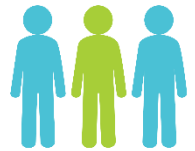


ABORTION IN BRITAIN



- Abortion is **legal before 24 weeks** of pregnancy
- Two doctors must consent to the procedure and decide whether there will be a risk to the mother's physical or mental health if the pregnancy were to continue
- In rare cases, where the pregnancy will put the mother's life at risk, the abortion can be formed after 24 weeks
- It is estimated that 1 in 3 women will, at some point in their life, have an abortion
- The father of the foetus has no legal right at present – even if the couple are married

1 in 3



CHRISTIANITY

- There is no single view on abortion in Christianity
- Some Christians give priority to the belief in the Sanctity of Life
- Some Christians follow Jesus' example to act with compassion

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

- There can be allowances for abortion in some conditions
- If the mother's life is in danger or in the case of rape, abortion is permitted
- Quality of life should be considered
- Compassion should be used (**Treat others as you would like to be treated**)
- However, the law in Britain is too liberal when it comes to abortion. In the past, abortions have been carried out for immoral reasons, e.g. when abortion is used as a form of contraception



1967

Abortion was first legalised in Britain in 1967. Since then, the issue has been widely debated. On the one hand, it is immoral to kill unborn babies. On the other hand, quality of life might be more important if, for example, the child is going to be born severely disabled or with extreme pain.

Pro-Life:

- Abortion is wrong
- Every living thing has a right to life

PRO-LIFE

Pro-Choice:

- Abortion is acceptable
- Every woman should be able to choose what to do with her body – sometimes the situation might necessitate abortion, for example if the woman were to become pregnant due to rape

PRO-CHOICE



- Some people believe that the unborn child has rights
- The law is unclear about the rights of an unborn child. In practice, their rights are not distinguishable from the rights of the mother
- A court rules in December 2014 that an unborn child was not 'a person'
- This brings the idea of 'personhood' into the debate – when does a foetus become a real person?

RIGHTS



EVIL



ROMAN CATHOLIC

- Abortion is forbidden as life is sacred and a gift from God
- Life begins at conception: it is not a potential life but a human being with potential
- Abortion is against the Ten Commandments (**Do not kill**)
- The foetus has a right to live and develop. Terminating the pregnancy is a great moral evil



SITUATION ETHICS

Situation Ethics is judging the rightness or wrongness of an act on a case-by-case basis. "It depends on the situation."

Abortion might be the right choice: depending on the situation. For example, in the case of rape or if the mother is still a child.



Abortion might be the wrong choice: depending on the situation. For example, the mother could be an adult, in a loving, stable relationship.



VS.



Abortion is: the deliberate ending of a pregnancy so that it does not result in the birth of a child

WHEN DOES LIFE BEGIN?

- **Life begins at conception:** when sperm meets egg as this is the potential for a human life.
- **Life begins when the heart starts beating.** The heart has traditionally been seen as a sign of life.
- **Life begins when the first movements in the womb can be felt.** This is usually from 9 weeks onwards. It is called 'quickening'.
- **Life begins at around 19 weeks or 120 days as the nervous system is developed.** There is brain activity.
- **Life begins at 24 weeks.** The foetus reaches 'viability' – the stage at which it could survive outside the womb.
- **Life begins at birth.** The baby is an independent living being, no longer reliant on its mother.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 16 20-36 38



HUMANISM

- We need to consider the evidence, probable consequences and the rights and wishes of everyone involved before making a decision about abortion
- Find the kindest course of action and the one that would do the least harm
- Because of this 'situational' approach to ethics, there is no one right or wrong answer
- Generally, humanists take on a liberal, pro-choice stance
- What would produce more happiness? To abort or to keep the baby?
- Quality of life outweighs the preservation of life
- Abortion is a morally acceptable choice to make, so long as it is an informed choice which considers the short-term and long-term effects.

