

## **Steps towards the abolition of abortion**

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### Discrimination of women's rights

During the early days of the women's movement the issue about abortion was the discussion of the women's right to decide about life or death for her unborn baby.

The issue was caught in the broader feminist discussion about discrimination of women's rights compared to men's. Abortion was one of the women's rights to fight for. The unborn baby was not seen as a human being but no more than some tissue without any meaning. This was not seen as a person. The discussion from those who believe that life starts at the moment of conception, abortion was seen as killing life, no matter in what stage of development. The fight was centered around the feminist issue of women's rights to decide by herself to have an abortion. The Pro Life movement, that claimed that no one has the right to destroy life from conception until the grave. Most delegates of the Pro Life movement came from religious groups and churches. And especially the Catholic Church, based on their dogmas, was very strongly focussed on life issues. Today also Protestant congregations and lobby groups have a growing influence in the abortion debate. When, in the eighties the video of dr. Bernard Nathanson was shown, it became clear that the act of abortion kills a baby. Dr. Nathanson himself a former abortionist, understood that an unborn baby is not just a matter of tissue. Medical science made clear with every step, that an unborn human being is a child in a status of development in the womb. Just there to be developed to be born and to grow into maturity. It became common practice to decide about abortion within the first, second and third semester.

### Discrimination of the babies' rights

Because of the overwhelming medical evidence about the status of an unborn child in the mothers womb, gradually everybody had to acknowledge that an unborn human baby was a human being and not something of minor importance. The discussion pro or contra moved from a women's rights issue into the discussion whether a child was wanted. Abortion was seen as an aid to women, making sure that no children were born unwanted. This shift in the discussion is of major importance because of the fact that abortion was originally politically and socially accepted, because of the fact that the image of abortion was just a matter of removing some tissue in a quick medical procedure, to help the woman in need.

Now the new fact is that abortion is the killing of an unborn baby, as is seen, proved and acknowledged by medical evidence.

### Killing a baby is no "pro choice"

Abortion is still seen by the women's rights groups as a women's right to decide about life or death of her unborn baby. But the question now is whether or not this is a right which can be applied on, in our civil society, because of the fact that the decision now is focused on the question whether or not it is a right to decide which child should be wanted and which child not. And what are the social consequences if we follow this road. It is therefore extremely important to investigate in the light of the original arguments to vote against or pro abortion. Are these arguments still valid in the light of medical evidence, which confirms more and more that an unborn baby is indeed a human being. In

the women's right movement it always became very clear that the woman should have the exclusive right over her unborn baby. No one had the right to interfere. Abortion was seen as a medical procedure, to solve the problem of the woman's pregnancy. It was concerned to be an issue between the woman and her pregnancy. Her decision, for whatever reason, was decisive and beyond any question.

#### Man missing in abortion debate

There was no thought or discussion about the right a the man although in the framework of rights in a marriage he should have equal rights. After all is the child also his child.

It was seen as an exclusive women's subject. The man was often seen as the major cause of the pregnancy problem. Very often the man/father was nowhere present in the debate. The problem was not a man's related issue but only a situation to deal with for the woman and her physical problem, which is her pregnancy. The fact that men should be heard, while the mother of his child was making up her mind about life or death was beyond imagination.

#### Aborting the baby is hurting the mother

The discussion about a solution of the physical problem of the unwanted pregnancy went on. The medical treatment was seen as just the removal of an unwanted piece of tissue. The fact that a pregnancy is much more than just a medical, technical but for sure an emotional and psycho- somatic happening was not an issue in the abortion discussion. It was hardly known and certainly not talked about that women after an abortion could have post- abortion problems in many different aspects. These aspects were hidden issues. It was given as low a profile as possible. Every effort was made to keep the discussion far from possible difficult aspects for women. Focusing on the women's right, excluded the interference and hindrance of possible post- abortion problems for the mother whose child was killed by abortion.

#### Right on full information about abortion

Today the post- abortion-discussion cannot be hidden any longer, because to many women are hurt by abortion and are not willing to keep silent. They cry out and speak out more upfront. From a medical point of view it should be normal and obvious that women would be informed about the possible effects of an abortion and the post- abortion problems. The ethical code of the medical doctors is the necessity to give the patient as much information about the consequences as possible in a written and/or verbal way. The very fact that this is not the normal procedure of the medical doctor, means that there is something wrong with the abortion issue. The ideological discussion should not prohibit the normal medical practice of the right for any person of full information in all aspects of medical care.

#### Abortion major civil society problem

From a medical point of view it is strange and dangerous that there has not been a major effort until now, to investigate the post- abortion trouble from a medical and a social point of view. From a social point of view the problem is even bigger than just the situation of the mother. An abortion involves the father, the family and friends. Abortion, seen in a national medical scene needs high priority and urgency as a health issue of great importance, concerning research and treatment. Within the development of western civilizations it is of paramount importance making sure that everyone has the right to live and that this life ought to be protected. History shows that through trial and error this basic human right is very essential for any society.

## Universal Declaration of Human rights excludes abortion

This basic human right seems to be attacked again and again. The Universal Declaration of Human Right, accepted December 10, 1948 after the dramatic 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, was a milestone to underline the “never again” understanding of our world. After six million Jews killed and many gypsies and homosexuals murdered , finally the world seemed to come to terms in recognizing the fact that there will be no future without the firm statement that everyone on this globe has the absolute right of his life’s protection.

