

Submission:

Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016

As a pro-life feminist I am particularly concerned when abortion is pitched as a women's rights issue, a source of liberation for us, sometimes even a right of passage into the brave new world of woman power. It is pitched as something women should be allowed to choose if they want, as if those opposing it are taking something precious from women. Instead the reality is exactly the opposite. In an abortion a woman's own child is killed inside her body, and she can never get her baby back on this side of life.

I have been involved in the pro-life movement for over 25 years, since becoming pregnant with my first child and realizing SHE wasn't ME. I was already an advocate for nonviolent solutions to our problems, being involved in peace, environmental, and freedom of speech issues. I immediately realized on which side of the scales abortion belonged. It is adding to the violence of our world. The fact that some women want to be allowed to use violence to solve a crisis pregnancy situation can be perfectly understandable. However abortion is another failure in the fabric of our human lives together to find a way to mend a difficult situation. It doesn't mend, it rends. If we only consider the woman involved, women can and have healed from the trauma of an abortion, but how much better for all involved if we avoid it in the first place.

I want to particularly address how I believe it is an attack on womanhood, an assault on a woman's feminine integrity, and in no way can be said to help her out. It is an assault on her body, intellect, emotional well being, and soul.

Abortion is an assault on a woman's body:

The very procedure involves a forced invasion of her womb, which is closed tight and protected by a mucous plug to guard the new life growing. Her breasts which were preparing to nurse the new baby are also left in an unnaturally arrested state of being. After abortions women

have been left with incompetent cervixes, scarred uteri, perforated wombs, some have died, many have infections and heavy bleeding. Many studies have also proved a link with breast cancer if the first pregnancy is terminated (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-1288955/Abortion-triple-risk-breast-cancer.html>). Women have reported loss of libido, some have decided to be lesbian, and one woman I know had herself sterilized at 24 years old rather than risk another pregnancy.

Abortion is an assault on a woman's intellect:

Whether or not a woman is placated by the words that she is just getting rid of a bunch of cells at the time of an abortion, at some point she will discover that this was a lie. We could say we are all bunches of cells if we want to dehumanize ourselves. However there are photos of life in the womb, and plenty of information about the marvel of the fetus, and a woman will at some point be confronted with the truth that a little growing human being was destroyed during the abortion. This is a truly terrible piece of knowledge to deal with, and one that many women try to escape from as best they can. Shock and shame can make us run from reality, but if we are to have peace of mind we have to find a way to confront and integrate the truth of what happened.

Abortion is an assault on a woman's emotional well being:

The mother/child bond is a deep and primeval bond and one which no woman can escape. It is built into the deepest layers of a woman's psyche so that whatever happens to her child affects her. Any mother can tell you this. We are not really able to have perspective when it comes to our own children. What happens to them, happens to us. I don't really need to spell out how heavy a burden an abortion is for a woman given this fact. Many report feeling as if part of them died during their abortions. This is not liberation, but imprisonment in emotional turmoil.

Abortion is an assault on a woman's soul:

Whether a person has a belief in God or not, we can all agree that we are not inanimate matter, but have become animated with life. This is what goes when we die, when all that is left is our bodies. When a woman is pregnant she is carrying another life. If that life dies before it's time then there is great distress in the spiritual realm and this has repercussions on the mother. I have a friend who feels the presence of her baby years after the abortion happened. Women can have nightmares after abortions where they hear a baby screaming.

One of the trends feeding the abortion culture in our society is individualism. We no longer easily see ourselves as integrated with each other and all of nature, but tend to view ourselves as separate individuals with our own lives to carve out alongside others. However this too is not true. We cannot escape our interconnection. Every choice we make has repercussions on everything around us. Some of our choices will not have as much impact as others for sure, but the choice to end the life of a fellow human being is one of the choices with the most severe repercussions. When that choice is made by a mother against her child, and that killing is done inside her body, it is perhaps the most deeply disturbing choice of all. This is why I believe that abortion should be seen as a force of dreadful destruction, and should be put on the dustbin of history and replaced with life-giving alternatives for all.

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