

To Repeal or not to Repeal

Questions

1. Why have you come to this seminar?
2. What aspect of this issue is most pressing for you?
 - Understanding what the law says and what repealing the 8th means.
 - Understanding the science behind pregnancy/abortion.
 - Understanding what the Bible says about abortion.
 - Learning how to talk to people who disagree with you on this matter.
 - Something else?

Timeline

Year	Action
1861	Offence against the person act
1973	Roe v Wade (US)
1983	8 th Amendment

Eighth Amendment to the Irish Constitution

“The State acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and, as far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right.”

Timeline

Year	Action
1861	Offence against the person act
1973	Roe v Wade (US)
1983	8 th Amendment
1992	3 amendments – travel, information, abortion if mother's life at risk
2010	A, B, and C v Ireland
2012	Savita Halappanavar
2013	Protection of life during pregnancy Act
2015	Bill allowing abortion for 'FFA' failed

UK Law on abortion

A - risk to the life of the pregnant woman

B - prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman

C - risk of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman

D - risk of injury to the physical or mental health of any existing children of the family of the pregnant woman

E - risk the child would be seriously handicapped

F - to save the life of the pregnant woman

G - to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman

Pro-choice Campaign

We the undersigned call for the repeal of the Eighth amendment to the Irish Constitution so that full reproductive health services, including abortion, can be made available in line with best medical practice, international human rights norms and the will of the majority of people in Ireland.

Abortion Rights Campaign Petition

Pro-choice Campaign Propaganda

“Reproductive freedom is a critical element of women’s liberation”

“Resistance to hard-line anti-choice fanatics”

“Fight back against anti-woman agenda”

“Free and legal abortion on demand”

“anti-choice rhetoric”

“Thousands of women are being forced to give birth”

Human Rights

- Article 2 – right to life
- Article 8 – right to privacy

Reproductive Rights

“Reproductive rights rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. They also include the right of all to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence.”

Reproductive Rights

“The term ‘reproductive health’ was defined by the United Nations (UN) in 1994 at the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development. All Member States of the Union endorsed the Programme of Action adopted at Cairo. The Union has never adopted an alternative definition of ‘reproductive health’ to that given in the Programme of Action, *which makes no reference to abortion.*”

Human Rights

“The European Court of Human Rights settled the question through a landmark judgment (case of A, B and C v Ireland), in which it is stated that the European Convention on Human Rights does not contain a right to abortion.”

Foetal Development

True face of Abortion



True Face of Abortion



True Face of Abortion



Methods of Abortion

- Medical abortion
- Suction
- Dilation and evacuation
- 'Late term abortion'

Is a Foetus a Human Being?

- When does life begin?
 - Fertilisation?
 - Implantation?
 - Segmentation?
 - Brain activity?
 - Viability?
 - Birth?

Is a Foetus a Human Being?

"Almost all higher animals start their lives from a single cell, the fertilized ovum (zygote)... The time of fertilization represents the starting point in the life history, or ontogeny, of the individual."

[Carlson, Bruce M. Patten's Foundations of Embryology. 6th edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1996, p. 3]

Common Pro-Choice Arguments

- Foetus is only a potential human being
- A foetus is dependent on the mother's body for survival so is not yet a human being
- Foetus is not sentient
- A parasite

UK Statistics

2016 – 190,406
abortions carried out

38% repeat abortions

UK Statistics

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US Statistics

- 2014 – 974,000 abortions
- Rape – 0.3%
- Incest – 0.03%
- Maternal life risk – 0.1%
- Maternal health risk – 0.8% ('97%' in UK)
- Foetal health issue – 0.5%
- Elective – 98.3% (numbers are accurate when added up – rounded up for purpose of presentation)

Broader Issues

- Stem cell research
- IVF
- Infanticide

Other arguments

- Rape and incest
- 'Fatal foetal abnormality'

Fatal Foetal Abnormality

“I can think of few concepts more terrifying, than saying that certain people are better off dead, and may therefore be killed for their own good.”

“Most disabled people are quite contented with the quality of their lives.”

Alison Davis ‘A happy spina bifida adult’

Other arguments

- Rape and incest
- 'Fatal foetal abnormality'
- Thousands more children in care
- Law should reflect reality

What does the Bible say?

Job 10: 8, 10-11,

⁸ “Your hands shaped me and made me.
Will you now turn and destroy me?

¹⁰ Did you not pour me out like milk
and curdle me like cheese,

¹¹ clothe me with skin and flesh
and knit me together with bones and sinews?

What does the Bible say?

Psalm 139: 13-16

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

What does the Bible say?

Luke 1: 41-44, 2: 12,16, 18:15

⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

Methods of Abortion

Luke 2: 12,16

¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Luke 18:15

People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them.

What does the Bible say?

Exodus 21: 22-25

“If people are fighting and hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman’s husband demands and the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.

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Questions

1. What are the next steps for you in terms of 'standing up for Christ' in this area?
2. How would you have a conversation with a friend who disagrees?

(How can you promote mature generous kind yet robust discussion when we disagree?)