PRESS RELEASE

29/10/2015

Relaxation of China’s one-child policy welcome but does not go far enough

The national pro-life charity LIFE welcomes today’s announcement that China will be ending its one-child policy but is disappointed that there will now be a two-child policy.

LIFE Spokesman Mark Bhagwandin said: “The announcement will undoubtedly come as a relief to many Chinese couples who will now no longer face prosecution if they have a second child. It will however dismay many more that by limiting families to two children, their Government continues to maintain an oppressive policy of control over people’s fertility.

For over three decades, China's one-child policy has caused untold misery for millions of mothers, forced to terminate their unborn children or face heavy fines or even jail. The continuation of any policy which prosecutes mothers and fathers for having any number of children is draconian and incongruent with the values of a modern society.

Following the European parliament's resolution in 2012 that forced abortions and sterilisations in China were unacceptable, LIFE called for the British Government to withdraw over £100M of aid to organisations which were supporting the one-child policy. We would reiterate that call today given that parents are still going to be prosecuted if they have a third child under the new two-child policy.

Chinese President Xi Jinping promised on his recent visit to the UK that China would increase co-operation with the UK and other countries over human rights. However any continuation of the assault, prosecution and disempowerment of women, the violation of their human rights and the termination of unborn children, is inconsistent with a promise to improve human rights. So Mr President, here is a chance to show the world that a barbaric policy that penalises women for being mothers will be abandoned once and for all.”

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For further media comment please call the LIFE Media Hotline on 07867 744502

LIFE is a pro-life charity that supports anyone facing a crisis pregnancy, pregnancy loss or after an abortion, and strives to engage, inspire and inform the next generation.

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