

ABORTION: THE HARD CASES

"Today it is possible for almost any patient to be brought through pregnancy alive, unless she suffers from a fatal disease such as cancer or leukemia, and if so, abortion would be unlikely to prolong, much less save the life" - Dr. Alan Guttmacher

LIFE OF THE MOTHER

The current law in the UK allows abortion if continuing a pregnancy would involve **risk** to the **life of the mother**. But what does this mean? **Can abortion ever save a woman's life?**

Understanding the issues

- Abortions related to risking the mother's life are reported under Grounds F & G
- There have only been 11 in the last 10 years

Viability

- Once viable, a baby does **not** have to be aborted so the mother can live.
- Babies born at 24 weeks now have a **50-70%** chance of survival.
- After this point, the now viable baby can simply be delivered by caesarian section.
- Dr Levantino (former abortionist) argues delivering, not aborting, a viable baby is the fastest and most medically appropriate treatment for the mother.

The Dublin Declaration on Maternal Health states that:

*"Direct abortion – the purposeful destruction of the unborn child – is **not medically necessary** to save the life of a woman."*

This Declaration has been **signed by over 1,000** obstetricians, neonatologists, midwives and nurses.

Doctrine of Double Effect

There are medical interventions in which the death of the unborn child is **not the aim** but a foreseen and **unintended** side effect. *E.g. if a pregnant woman needed certain forms of chemotherapy for cancer which may result in a miscarriage.* These interventions can take place when the mother's life is threatened. But there is a **crucial difference** between this and abortion. Here, there is **no intention** to **harm** the unborn child. **Not being able to save** a person because we lack the technology to do so is **entirely different** from **deliberately ending their life**.

PREGNANCY RESULTING FROM RAPE

One of the most difficult issue for many people is pregnancy resulting from rape. It is a truly horrific crime against women, and **caring for women** in difficult circumstances is at the **heart of Life's work**. At Life we believe **abortion is still not the answer** to a pregnancy even in the case of rape.

Here's Why



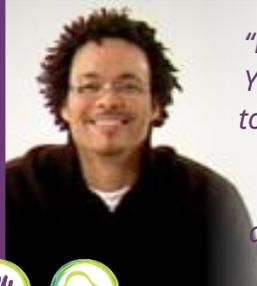
Firstly, for the sake of the **woman**. From Life's experience with clients and existing studies, abortion is not in the best interest of the women, despite people often assuming it will help the situation.

- Victim & Victors Study of women who conceived in rape found:
 - **80%** said abortion was the wrong solution.
 - Victims felt abortion increased their trauma
 - Reported strong **pressure to abort** or were **forced** to have abortions.
 - **None** of the women who gave birth expressed regret.
- Committee of Women Pregnant by Sexual Assault:

"For many the abortion caused physical and emotional trauma equal to or exceeding the trauma of the sexual assault that abortions were supposed to cure."



Fundamentally, we must also consider the **baby** who is free of any wrongdoing and has the same right to life as everyone else. An example is **Ryan Bomberger**, who was conceived in rape:



"Many say I should have been aborted... You see, I'm the one percent that is used to justify 100% of abortions. The violence of rape caused my conception, but it didn't determine my destiny... I'm not defined by my biological 'father's' crime but by the courage of my birth-mom."

