

PRESS RELEASE

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Church of England needs to be clear about its stand on GM Embryos

The national pro-life charity LIFE is calling for the Church of England to be clear about where it stands on genetic modification of human embryos following a **news story** that suggests it may actually agree to support the technology.

LIFE Spokesman Mark Bhagwandin said “The manipulation of human life through such techniques as mitochondrial replacement continues to raise serious safety concerns especially over the long term as it involves modification of the human germ-line with donor mitochondria being transmitted to future generations.

The uncertain interactions between mitochondrial DNA and DNA in the nucleus also raise **significant questions** about the potential for abnormalities or influences on personal qualities and characteristics of resulting children.

The Church of England has in the past **expressed its concerns** about safety but if it is in the same breath suggesting that we should be going ahead with genetic modification of human beings, then it is sending mixed signals.

Whilst we understand the need to come up with cures for diseases, there has to be a boundary where human life is manipulated in various ways to achieve this end with uncertain implications for the future. We would expect the Church to acknowledge these risks and be clear that it rejects this technology.”

END

For further media comment please call the us 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 fertilisation to natural death.