

## Abortion is Not Just a Religious Problem

Abortion has never been just a religious problem, but a human rights issue and together we must protect both the mother and the child from the dangers of abortion. As a pro-life Catholic in public school, many of my peers believe I am pro-life solely on the fact that I am Catholic. Bringing God into the discussion causes them to shut me out instantly, regardless of what I have to say. As a result, I have researched secular pro-life organizations for my nonreligious friends that value human life at all stages which lead me to the Secular Pro-Life.

The Secular Pro-Life is expanding the pro-life movement beyond the religious to the atheists and agnostics. Their mission is to lean away from the stereotype that all pro-life people have some sort of faith. By using science and new technology, the Secular Pro-Life combats abortion without bringing the faith into it, but still upholding human dignity. The Secular Pro-Life builds their argument on four main premises: 1) a fetus is a human being, 2) there is no difference between a human being (biologically) and a person (legally), 3) human beings deserve human rights, and 4) bodily integrity is not sufficient to justify most abortions.

The Secular Pro-life organization points out that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of Article 1 states, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." It purposely states "born" in the article because if it left the word out, abortion would then violate Article 1. Birth itself should not grant a person their right to life, yet sadly if the person is not born he or she has no voice. All pro-life organizations give a voice to the voiceless!

Women, blacks, Jews, and the disabled in the past are no strangers to the denial of their constitutional rights so the Secular Pro-Life questions why in today's society it is still acceptable to reject an unborn baby his or her right to life. If society knows that restraining a human of his or her rights leads to societal destruction and damage would not refusing unborn babies' rights

also be harmful in the end. Unlike women, blacks, Jews, and the disabled, unborn babies have no voice and are unable to defend their right to life.

Even though I am proud to be a pro-life Catholic and pray for the conversions of my friends, it is well known that America with the rest of the world is pulling away from the faith. I am able to reach out to more people by providing them with points like these over other religious arguments. My nonreligious friends often feel left out of the fight because they do not have religion in their life, but now the tides are turning with more secular pro-life groups emerging. All pro-life organizations, religious or not, will fight tirelessly until abortion is banned. Being pro-life is protecting all stages of life from conception to death and all the years in between!

Work Cited

Rossi, Marco Rosaire. "Nonreligious and Pro-Life." *Humanist*, vol. 72, no. 5, Sept. 2012, p. 32.

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