

The Pro Life Campaign is a non-denominational lobby group, drawing its support from a wide cross-section of Irish society. The Campaign promotes pro-life education and defends human life at all stages from conception to natural death. It also campaigns for resources to support and assist pregnant women and those in need of healing after abortion.

BIRTHRIGHT

Positively Protecting Life

› FINE GAEL COMMITMENT REFLECTS PUBLIC SUPPORT

Before the General Election, Fine Gael gave a written commitment to the Pro Life Campaign stating it is “opposed to the legalisation of abortion” and is “opposed to research conducted on human embryos, and favours alternative stem cell research that does not involve human embryos such as adult stem cell and umbilical cord research.”

The fact that both Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil have given pro-life commitments is a very positive development and is in keeping with the wishes of the public as evidenced by the latest Millward Brown/Lansdowne and Red C polls on right to life issues.



Dr Ruth Cullen of the Pro Life Campaign with her daughter Hiwot at a recent pro-life meeting in Dublin.

There are strong elements in Government, however, particularly in the Labour Party that are still determined to have abortion legalised. They are trying hard to create the impression that Ireland is obliged to legislate for abortion following the recent European court ruling in A, B and C v. Ireland.

It is important to note the judgment in no way forces Ireland to legalise abortion. In fact the judgment fully respects the entitlement of the Irish people to determine legal policy on protecting the lives of unborn children.

Given the political will, the new Government could lead the way in promoting a genuine pro-life ethos that protects human embryos and ensures that Ireland, without abortion, remains the safest country in the world for pregnant women and their unborn children.

prolife™
campaign



Please remember the PLC in your will - providing for your family will be the most important part of your will. If you are then in a position to leave something to a good cause, we hope you will consider the Pro Life Campaign's work over the years. Good causes rely on bequests as a source of income. Big donations are marvellous but the smallest gift makes a big difference.

› RECENT INITIATIVES



Rachel Kenny and Rita Kantor at the launch of one of the Pro Life Campaign's general election postcard initiatives.



Dr Berry Kiely at a press conference launching the latest opinion polls showing public support for legal protection of the unborn child.

› PLC GRANTED NGO STATUS BY THE UNITED NATIONS



The Pro Life Campaign was recently granted special NGO consultative status by the United

Nations. NGO status allows accredited organisations to formally contribute to the work programmes and goals of the United Nations by serving as technical experts, advisers and consultants. NGOs are also invited to participate in international UN conferences and to make oral and written interventions on issues of concern.

In March, the PLC made a lengthy submission to the UN Human Rights Council, which in October examines Ireland's record on human rights as part of its Universal Periodic Review. Among other things, the PLC called on the UN group to recognise abortion as a violation of human rights and to acknowledge Ireland's outstanding record of care in protecting the lives of women during pregnancy while at the same time affording legal protection to unborn babies. In the coming months, as a participating NGO, the Pro Life Campaign will join with other groups in bringing further pressure to bear on China over its toleration of the brutal practice of forced abortion.

› GAY MITCHELL CRITICISES CHINA'S COERCIVE ABORTION REGIME

Dublin MEP, Gay Mitchell, Chairman of the European Parliament's Working Group on Human Dignity, has criticised China's coercive abortion regime as a violation of human rights that "must be condemned as we work towards raising awareness of the practice with the ultimate goal of eradicating the brutal policy." Mr Mitchell made his remarks last month before chairing a meeting of the Human Dignity group which was addressed by Dr Reggie Littlejohn, President of Women's Rights Without Frontiers.

Dr Littlejohn, a lawyer and expert on China's One-Child Policy, described how the policy translated into action in one woman's case - she was dragged from her home, at the end of her pregnancy, and forced to undergo an abortion, followed by sterilisation, because the State had not granted her a permit to become pregnant again.

For highlighting the suffering of women under China's One Child Policy, Dr Littlejohn was the Keynote Speaker and Award of Excellence recipient at the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day celebration in Boston on 8th March.

