

**WHY THE ABORTION BILL TO COME BEFORE PARLIAMENT SHOULD BE REJECTED:****1. THE BABY DESTROYED IS A LIVING HUMAN BEING - IT IS TAKING THE LIFE OF A LIVING BEING:**

Within twenty-four hours of conception the zygote is dividing rapidly into many cells which will differentiate to form different parts of the human body. Dead things do not do this. Dead cells do not replicate their DNA and multiply into more cells. They do not differentiate to become a brain, a heart, the liver, the skin, muscle and bone. Life begins at conception, when the fertilized egg begins to grow.

What determines whether we are a human, rather than a bird or a zucchini? The answer to this is simple - it is "our genetics, our DNA. When the egg and the sperm join, this is the beginning of a new human, with its own set of DNA which also includes hair color, eye color, skin tone, fingerprints, and a multitude of other individual characteristics. The baby is genetically different from the mother, having only half of the DNA coming from her, and half from the father; a distinct human being.

**CONCLUSION:** Abortion is killing a living human being.

**2. THE ARGUMENT THAT A WOMAN BE ABLE TO DO WHAT SHE WANTS WITH HER BODY IN REGARDS TO ABORTION IS MORALLY AND ETHICALLY WRONG:** The woman has the right and responsibility to use methods to prevent conception if she does not want to become pregnant. Being in control also would include not engaging in activity which is known to lead to pregnancy, which is sexual intercourse. There are a variety of other, easily accessible methods which can be used to prevent conception from occurring. However, once a pregnancy occurs, it is no longer only the woman's body that is in question, as the baby is not a part of her body.

The placenta and the umbilical cord are what separate the baby from the mother, and prove that the fetus was never part of its mother's body. This is because the placenta and umbilical cord exist precisely because the baby has a different and separate circulatory system from the mother and their blood must not intermingle. If something happens, such as a traumatic injury, that causes their blood to mix, it can cause serious complications.

If the fetus were not a separate human being but were only another part of its mother's body, it would not need a placenta and umbilical cord to separate them. It could simply grow inside one of her body cavities like a tumor without any barriers between the two to protect each of them.

**CONCLUSION:** The baby is a genetically distinct human, not a part of the woman's body, and that it is alive, growing, and developing."

**3. RAPE IS NO REASON FOR AN ABORTION:** According to research, 75-80% of women who become pregnant after rape choose to keep their babies rather than having an abortion. Abortion is not an easy, consequence-free escape hatch. It is not a delete button or reset switch. It is an action all its own, with its own implications and consequences. As such, it cannot undo a rape and erase the pain and trauma for the rape victim. Abortion is the ending of a human life, a life which is as much the child of its mother as it is of its father. It is an additional trauma for the woman, and so it compounds rather than ameliorates the trauma of rape.

Women who are pregnant from rape often choose to carry the pregnancy because they recognize that the baby is still their baby despite the circumstances of its conception. They also feel that having an abortion would be undoing the only positive thing (the baby) that resulted from the rape, as it cannot "undo" the rape. While abortion exacerbates the pain of the rape victim, many find that having the child is a source of healing for them.

Additionally, many rape victims state that they do not want to punish an innocent baby because of the crime of the rapist. If they were to do that, they would feel like they were as bad as the rapist. Victims of rape already suffer from feelings of guilt and shame over what happened to them, and part of the healing process involves releasing those feelings and recognizing that they are not responsible for what someone else did to them.

However, if they become pregnant from the rape and have an abortion, they are now burdened with actual rather than imagined guilt - actual guilt for having committed a crime against an innocent victim - which makes healing tremendously more difficult. Women who have had abortions report suffering from immense guilt afterwards, and they become more burdened by the abortion than by the rape itself because they now feel like a perpetrator and a worse criminal than even the rapist.

**CONCLUSION:** Abortions because of rape, only compounds the pain and guilt associated with pain. Giving birth is a healing process for the woman concerned.

**4. EMOTIONAL CONSEQUENCES OF ABORTION FOR A WOMAN:** Different women experience the termination of pregnancy differently. Often, you can hear women saying that, right after an abortion, they feel relieved. But this relief is, usually, only an initial, superficial reaction to abortion. Later, women go through many difficult emotions,

which are related to the abortion. The Bill makes no allowance for follow-up care, and completely ignores the physical, emotional and spiritual pain which often results following an abortion, such as -

- guilt (for killing their baby; if something bad happens, a woman thinks that she “deserved” it);
- anger (towards other people who have pressured her to have an abortion – husband, parents, friends, doctor who performed the abortion, self);
- shame because of what they did;
- insomnia and nightmares;
- low self-esteem (a woman thinks that she is bad, worthless and does not deserve a happy life because she did not protect her baby);
- suicidal thoughts;
- depression;
- anxiety;
- eating disorders;
- emotional numbing;
- changes in sex life (avoids sexual intercourse or looks for casual sexual relations);
- recurrence of abortion experiences;
- change of lifestyle (unemployment or workaholicism, tendency to overuse alcohol, sedatives);
- disbelief that they can be forgiven (a woman is convinced that God will never forgive her for having an abortion, therefore, she sees no point in praying; she cannot rid herself of the guilt, worries too much about the health and life of her present and future children);
- anniversary syndrome (a woman’s condition may get worse, every year, on the anniversary of the abortion or on the birthdays of her other children).

