

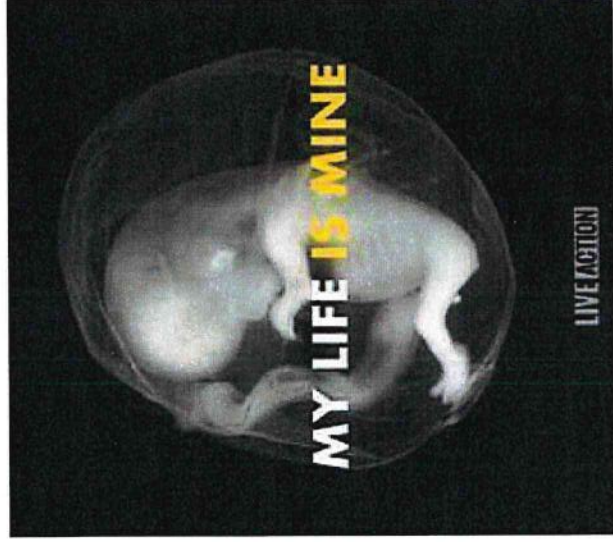


PRO LIFE

Namibia



Pro-Life Namibia "Rejecting the Legalisation of Abortion in Namibia"



14,012 have signed. Let's get to 15,000



Rina Sherriff signed 58 minutes ago



Kapadhi Ndali signed 58 minutes ago




namibia government : Pro-Life Namibia "Rejecting the...

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Pro-Life Namibia started this petition to Namibia Government and 3 others

Maybe a few or more of us are aware of an on-line petition "To Legalize Abortion in Namibia" which was launched on the 11th June 2020, according to an article in The Namibian of 12th June

Handing over of the electronic Petition of Pro-Life Namibia

1 July 2020

Honourable, Speaker of The National Assembly, Prof Peter Katjivivi.

I would like to thank you for granting us the opportunity to be at your office today. The reason why we have requested to meet you is, to hand over the following petition on "The Rejection of the Legalization of abortion" in our country Namibia. This petition was created under the name of "Pro Life Namibia" and was started on an online petition site and distributed through social media platforms since Thursday 18th June 2020.

Hon Speaker, I would like to introduce myself to you as the person who was responsible for creating and distribution of this petition.

I am Zelda van der Colff, a Namibian woman who was born in Walvis Bay and today I am a minister and pastor in the Kingdom of God.

Hon Speaker, the question might start with, what has prompted me to create and start this petition. The answer to that is the following:

I became aware of an on-line petition on "To Legalize Abortion in Namibia" which was launched on the 11th June 2020, according to an article in The Namibian of 12th June 2020, by a young Namibian woman, who seeks support with a target of 1500 signatures. On the day of the 18th June they have almost reached 5000 signatures.

I quote the purpose of "Legalize Abortion in Namibia" drafted by their activist.

"The purpose of the petition is to express a collective plea to legalize abortion in Namibia, as well as to express the importance of legalizing abortion in Namibia. In order for social change to take place in Namibia, civil society as a collective has to show the Namibian Government what are our wants and needs are so that the issue can be prioritised."

The activists are seeking the right of sexual and reproductive health, control of their health, lives and bodies and to achieve gender equality. They claim this as their human right, supported by their Pro-Choice. Pro-Choice is definition as "supporters advocating legalized abortion."

The aim of the activists are the right of gender equality for the legalization of abortion is to grant the LGBTQI the equal right, that it is not necessary to "conceive" to have babies under same sex marriage.

The activists want a New Act - To read as "That Namibian women can take full ownership and practise autonomy over their own bodies. Namibian Government ensures that women and young girls in Namibia realise their right to sexual and reproductive health, to control over their health, lives and bodies and to achieve gender equality."

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The current Abortion and Sterilisation Act of SA (1975) which is still applying in our country states, The Act only provides for legal abortion services under circumstances such as rape, incest and health risks.

