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SUBMISSION TO CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

It is VITAL that people understand the advantages of Article 40.3.3 (that protects unborn human life) and the moral principles it represents in protecting human life at all stages of biological development, whether suffering physical /mental handicaps or not. Up to about 60 years ago that principle was accepted by the vast majority of mankind. In a relatively short time, the morals of millennia weakened. This was facilitated by perverse media, hyperbolic feminism and population control. The world's population was growing and the consumerism of the Western World was producing a wasteful lifestyle that the mass of the world's population could never emulate without burying the planet in waste products, and the climate change threat was demanding that some action be taken.

The United Nations and the wealthy Foundations, created by industrial giants, were willing to forcibly sterilise Indians and condemn China to one child families, but not to cut back the wasteful consumerism that was the basis of their own wealth and power, They were also willing to spend millions of their tax-free dollars to persuade others countries to kill their unborn babies, We have had many examples of such funding in Ireland and the main abortion lobbies are funded from abroad.

There are tightly knit groups in Ireland, amply funded by millions of foreign dollars, working hard to delete or water down the 8th Amendment. The idea of the Citizens' Assembly first came from the Labour Party. Using 100 people to represent 3,300,000 Irish voters was roundly attacked by Senator Michael McDowell who said that, in the end of the day, the Government chosen team of Expert Advisers would determine the Assembly's decision. Of the seven Experts selected to deal with the 8th Amendment, at least two that we know of are entirely unsuitable and their views are well known. The Citizens' Assembly receives its orders from the Taoiseach's Office.

We attach the Statistics Section of our website at www.secondlookproject.ie which gives a lot of statistical and practical information on abortion. We also enclose some brief arguments against abortion on grounds of rape, incest and *lethal* foetal abnormality. However, the main argument against abortion is that the unborn are human beings and as civilised human beings ourselves, we cannot justify the deliberate killing of other human beings, particularly defenceless innocents.



The pro-abortion campaign in Ireland is being openly funded by billionaires like George Soros and many others. Irish pro-abortion groups are accepting money from abroad to campaign on a sensitive political issue. This is forbidden under the Standards in Public Office (SIPO) rules but neither it nor the Government are doing anything about it. Soros and the myriad foundations that support abortion worldwide are not doing it for humanitarian reasons but for many other reasons – none of them altruistic.

This year, we are commemorating the heroes of 1916, good upright men who gave their lives for Ireland's freedom and self-governance. Did they die in vain?

The enactment of the 1983 Amendment was one of the most democratic processes that Ireland has witnessed. There was a public debate for over 30 months and, by the time voting day arrived, most people had heard all the arguments and made up their minds, despite, a hostile media. On the 7th September 1983, the Amendment it was approved by 63% of the people. It would have been approved by more except for the country bus strike on polling day.

The Pro-Life Amendment Campaign had all six professors of obstetrics and gynaecology and nearly all Masters of maternity hospitals as patrons and was also formally supported by over 1,000 GPs. It was also advised by many leading lawyers,

OBJECTIONS TO DELETING OR CHANGING 8TH AMENDMENT TO MAKE ABORTION MORE AVAILABLE.