## Abortion is violation of human rights

Since then the same statement is reaffirmed in many other Declarations of Human Rights in regional, national and global resolutions. The United Nations are called to oversee the application of this Human Right and to take action when violation takes place. Since the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War the human rights issue has become a high priority on the agenda of the U.N. For every violation of human rights there is action to restore it. It is obvious that in the acknowledgment that an unborn child is indeed a human being, this child’s life has the right to be protected. Until now the Pro Life and pro- abortion discussion has not been brought into full length of the human rights movement.

## Human rights of unborn human beings in line with women’s rights

The predominance of the women’s rights movement has brought the abortion right issue as a human right for women, bypassing or neglecting or denying the human rights of the unborn child in her womb. This conflict of great interest is crying out for a response and discussion within the human rights movement. With the overwhelming medical evidence that the difference between an unborn human being and a born human being only boils down to his place inside or outside the womb, is leading to the legal decision that equal rights should be applied for the unborn human being as the born one. There is no longer any reason to exclude the unborn human being from the Human Rights agenda. It can be assumed that at the moment that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was agreed on, in 1948, nobody thought about excluding an unborn human being. And for today, it is obvious that the exclusion only took place because of the women’s rights movement.

## The choice which child will be killed is discrimination

It is also important to include the issue of the anti- discrimination-law. Because of all sorts of arguments not in the least on behalf of the gay movement, the anti discrimination movement in more and more laws and resolutions and statements added clauses to basic fundamental rights. Although the basic statements include the anti discrimination issue as such, the very fact that society wants to add the anti discrimination clauses mean that the discrimination issue needs to be taken very seriously according to the understanding of society.

It is important to find out in the jurisprudence how far the issue of anti discrimination has to be executed.

## Every child has the right to be born

Concerning the abortion debate it is obvious that the unborn baby is discriminated in a sense that the one baby of a woman is given the right to live, but the other baby is sentenced to death. According to human rights perspective this baby is discriminated. and those who are born, are born because they are not chosen to be killed by abortion. It is obvious that choosing to kill one child over the other one who is allowed to live, is as such, very discriminative seen from the point of view of these children. It is essential that the issue of anti discrimination will be brought in the arena of discussion. About the medical facts of the status of a child and the issues of human rights and anti-discrimination. The jurisprudence will give insight in the understanding of the different cases and relating the issue of

abortion, it will become clear whether or not this is making a relation between abortion, human rights and anti-discrimination.

#### Medical development abolish abortion

If it is becoming clear and obvious that an unborn baby is a human being as a new fact in the original discussion about the basis for the abortion law, then the discussion should be re-opened to find out if this new information will lead to a different political and legal approach of abortion. Laws can be changed in the light of new knowledge and developments. Often the issue of slavery is mentioned, when in the development of time and insight the understanding came that a slave is not a piece of property but a human being. Slavery was abolished. And again the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed because of the disasters of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and was meant to prevent new disasters. Nobody would have expected the present discussion about the protection of unborn lives and the need to introduce the anti-discrimination clause in order to make sure that the fundamental rights will be applied to all human beings. Within the framework of this present discussion it has become obvious that the unborn human beings cannot be excluded any longer.

#### Endangered species protected

In this context the discussions cannot be missed about environmental issues. The protection of endangered species and the preservation of nature has become more and more a central issue in the environmental discussion. Whenever in the flora and fauna world danger is seen, the environmental action groups come into action to help politicians and the public understand that they should take measures to stop their approach and protect the endangered species. The Greenpeaces and World Life Funds are all very active. When the same principles would be applied to the endangered species of unborn human beings it can be expected that abortion would be abolished or would have never started. It is beyond expectation that mankind would accept the fact that seals would be aborted of their baby seals. Even when abortion would be practiced on other animals it is to be expected that the animal movement would become outraged. A human being is excluded to prohibit to be endangered. This is against those who believe that a human being belongs to the species. From a logical point of view it is obvious that also an unborn human being has to be protected.

#### World suffering because of extinction children

Today the demographic argument cannot be missed. The western world is suffering because of a lack of children. The population growth is in many countries below replacement level. Abortion has been seen as a population control method but for these countries it has become a disaster. The social and financial structure of these countries will become more and more difficult because of a lack of children are born to fulfill the social expected duties for the elderly. The population with many senior citizens will give major problems in the future. Nobody has an answer how it can be solved. It seems that families are not willing to give up their welfare status, having only one or two offspring.

#### Girl child discrimination of half of the world's population

In the underdeveloped countries abortion and the reproductive rights are promoted in order to control the population in order to have development possibilities for the remaining population. In many countries, especially in the Far East, they are discriminating girls so that girls are aborted and the boys/girls ratio is disrupted and not enough girls are born to marry the men. In China the one child policy leads to a future with many problems without a solution as far as we can see. This discrimination, especially towards girls, is in conflict with the universal accepted rule not to discriminate any human being.

All human beings are equally protected for the law

If, from a medical point of view an unborn human being is a human being and if from a legal point of view, without discrimination, every human being has the right to live and the right for protection, we state that abortion is a violation of human rights and is a discrimination. The conclusion is that abortion should be abolished. With the new medical evidence and the growing concern about violation of human rights and the strong attitude that nobody should be discriminated, there is no reason to exclude the unborn babies any longer from this discussion. The Pro-life movement is urged to lobby and promote the abolition of abortion and to expand help for those who have problems with pregnancy and sexual relationships

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