



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Tuesday 11th November 2014**

**LIFE: The Scottish midwives deserve to win their fight for conscientious objection rights**

The national pro-life charity LIFE has expressed strong support for the right of conscientious objection for healthcare professionals who do not want to be involved in abortion. This follows today's arguments before the Supreme Court concerning the case of midwives Mary Doogan and Connie Wood, who say that they should not be forced to supervise or support staff carrying out abortions. A decision is said to be due early next year.

Last year, Lady Dorrian, sitting in a Scottish appeal court, ruled in the midwives' favour, stating that the right of conscientious objection extends not only to the actual medical or surgical termination but to the whole process of treatment given for that purpose.

A LIFE spokesman, Niall Gooch, said: 'The Abortion Act 1967 makes it crystal clear that no medical professional is under any obligation to be involved in any part of the abortion treatment so-called, if they believe that abortion is wrong. There is no suggestion that Ms Doogan and Ms Wood are anything other than dedicated, professional and highly skilled midwives. It seems to us that they are being unfairly and vindictively pursued by their employer, in cahoots with BPAS, who have an ideological and organisational interest in promoting abortion and seeking to intimidate those who object.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde have attempted to argue that the women must support and supervise colleagues taking part in abortion, and that this is not an infringement of their right to conscientious objection. This is a perverse and overly narrow understanding of what it actually means to conscientiously object to involvement in abortion, and we hope that the Supreme Court will reject it, just as Lady Dorrian did. A ruling in favour of these women would serve to reassure healthcare professionals everywhere who fear being forced to be complicit in the ending of human lives.

**END**

**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.**