(I) Abortion add to disorders of mental health or psychosomatic symptoms later in the life of a woman: blood pressure disorders, headaches with no clear cause, stomachaches, etc.

(II) From a psychological point of view, first of all, abortion is a loss. For some women, it is easier to go through this loss than for others. Nonetheless, sometimes, experiencing this loss is complicated because the grief remains without a name and face – a woman never sees her baby, therefore, he remains unrealistic and his death is as if invisible. But this loss can be felt for a very long time and leaves traces, not only in the emotional life of a woman, but also may cause disorder in other areas of her life, e.g. cause difficulties in her relationship with her husband or boyfriend, complicate her sexual relationship. Consequences of abortion can be felt during later pregnancies or when raising children who were born after the abortion.

(III) Scientific research shows that, often, after abortion, women develop mental illnesses; the risk of suicide increases several times. Research carried out in Finland has shown that women who had abortions were 6 times more prone to suicide than those who chose to give birth to the child.

(IV) Consequences Of Abortion For A Couple’s Relationship - It is a paradox that, sometimes, women decide to have an abortion in an attempt to save the relationship with a loved one, but, after abortion, the relationship not only does not improve, but, usually, gets worse or falls apart. Abortion does not strengthen a couple’s relationship, but poses a difficult task – to handle the loss in a constructive way. And this task is not attainable to all. It has been noticed that, some women, after having an abortion, have more difficulty developing a strong relationship with men, trust men less, also, may have sexual difficulties.

The decision to have an abortion shows that the relationship between a man and a woman was not so good. There are cases when a woman has hormone shock because of a sudden termination of a natural physiological process (pregnancy). Later, constant depression sets in. Abortion can affect a woman’s mind so much that she is not be able to be a suitable partner for her husband anymore and all this leads to divorce, conflicts or adultery.

(V) Consequences Of Abortion For Other Family Members - Often, it is thought that abortion has an emotional effect only on the woman and it does not affect other family members. However, abortion affects other family members as well, both present and future. There was a study carried out in Sweden concerning the men’s reaction to the abortion when their wives or girlfriends had had an abortion. The majority of men said that, after the abortion, they experienced

various and conflicting emotions: guilt, a sense of responsibility, relief, grief because of loss. A man's anger, suffering and guilt because he did not manage to protect his child manifest itself in the consumption of alcohol, drugs, sedatives, through self isolation, workaholism, wreckless driving. These are the feelings which are left unsaid and, later on, cause difficulties in a couple's relationship and can lead to divorce.

There is evidence, based on research, that previous abortions have an effect on the development of children who are born after the abortion. A prolonged period of grief and consequences of post-abortion syndrome may interfere with the warm and affectionate relationship between a mother and a newborn baby and, later, it adds to the rise of a child's emotional and behavioural problems.

Abortion affects all family members, as well as people who advise having an abortion and the doctors who perform it. Everyone who took part in killing an unborn baby, who cannot protect himself, suffers in some way. That the experience of abortion would not ruin the rest of one's life, one needs to seek for the truth about abortion, self and others.

**CONCLUSION:** The Bill completely ignores the physical, emotional and spiritual pain that often follows abortions, and the impact this has on marriage, family and society.

**5. THE BILL MAKES NO PROVISION FOR COUNSELLING WOMEN ON ALTERNATIVE MEASURES - IN FACT IT DENIES FREE SPEECH:** The Bill runs away from truth. It is as if those who have drafted the Bill fear that truth and common sense will prevail, and that the Abortion Industry will lose out on business as women take up alternative ways with dealing with pregnancy. Why is no allowance made for a woman to receive counselling prior to taking the option of abortion and so avoid the emotional, physical and spiritual consequences of such an action. Each Abortion factory should have a room where women can be counselled on other ways to deal with pregnancy other than abortion. An exclusion zone, will prevent women from seeing that there is a caring community out there, a caring community who will stand by and with them, should they choose an alternative way to abortion.

**CONCLUSION:** The Bill should be voted down, because it does not respect or honour women. It simply treats them as a cog in a machine - a machine that is fearful of losing money, when the truth of abortion is revealed and an alternative way to abortion is embraced.

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