



SUBMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

21st March 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- For every human being, life begins at conception. Protecting the right to life of every human being should be the foremost concern of the United Nations.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights upholds the right to life of every person, and adds that that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration, without distinction of any kind.
- Youth Defence urges the United Nations Working Group to respect Ireland's protection of unborn human life and to invite other states to follow Ireland's example of best protecting mothers and babies by banning abortion.

BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK

Youth Defence is Ireland's largest and most active pro-life organisation. Our goal is to protect human life from conception until natural death. We have a nationwide network of more than 5,000 members and supporters, and this submissions reflects the opinion and concerns of those human rights defenders.

SUBMISSION OF YOUTH DEFENCE

Youth Defence believes that protecting unborn human life is the human rights issue of our generation. We hold that it is entirely incongruous for a nation to claim to uphold human rights while sanctioning the killing of children before birth.

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognises the right to life of every person.

It also states that "everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind."

The Declaration doesn't make distinction nor allow for exception. It is to be deeply regretted, then, that so many member states within the United Nations have chosen to allow the unborn child to be targeted for killing by the abortion industry which destroys almost 50 million unborn children every year.

That figure almost too enormous too comprehend. 50 million dead children each year. Ending abortion should be the primary goal of the United Nations and any other human rights organisation who wishes to leave an untarnished legacy to the upcoming generations who are increasingly pro-life.

The Irish Constitution recognises the right to life of the unborn child and the Irish people have expressed their support for a ban on abortion in three referenda.

Opinion polls consistently show that a substantial majority wish to retain Ireland's ban on abortion, with recent polls showing a full two-thirds in favour of constitutional protection for the unborn child.

It is also important to point out that Ireland, without recourse to abortion, is the safest place in the world for a woman to have a baby, according to the United Nations' Maternal Mortality reports. As the Working Group will be aware the evidence that abortion harms women is now irrefutable, with recent studies from Finland and New Zealand, confirming the negative mental health implications for women who have undergone abortion.

Youth Defence urges the United Nations Working Group to applaud Ireland's ban on abortion and, furthermore, urges the United Nations to call for a universal ban on abortion in order to vindicate and respect the right to life of every person.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The United Nations Working Group should recognise and support Ireland's protection of mothers and their unborn children, and call for a worldwide ban on the killing of unborn children.