

United for Life

Raising greater awareness of human life issues

22 Moreton Close, Bishops Cleeve
Cheltenham, GL52 8AW
www.unitedforlife.com
info@unitedforlife.com

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Kate Allen
Director
Amnesty International
17-25 New Inn Yard
London
EC2A 3EA

Dear Ms Allen

I understand that Amnesty International is consulting on the issue of abortion. I also understand that Amnesty International claims 'there is no generally accepted right to abortion in international human rights law'. *United for Life* would like to contribute to Amnesty International's consultation.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHRs) protects the right to life of 'all members of the human family'. Since the unborn are members of the human family the UDHRs protects the right to life of the unborn. The Declaration on the Rights of the Child states that, '...the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, *before* as well as after birth.'

In early June 2005 *United for Life* wrote to Amnesty International asking them to join *United for Life's* Make Abortion History campaign but Amnesty International has failed to reply to this letter. This has raised the question of Amnesty International's commitment to implementing in full the UDHRs and the Declaration on the Right of the Child in regard to the unborn and so we would question Amnesty International further. Silence is not an option where human rights are concerned and we urge Amnesty International to reply.

No group of humans can be treated as 'non-persons' and this includes the disabled, the elderly, slaves, Jews, the unborn or any other group, including human embryos. Thus, no excuse can be made to exclude any group of humans from equal protection under law.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims these Rights as 'a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations' and that 'every individual and every organ of society ...shall strive ...to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance ...among the peoples of Member States.' It is therefore *United for Life's* duty to call upon Amnesty International to help promote legal protection for children *before* as well as after birth.

I await your earliest reply.

Yours sincerely

Chris Mason
Co-ordinator
United for Life
info@unitedforlife.com
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