Women and Abortion

by Georgette Forney, Executive Director of NOEL

I recently had the unique opportunity to participate in a debate at the University College Dublin in Ireland. The pro-abortion side was represented by the Irish Family Planning Association (an affiliate of Planned Parenthood) and the pro-life Abortion being debated was “That this house would legalize abortion on demand.” In addition to me, there was an ethic and theologian for each side. I knew the moral and biblical reason for each. Therefore I focused my comments on the why and why legalized abortion is a bad public health policy for women. I learned with ten reasons why abortion is bad for women. I decided it would be good to share them with you, so you too can help people understand that in addition to the baby dying in an abortion, women suffer.

1. Abortion is bad for women because personal experience shows it creates more problems than it solves. After an abortion, many women find themselves dealing with increased use of drugs and/or alcohol to deal with their pain, reoccurring insomnia and nightmares, eating disorders, suicidal feelings...even attempt suicide. Difficulty maintaining or developing relationships, loneliness, isolation, anger, fears of the unknown, induction and a sense of self-harm are also problems. Since 2001, 15 studies focusing on the psychological effects of abortion have been done. These studies underscore the fact that evidence does not support the conjecture that abortion will protect women from “serious danger” to their mental health. It indicates the opposite.

a. For instance, after Kathy had a saline abortion, (a saline solution was injected into her fetus’s body, poisoning him to death) she never grieved her abortion, and when she had children she began to experience intrusive thoughts about poisoning them. Very gentle and soft-spoken, Kathy was terrified. She sought counseling, and identified the “root” her saline abortion. Her mourning over her abortion had mutated into these intrusive thoughts as a way to relive her emotional experience. Though most women who have abortions do not act upon these intrusive thoughts, their somatic affects their mental health and their relationship with the living children.

b. Consider Cathie, who related the following: “I was 14 yrs. old when I was coerced into having an abortion. The doctor lied to me at Planned Parenthood and told me my 2nd trimester baby was just a mass of flesh floating around my womb and they were going to stick a vacuum up me and suck the baby out. The doctor would also have to tell the patient the method used in the abortion from start to finish. They didn’t tell me that my baby would feel pain, or that the baby would first be cut up into pieces before the doctor sucks it out. I found this out after the abortion from looking at an abortion booth at the fair. I could not look myself in the mirror. I had self-loathing after this knowledge. I was addicted to heroin, alcohol and other drugs during the past 30 years, trying to mask what I had done to my baby. I am clean and sober now, but my life has been hell since that awful abortion ruined my entire life. I cannot have children. I had to have my fallopian tubes removed because of infections caused from the abortion.”

2. Abortion is bad for women because it creates physical problems. Abortion advocates frequently assert that an unintended pregnancy to term is more harmful to women than abortion. But all the research and women’s personal experience says something else.

a. In the US, over 140,000 women a year have immediate medical complications from abortion. This includes problems such as: infection, uterine perforation, hemorrhaging, cervical trauma, and failed abortion ongoing pregnancy. Consider that in 1998, Denise Doe (not her real name) left a Louisiana clinic with a 2-inch gash across her cervix and an infection so severe it sent her into a coma for 14 days. For the next six months, she could not even use the bathroom—she had to rely on a ostomy bag. An emergency hysterectomy at a nearby hospital ultimately saved her life. And in 2000, a woman in Bucks County, PA, went home from a clinic in pain—she called back because of painful bleeding and the doctor never responded. She went to the ER and had surgery to remove the fetus from the fallopian tube.

b. Long-term health risks include an increased risk of cervical and ovarian cancer, and a 30% increased chance of being diagnosed with breast cancer. Abortion can also lead to infertility due to hysterectomies, pelvic inflammatory disease and miscarriage. Finally, abortion can lead to complications in future pregnancies including premature birth, placenta previa, and ectopic pregnancy.

3. Abortion is bad for women because we are still dying from it. Death from abortion also proves it that is not safer than childbirth.

a. Women are still dying from the abortion procedure itself. In February 2002, 25 year-old Diana Lopez died at a Los Angeles clinic because the staff failed to follow established protocols before and after the abortion. If they had followed protocols, they would have realized she was not a good candidate for abortion because of blood pressure problems, and afterwards when her utens was punctured during the abortion, they should have called for an ambulance. And in January 2004, a 15 year old girl died in Salford Mill from “septic” complications after second trimester abortion. The Coroner, Dr. HLVaty told Ann Norton, who is also a nurse, that the “girl’s death was normal.” The doctor explained, “I rule it normal because these complications are expected with this type of abortion.”

4. Abortion is bad for women because it has become a band-aid that allows society to abandon a newborn.

a. Our culture has come to depend upon abortion so that individuals and churches don’t have to get involved in the for today’s widows and orphans. It also frees many men from taking responsibility for their sexual promiscuity.

b. Abortion stops being an insurance and becomes the only choice because the emotional and financial support drops up. Friends drop out of endorsing abortion. Proprietors of abortion clinics are no longer being booked. Pregnancy support should be emphasized instead of handing a girl $300 and telling her to take care of her problem.

