Abortion: a choice for a woman or society?

January 2014

Ann Furedi , Peter D. Williams and Christine Fidler introduced a discussion on qualifications to being pro-choice on abortion

Campaigners for ***equal rights for women*** have always had to respond to arguments around women having autonomy over their own bodies. When it comes to controlling fertility, whether that be contraception or terminations, ***religious and moral arguments*** are open to modification, refinement and shifts in the relative balance of how much sway and influence they have. The availability of abortion offered to women through the 1967 Abortion Act is ***strictly proscribed*** and needs two doctors to approve the abortion request after the woman requesting the abortion has received counselling to help evaluate the request. A recent sting operation by the Daily Telegraph newspaper attempted to test the current operation of this process.

Some background readings

Abortions for sex selection: just the tip of the iceberg , Dr Peter Saunders, Christian Medical Fellowship Blog, 24 February 2012

You can't be pro-choice only when you like the choice , by Ann Furedi, spiked online 16 September 2013

'You CAN abort a baby because of its sex' , by Chris Pleasance, Daily Mail 18 September 2013

We Stood With Wendy Davis - Now Stand With Ann Furedi , by Lucy Uprichard, Huffington Post 25 September 2013

Women Have Abortions Every Day: It's Just One Choice , by Irish Family Planning Association 27 September 2013

Menstruating is normal. Sex is normal. Contraception is normal. Abortion is normal. It's time to get over it , by Anthea McTeirnan, Irish Times 4 October 2013

Approval of independent Sector Places for the Termination of Pregnancy , Department of Health 22 November 2013

Woman has child taken from her womb by social services , by Colin Freeman, The Telegraph 30 November 2013

The inhumanity of a forced Caesarian , by Barbara Hewson, spiked 6 December 2013

Pregnant, and Forced to Stay on Life Support , by Manny Fernandez and Erik Eckholm, New York Times 7 January 2014

The lost girls: Illegal abortion widely used by some UK ethnic groups , by Steve Connor, Independent 15 January 2014

Gendercide: the silence of the so-called 'feminists' , by Cristina Odone, Telegraph 15 January 2014

Q&A – Sex ratios and abortion , bpas Reproductive Review 15 January 2014

Women wanting abortions will not have to see doctor , by John Bingham and Laura Donnelly, Telegraph 15 January 2014

The Indie's 'Lost Girls' may not be what it appears , by Unity, Ministry of Truth 15 January 2014

Newsnight piece on abortion , BBC iPlayer 16 January 2014

The lost girls: Pressure mounts on Government to curb use of ultrasound scans to show gender of unborn babies , by Steve Connor, Independent 16 January 2014

Campaigns against sex-selective abortion are misogyny disguised as feminism , by Frances Ryan, New Statesman 16 January 2014

Watch video of the speaker and audience discussion below. Thanks to Dan Clayton the documentary filmmaker from Leeds for this.