

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 24th February 2015

Parliament cravenly refuses to oppose sex selective abortion

The pro-life charity LIFE is dismayed that members of Parliament have voted against an amendment to the Serious Crime Bill which would have clarified that abortion on the ground of the sex of the unborn child is not allowed by the Abortion Act, and which would have empowered the government to make regulations to tackle sex-selective abortion. The Labour party leadership organised a disgraceful whipping operation, violating the convention that abortion is a conscience issue.

LIFE spokeswoman Michaela Aston said: "Parliament yesterday failed in its duty to ensure women are not discriminated against at all stages of their lives. Instead it caved in to the intense lobbying efforts of the abortion industry and its advocates, against the outlawing of sex selection abortions. Whilst we are disappointed at the parliamentarians who voted against the amendment, we are not surprised at the actions of those who lobbied them.

"The abortion industry wishes to continue to operate as a law unto itself. For decades it has stretched or ignored the Abortion Act with seeming impunity. We have seen the Crown Prosecution Service refusing to prosecute abortion doctors offering to do abortions because of sex. The country's largest abortion provider BPAS even published a leaflet suggesting that sex selection abortions were not illegal despite Department of Health advice to the contrary. It was therefore high time for parliament to send a clear and unambiguous message to this out of control industry . which likes to say it has the interest of women at heart . that they will not be allowed to terminate unborn girls because of their sex. It failed to do this yesterday.

The abortion of girls because of their sex has no place in modern societies which embrace equality and non-discrimination against women.+

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.