5. Abortion is bad for women because it is a form of racism against poor and ethnic women.

a. Margaret Sanger (founder of Planned Parenthood) said in 1922, “The Negro cannot win as long as he is willing to sacrifice generations of his children.” Today Alveda King, niece of Martin Luther King, quotes her uncle who said, “The Negro cannot win as long as he is willing to sacrifice generations of his children.” Today Alveda King, niece of Martin Luther King, quotes her uncle who said, “The Negro cannot win as long as he is willing to sacrifice generations of his children.” Today Alveda King, niece of Martin Luther King, quotes her uncle who said, “The Negro cannot win as long as he is willing to sacrifice generations of his children.”

b. Women with abortion history have increased risk of dying from a variety of causes after abortion. A study done in Finland shows that 94% of maternal deaths associated with abortion are not identifiable from death certificates alone. Proper tracking of pregnancy associated deaths requires linking the death certificates to the deceased women’s medical records. Therefore with proper identification of pregnancy history, the research reveals that the death associated with abortion is actually three times higher than that of childbirth. The study was published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Another study of 173,000 women found that there was a three fold increase of death among women who had abortions were almost twice as likely to die in the following two years and that the elevated mortality rate of abortion women persisted over at least 8 years.

6. Abortion is bad for women because it negatively affects future relationships.

a. When we have abortions, we struggle with issues of trust afterwards—especially when those around us pressure us. How can someone love us and then make us go through this painful, violent procedure. I struggled to trust my husband for years.

b. It affects how we relate to children we have in the future. Sometimes we can’t bond with or we overprotect them. I was an overprotector.

c. Abortion is a secret we’ve kept from spouses, children, or parents; if we do want to seek healing, we must tell them. Telling others creates another set of problems and concerns. For instance explaining to my 8 year old that I aborted a baby when I was 16 was the most awful thing I ever had to do.

7. Abortion is bad for women because it has led to increased violence against women. The most recent government report on violence against women is 2002, 25 year-old Diana Lopez died at a Los Angeles clinic because the staff failed to follow established protocols before and after the abortion. If they had followed protocols, they would have realized she was not a good candidate for abortion because of blood pressure problems, and afterwards when her utens was punctured during the abortion, they should have called for an ambulance. And in January 2004, a 15 year old girl died in Salford Mill from “septic” complications after second trimester abortion. The Coroner, Dr. HLVaty told Ann Norton, who is also a nurse, that the “girl’s death was normal.” The doctor explained, “I rule it normal because these complications are expected with this type of abortion.”

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9. Abortion is bad for women because it has created a $400 million dollar a year industry that lobbies and litigates against the establishment of any clinic regulations or informed consent laws, both of which are designed to protect the woman.

10. Abortion is bad for women because women’s empowerment is still dependent through the right to abortion.

a. As human beings we are relational; we depend on one another to behave like it or not. As relational beings, we want to be loved; at least half of all women I know now spend most of their time discussing their relationships.

b. We are violated in an abortion; we often describe it as “taking our soul.”

c. Abortion proponents promised that reproductive rights would create equality between the sexes. After 33 years we know that promise hasn’t been fulfilled; women are still paid less than men.

Clearly abortion isn’t good for women or babies. The theory that legalized abortion doesn’t help poor women; after their abortion, women are still poor...[and, in addition, are now psychologically weakened and vulnerable.]

In addition to the baby dying in an abortion, women also suffer. Personal experience shows abortion creates more problems than it solves.
In a packed courtroom, Chief Justice Roberts asked Eve C. Gartner, the attorney for Planned Parenthood, whether she felt there was a psychological health reason for the Partial-Birth Abortion procedure. Gartner replied that the answer to that question depended on the mother’s choice of the type of “demise” she preferred for her “fetus.”

The mother might prefer to have a D&E abortion, where a child is torn piece by piece and then removed from her uterus, or the mother might prefer a partial-birth abortion where the child’s brains are suctioned out after 20 weeks of pregnancy that the unborn child has the ability to feel severe and intense pain at that time.

No reservations are needed. There will be inspirational music, prayer and homily. Invite your pastors, youth ministers, Rep. Chris Smith (R/NJ), chief sponsor of the bill, cited expert testimony that showed that unborn children have “a developed system of pain perception and response by 20-22 weeks of pregnancy.”

Douglas Johnson, NRLC’s legislative director, commented: “It is no small thing that 66% of the House endorsed requiring abortionists to inform women that late abortion may be painful to the unborn child. The other 40% will have to explain why they favor anti-pain laws for animals used for research or food, but not for unborn humans.”