

ABORTION: A TRAGEDY, NOT A LIBERATOR

Every year, over 1.2 million babies in the United States alone are killed by abortion. If someone went out and shot over 1 million people, we'd be outraged. So why is this monstrous genocide of our nation's children considered alright? Just because this is the way people have always done things, we have been blinded to the fact that abortion is an abomination. It not only strips a baby of its life and dignity, it hurts the mother and sometimes the father, physically, spiritually, and emotionally.

An unborn baby is still a human life. It is both a person's moral and spiritual obligation to protect this special gift. This is not only a Catholic belief, but a statement every human should agree with. Even science supports the view that a child is a child, even in the womb. At the moment of conception, the baby has its own distinct DNA, and everything it needs to grow into a person. Abortion *is* murder and it *is* discrimination. Every human being is created by God and has a purpose. It is not a person's place to decide if someone should die, whether it be an unborn baby or otherwise. Abortion is also never mentioned in the Constitution. In fact, it was made legal on the basis that it falls under a suggested right to privacy in the Fourteenth Amendment. In the words of Mother Teresa, "It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish."

It is not just the baby that is permanently harmed by abortion. Many young mothers are pressured by their family members and peers to have an abortion, and this is a decision they will regret for the rest of their life. Post-Abortion Syndrome, a form of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, severely affects a woman's mental health. This is a serious condition that can cause

depression, suicide, substance abuse, low self-esteem, and many other issues. A five year Canadian study revealed that there was a higher usage of medication and psychiatric services among women who aborted. But the psychological health of a woman is not the only worry. Abortion has been linked to a higher risk of breast cancer, and can cause serious infections and even death. 47,000 women die from abortion each year. This is something Planned Parenthood does not tell you.

Abortion also takes away a woman's dignity. It is like telling them that they cannot handle a child, and that they will be freer if they just abort it. Abortion also does not help men to think of women as more than just objects. Abortion makes it seem like there is no consequence to poor choices and the actions of rapists. Women are not empowered by abortion. In fact, just the opposite is true.

Nancy Flanders said it best: "No one should feel that abortion is her only choice, because that's no choice at all." If a person calls themselves a feminist, they should agree. It is not a woman's right to choose. What happened to the baby's rights? What happened to speaking up for those who have no voice? That includes both the babies and the parents who have 'chosen' abortion. The women today are pressured into something that is hurtful to their minds and bodies, and society says that it is the way they must go. People must take action against this willful murder of innocents. Everyone must take a stand and support the pro-life movement.