will be taken seriously the Irish Parliament, as well as by the Irish media.

The following is a submission by CitizenGO and is included in this newsletter as it contains some valuable regarding the harms of abortions.

– Editor's note

Attention: Ms Justice Mary Laffoy,
Chair, Irish Citizens' Assembly

At the invitation of the Citizens' Assembly, as outlined under the first point of the "Submissions Rules/Guidelines" heading, on the "Submissions" page of your website, we, the undersigned, are joining this submission which CitizenGO have organised and promoted to "citizens and non-citizens living in Ireland or living abroad", and which the Irish pro-life organisation, the Life Institute, are co-sponsoring.

In brief, the submission below calls attention to the dreadful consequences which other countries have experienced after introducing legalised abortion, and, then, clearly calls for the retention of the 8th Amendment in Ireland.

But, before launching into the Submission, let us define what we mean by "abortion". For the purposes of this Submission, we assert that abortion is the intentional destruction of unborn human life anytime after conception occurs.

Submission PART 1A. The introduction of legalised abortion on "limited grounds" generally leads to abortion-on-demand. In countries where abortion has been introduced on "limited grounds" (e.g., in the case of rape, or life-timing conditions) more liberal abortion regimes generally follow, and, consequently, more human beings are killed by abortion.

For example, when introduced into law in 1967, the British Abortion Act was meant to be "restrictive" in nature. But, now, Britain has an abortion rate four times higher than the Irish abortion rate - 21% vs 5%. That means that one in five pregnancies in Britain now end in abortion.

David Steel, who is the author of the British Abortion Act, has been quoted as saying: "I never envisaged that there would be so many abortions."

And, according to the Guttmacher Institute, the abortion rate in the US went from about 16 per 1000 women in 1973 (the year the Roe vs Wade ruling was handed down by the US Supreme Court), to 29 per 1000 women in 1979. So, in only 6 short years after legalising abortion in all 50 states, the abortion rate had doubled.

Take-away 1: Introducing legalised abortion leads to more abortions, not fewer...and, generally, a lot more than anticipated. Facilitating easy access in Ireland will needlessly remove the time people now have to reflect on the situation, which leads many to choose life over death.

Take-away 2: Since each abortion is a real, violent destruction of a fellow human being, the value of human life is degraded, and society, generally, can begin to view the human person as a means to an end, rather than an end in itself. Regrettably, then, human life can then be seen as disposable.

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B. The introduction of legalised abortion means that more disabled children will be killed by abortion.

Countries which have legalised abortion on the grounds of "foetal abnormality" see a nearly 180-degree change in the attitude towards giving every child – no matter disability or infirmity – his/her chance at life.

In spite of the incessant promotion of abortion in the case of so-called "fatal foetal abnormalities" by the Irish media outlets, 90% of Irish parents, who learn that their unborn children have a life-limiting condition, choose life for their children. These parents recognise the humanity of their unborn children, and, as such, allow them to live their lives, short though they may be.

They recognise that their unborn children - as fellow human beings - have a right-to-life. And, in the womb, these unborn children do not suffer - so there is no reason to consider abortion on "compassionate" grounds.

In countries where legalised abortion has been introduced, very high percentages of unborn children diagnosed with disabilities (and, often, healthy children, under the suspicion of disability) are aborted.

For example, the Jerome Lejeune Society estimates that 67% of all unborn babies with Down Syndrome in the US are aborted.

In Switzerland, 87% of all pregnancies involving Down Syndrome are aborted, while in France the figure is at 86%.

And, in some countries, like in Denmark and China, children with Down Syndrome are literally disappearing from society. In China, abortion is permitted until the 9th month of pregnancy in the case of Down Syndrome.

In the cases of Anencephaly, Trisomy 13, Trisomy 18 and Potter's Syndrome, which often result in shortness of life, peri-natal hospice care can provide the baby and parents with the care they require, allowing the child to live his/her life, however long that may be.

Take-away 1: A life-limiting condition is a hard diagnosis, but it does not make the baby any less human. As such, that unborn child is deserving of the dignity and respect of any other human being.

