

Morag Roy

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4 September 2018

To the Committee Secretary,

Re: Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018

I have grave concerns about the submission of the **Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018** and the ramifications should it be passed.

I began my nursing training in 1974 at Bulawayo Central Hospital in what was then known as 'Rhodesia'. At the time, this Hospital was known as 'The abortion centre of Rhodesia'. Multiple abortions were performed in the theatres including late term abortions [known as 'hysterotomies', similar to a Caesarian section]

One Friday morning I misread the theatre list, thinking the 1st case was a hysterectomy. A few minutes into the procedure I was presented with a receiver that contained a [REDACTED]. I froze and the sight of that [REDACTED] remains etched in my brain 44 years later! I do not remember anything that happened after that moment! I do not remember writing [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. That evening I began screaming hysterically that I had [REDACTED]!

As an 18 year old I saw many of my school friends coming in to have abortions. All it needed was 2 doctors and a Psychiatrist to sign off on it, saying that continuing the pregnancy would be detrimental to the woman's mental health. [Does that not sound tragically similar to this Bill that has been tabled] In fact it was so simple that two local doctors had pre printed letters where they just filled in the name and date!

What isn't so easy, is the often unspoken challenges that women, who have undergone abortions, face. I have spoken to many women in counselling rooms and

recovery courses that grieve the loss of their baby, decades after it happened. It is for those women that I speak. It is for the millions of babies that have no voice and no choice that I challenge this bill.

When a society considers that the life of a baby has no value, we are on a slippery slope. Who else has no value? Will I be forced to euthanise my precious Mother who has been diagnosed with Alzheimers? Where does it end? What kind of society treats its own offspring as chattel to be discarded, because they are inconvenient? Jackie Trad lauds Steve Irwin for his conservation of animals, but wants humans disposed of.

If the price for moving into the 21st Century is the wholesale murder of babies, then I would rather stay in the 'dark ages'.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Where are the memorials for all those lives lost in Abortion Centres? Are those lives insignificant?

This Bill is abhorrent to me and as a nursing sister who has loved serving my patients, both as a midwife and registered nurse for 43 years, I strongly recommend that it is not passed.

Sincerely yours,

Morag Roy