1. As shown on attachment, current Irish abortions are one of the world's lowest rates. The same applies to Northern Ireland and, indeed, respect for unborn life is shared by the two populations in the island of Ireland. They are unique in the British Isles. The number of abortions per 1,000 Irish women from the Republic aged 15-44 was 3.6 last year. The rate in England and Wales was nearly five times higher. If we adopted the British *Abortion Act 1967*, as some suggest, our abortions could shoot up from the current 3,451 to 17,250 per annum, in time. Our low abortion rate means that many now living would not be there if abortion was more rampant.
2. Irish abortions have been declining numerically since 2001. Abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 are pretty much at the same level as they were in 1980 – which does not seem to show any serious public demand for liberalising abortion. In 2015, the Abortion Report of the Department of Health of England showed more data on Irish abortions than ever before. It showed that of the 3,451 abortions, 749 were on Irish residents who, whilst being Irish residents, were not legally, ethnically or culturally Irish.
3. Allowing abortion for rape and incest, while such crimes are most distressing and traumatic for the woman, the unborn child is being punished for something of which he/she is innocent. Also, genetically, the unborn child is half the mother's. Ironically too as the wheels of justice move slowly, the child may be born before the rape or incest is proven. Many women choose not to abort, and some who do are traumatised again by the abortion.
4. Despite the 1992 Supreme Court decision allowing abortion on grounds of attempted suicide, this is a ludicrous ground as it can easily be feigned. Besides, the plain words of the Amendment are *with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother*. As one distinguished judge said privately at the time: "This is a discredited judgement, how can the lives be equal as the Constitution states if you can kill one deliberately to facilitate the other?"
5. Direct deliberate abortion is never needed to save the mother's life. Ideally, the obstetrician tries to do his/her best for both mother and baby. Where difficulties arise, the traditional

policy of *First Do No Harm* applies and *the principle of double effect* solves most ethical problems. Maternal deaths in the Republic were as high as 370 per annum in 1922 and remained high up to 1979 and have since declined to an irreducible minimum due to better health care and the discovery of broad spectrum drugs to combat infection. Ireland is one of the world leaders for safety in childbirth.

6. So-called *lethal foetal abnormality* and conditions of the unborn in the womb having a condition *incompatible with life* are being pushed hard as the thin end of the wedge. The fact is that it is nigh impossible to forecast just how long a baby with certain conditions will survive, some for many years, with love and care... I would refer to a prestigious 2012 article in the journal of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists which makes this point (See. Our website www.secondlookproject.ie under **Articles** and a very lucid article on the same website under **News** written by Ms Breda O'Brien in the *Irish Times*. What is wrong with the woman carrying the child to term as most women do?
7. *The 2015 Abortion Report* also for the first time shows that 135 Irish babies were aborted under Ground E (fears of the baby being abnormal) Most of the conditions listed do not indicate that the baby would die soon. 40% were Downs Syndrome. This is really war on the handicapped that makes one fear the return of the Nazi era and its eradication of what it called "useless eaters."
8. The odd thing about the Assembly is that it is also due to discuss the problems of an ageing population in Ireland. Abortion on demand would make that still worse. Ireland is already only slightly below population replacement level. Look at the rest of Europe and see how many are far below replacement rate. Their populations will decline suddenly and most probably be replaced by migrants Ireland should also consider. We have an ancient unique culture to preserve
9. Abortion is a highly sensitive political subject. What is disturbing, are the large amounts of funds from foreign Foundations illegally beefing up the war-chests of those who wish to see abortion on demand in Ireland, despite our laws forbidding such funding. Ultimately the blame for this rests squarely on the Government.
10. Ireland's Total Fertility Rate is 2.0 births per woman in the fertile years ages 15-44, just slightly below population replacement level. 2.15 are generally seen as the number of births per woman to reproduce the population. Most European countries are well below replacement population rates and this leads to ageing unbalanced populations. This, of course, is due to low birth rates, for which abortion shares much of the blame. There are countries on the fringe of Europe, like Turkey, with low abortion rates and higher reproductive rates which could pose a future threat.
11. Wild animals protect their young, feed and defend them against all comers, For mothers of all kinds that is a natural law, often ignored by humans over the past sixty years. Dr. Bernard Nathans on of New York was in Ireland in 1982. He was a Jewish obstetrician who had led the campaign to legalise abortion on demand in New York in the late sixties/early seventies, the campaign was successful; he opened an abortion clinic and performed thousands of abortions. He then began an intensive study on the nature and development of unborn life and suddenly realise he was killing human beings. He stopped doing abortions and became a pro-life campaigner. He was fascinated by the miracle of life in the womb and wrote of his life experiences in a book *Aborting America*. **One of his favourite sayings was: "If wombs had windows, there would be no abortions."**