

PRESS RELEASE

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LIFE welcomes Parliamentary Inquiry into Freedom of Conscience

LIFE welcomes the launch this week of the [Parliamentary Inquiry into Freedom of Conscience in Abortion Provision](#). The inquiry, led by Fiona Bruce MP, will assess the extent to which the Conscience Clause in the Abortion Act(1967) provides adequate protection for doctors and health professionals in the provision of abortions.

This inquiry is very much needed as the Conscience Clause has come under attack in recent years with health professionals being pressured to participate, at some point, in the abortion procedure. Two years ago we saw midwives Mary Doogan and Concepta Wood in court after they refused to delegate, supervise and support staff involved in the abortion procedure. Recently we saw the Chief Executive of the Royal College of Midwives and Chairman of the largest abortion provider BPAS Cathy Warwick being quoted as saying that abortions should be "part" of a midwife's role, and that the "*rights and wrongs*" of abortions should not be a consideration.

LIFE Spokeswoman Clara Watson said "It is extremely important that we act now to protect all health professionals who are not prepared to engage in any way with the abortion procedure. It is parliament which enshrined this right in law and it is for parliament to act to ensure that it is upheld and not misinterpreted and abused. The right of conscientious objection must extend not only to the actual medical or surgical termination but to the whole abortion procedure. The idea that the supervision of an abortion procedure does not constitute involvement is strange and illogical, and goes completely against the spirit of the conscientious objection provisions in the Abortion Act.

We therefore welcome this inquiry as it should reveal the need for lawmakers at Westminster to move swiftly to protect the rights and conscience of all those who are involved in care for pregnant women but do not wish to be complicit in the ending of human life."

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 to value all human life from beginning to end