› DOCTOR CHARGED WITH KILLING 7 BABIES (WHO SURVIVED ABORTIONS) AND CAUSING A MOTHER'S DEATH

Philadelphia abortionist Dr Kermit Gosnell has been charged with killing seven born babies and a 41 year old woman on whom he had performed an abortion.

The horrifying story recently hit the headlines in the US. Unlike other abortion related stories in recent times, it shocked many Americans and reawakened debate about the gruesome and inhumane practice of legalised abortion. Some details surrounding the case are truly disturbing.

The Grand Jury in the case was highly critical of State and City agencies in Philadelphia which, it said, had reason to know what was going on at the clinic but failed to act.

All major news corporations in the US covered the story when it broke as did the BBC and SKY News. Unsurprisingly, there was no mention of it at all on our national broadcaster RTÉ!



The Pro Life Campaign's recent nationwide billboard campaign highlighting the fact that Ireland is a world leader in safety for expectant mothers, safer than countries like Britain and Holland, which allow abortion on demand.

› PRO LIFE COMMITMENTS

Before the recent General Election, both Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil gave the following written commitments to the Pro Life Campaign:

› FINE GAEL

"Fine Gael is opposed to the legalisation of abortion..."

Fine Gael's representatives will bring to the proposed all-party committee a clear commitment that women in pregnancy will receive whatever treatments are necessary to safeguard their lives, and that the duty of care to preserve the life of the baby will also be upheld.

Fine Gael is opposed to research conducted on human embryos, and favours alternative stem cell research that does not involve human embryos such as adult stem cell and umbilical cord research."

› FIANNA FÁIL

"Fianna Fáil's position on abortion remains unchanged and will maintain Ireland's ban on abortion.

Fianna Fáil will uphold the right of the Irish people, and the Irish people alone, to decide on Ireland's abortion laws. We will oppose moves to legalise abortion in Ireland...

[Fianna Fáil] is opposed to research on embryos and will not support moves to legalise this in Ireland."

› PREMATURE NEWBORN BABY LEFT TO DIE IN BRITISH HOSPITAL

Last month, Tracy Goodwin's premature baby son Tom was born at Southend University Hospital in England. After the birth, mother and baby were moved to another room in the maternity wing. Ms Goodwin assumed they were putting her and her baby in a special room so they could look after him properly.

But they weren't. They were following NHS policy and refusing to look after her baby because he was born at 22 weeks. Baby Tom lived for 46 minutes and died in his mother's arms without receiving any medical care.

Ms Goodwin said "They put him in my arms and he cried and was wriggling around. I could feel him breathing and see his eyelashes and fingers and toes." She kept thinking, "Where's the incubator? We were begging the midwives to do something to help him but no one was saying anything."

The NHS has a policy of not resuscitating babies born before 24 weeks. Abortion is legal in Britain up to 24 weeks in pregnancy and up to birth where the baby has a disability. With proper specialised medical care, babies born before 24 weeks stand a reasonable chance of survival.



Tracy Goodwin

prolife
c a m p a i g n

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ASSISTING THE PRO LIFE CAMPAIGN

The Pro Life Campaign needs all the support it can get to bring its message to the wider community. Perhaps you are willing to devote some of your free time to finding new ways of bringing the pro-life message to your community? Perhaps you are willing to make a small financial commitment to secure the implementation of the Pro Life Campaign programme over the next three years? Perhaps you have your own ideas on how you can best help the campaign? Regardless of how you wish to help, please take the time to call us today and we will send you more details.

MAKING A SUBSCRIPTION

If you wish to make a financial contribution to the Pro Life Campaign, please fill in the coupon and return it to the address listed below - thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Subscription: €1000 €500 €100 €50

Other: €

Credit Card Option:

Visa / Mastercard _____

Expiry Date: / /

Signature: _____