Take-away 2: Easier access to abortion, and especially legalising abortion on the grounds of foetal disability debases any society which pursues that end. Taking the lives of disabled unborn babies, who are completely helpless and vulnerable, raises the spectre of eugenics-based discrimination.

C. For women involved in abortions, "choice" is often a euphemism for "coercion".

In the US, one study (for the Medical Science Monitor) showed that 64% of abortions involved some form of coercion. Coercion, here, can be defined as the feared loss of a job, home, family or, even of violent assault.

In another study done on women seeking post-abortion help (David Reardon), 83% of the respondents said that they would have carried the

baby to term if they had received some form of help from the baby's father, their family, or from some other source.

Take-away 1: Unexpected pregnancy often results in panic and desperation, especially among single mothers. But, that panic and desperation can never justify the taking of an innocent unborn child's life.

Take-away 2: Instead of discussing if, and, or, how the 8th Amendment can be repealed, the Citizens' Assembly would do better to discuss how to best mitigate crisis pregnancies, whether by more provision from the Irish State, to alleviate the panic and desperation, or by encouraging different elements of civil society to take a more active role in the same.

Submission PART 2

Having reviewed the above side-effects of legalising abortion in other jurisdictions, we, the undersigned call on the Citizens' Assembly, and the Irish Government, to retain the 8th Amendment - keeping the status quo, as is - and, instead focus on making better provision for women in crisis pregnancies.

None of us has the right to play God, and none of us has the authority to dictate which categories of human being are worthy of life, and which are not worthy of life.

All human beings, by virtue of our humanity, are worthy of life. Thank you for your careful consideration. Sincerely, (Your name)

Prayer Intentions

Since the last newsletter, we have received many inquiries via our pregnancy phone and email service.

On three separate occasions, women close to term emailed us with worries about giving birth in Quebec without being registered in any health insurance program.

Also, two teenagers contacted us for support. Both wish to pursue their pregnancy to term but were burdened with outside pressures, one from parents demanding that she abort or else leave the family home and the other struggling with financial concerns.

Next, a single mother of a 19 month-old infant girl is pregnant and is looking for support now, at the time of delivery, and afterwards.

Further, a young pregnant finds herself unjustly treated by her employer as she prepares to apply for maternity leave.

Finally, one caller shared that she is experiencing remorse following the abortion of her child and has asked us if we can suggest an appropriate post-abortion counselling services.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

At this time of year when we remember with joy and hope the arrival of the Christ child, we commend to your attention these women and many like them for whom the marvel of pregnancy is clouded over with concrete concerns for their personal well-being and that of the child that they are carrying.

May your presence and the goodwill of their peers aid and comfort them in their afflictions.

We make this prayer in union with Your son Jesus Christ and the active loving agency of the Holy Spirit.

Letter

Quite a surprised awaited long-time QLC supporter Ms. Charlotte L'Heureux on attending a recent service honouring the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title Our Lady of Guadalupe. Three members of the Federal Liberal Party were handing out white roses. In the following letter sent to the Prime Minister after the incident, she explains the incongruity of this situation.

M. Trudeau,

On the night of December 11-12, 2016, while attending the Mass in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St-Ambroise Church, Beaubien street, in Montreal, I had returned from placing a red rose at the foot of (a painting of) the Virgin when a man offered me a white rose saying: "On behalf of Mr. Justin Trudeau."

I took it and replied, "What! From Mr. Trudeau? He is pro-abortion and he gives me a rose for Mother Mary, who is the patroness of the unborn child and who is pro-life. Look, she wears a black cincture, meaning that she is pregnant. I do not understand why Mr. Trudeau is offering roses when his father established the law permitting abortion and that he only permits elected officials who are pro-choice."

Nonetheless, I (took and) placed the rose at the foot of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and prayed for you, Mr. Trudeau. I think you have some nerve for giving roses, though I gather that it is a tax-deductible donation !!!

I will continue to pray for you that you do not close your heart, but listen to the voice of Our Lord.

Sincerely Yours,

Charlotte L'Heureux, Montréal

p.s. I thank your parents, particularly your mother who kept you to term.