Hon Speaker, referring to the Act of 1975 it is still applicable for the purpose deemed necessary in our Namibian context. Meaning that "Abortion is currently legalised", which gives women the choice to opt for an abortion under these circumstances.

To address the issue of "Legalise Abortion" one needs to understand what is the definition of the word abortion.

What then is abortion?

It is the deliberate termination of a human pregnancy most often performed during the first 28 weeks and not to be done before 7 weeks. For abortion to be executed it leads one to the following question.

What happens during pregnancy and what is conception all about. During my research I found an article on the webpage of www.verwellfamily.com by Rachel Gurevich, Medically reviewed by Anita Sadaty, MD , Updated on May 26, 2020 and I quote, "Overview. **Conception** may take place as soon as three minutes after sexual intercourse, or it may take up to five days."

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE PREGNANCY AT 6 WEEKS

"At 6 weeks, the baby's heart will be beating around twice the rate of yours. The baby is developing fast, as vital organs and body systems start forming, or continue to grow.

Weeks 1 to 8 are known as the embryonic period. The baby is now an embryo

At 6 weeks of the pregnancy there are many changes in the embryo development. Overall the embryo is less than half an inch in length.

Baby develops during the first 6 weeks.

The following features, organs and baby systems are forming.

-The arm and leg buds

The neural tube, the tissue that forms the brain, spinal cord, nerves and spine. A large head etc.

A very basic heart can sometimes be seen beating in ultrasound exams at this stage. It currently be beating at around 150-160 beats per minute about twice as fast as your heart "as the mother.

According to an article in the Medical News Today- Aug 18, 2017 – "Developing babies need **oxygen beginning early in pregnancy**. But a baby won't take their first breath until after birth. This means that babies don't truly breathe in the womb. Instead, the umbilical cord provides the baby with oxygen until the first breath."

Hon Speaker we start to talk about "**The cord of life**" and I quote

"As you probably already know, the umbilical cord provides the essential lifeline between mother and baby. Throughout pregnancy, the placenta and the umbilical cord are arguably the most important organs which enable your baby to develop and get everything it needs from its mother – and this includes oxygen.

Every breath that the mother takes brings oxygen into her bloodstream, which is then carried to the placenta through the umbilical cord and into the baby. The baby's heart will then pump the oxygenated blood out to the body to help it continue to grow and develop. In the womb, your baby's lungs begin to develop around the third week of pregnancy. By week 16, the general structure of their lungs is in place. They then continue to develop – with their airways lengthening and the capillaries in the lungs rapidly expanding. By doing so, the lungs are then able to develop the ability to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide.

References

About Kids Health (2020), "Baby's first breath", available at:

<https://www.aboutkidshealth.ca/Article?contentid=420&language=English>

Ruben Rucoba (2018), "How do babies breathe in the womb?", available at:

<https://blog.pregistry.com/babies-breathe-womb/>

Healthline (2020), "How do babies breathe in the womb?", available at:

<https://www.healthline.com/health/pregnancy/how-babies-breathe-in-the-womb#how-babies-breathe-in-the-womb>

Parmesh Dhera (2020), "How baby breathes in the mother's womb", available at:

<https://ourbitcoinnews.com/how-baby-breathes-in-the-mothers-womb/>

According to an article in the MEDICAL NEWS TODAY: Medically reviewed by Holly Ernst, P.A. written by Yvette Brazier, on March 16, 2018 and I quote

"When does oxygen get into the foetus?

After 5-6 weeks of pregnancy the umbilical cord develops to deliver oxygen directly to the developing foetus body. The umbilical cord connects to the placenta, which is connected to the uterus. Both the umbilical cord and the placenta house many blood vessels, and continue to grow and develop throughout pregnancy."

"The mother's placenta helps the baby "breathe" while it is growing in the womb. Oxygen and carbon dioxide flow through the blood in the placenta. Most of it goes to the heart and flows through the baby's body. At birth, the baby's lungs are filled with fluid. Oct 2, 2019

Changes in the newborn at birth: MedlinePlus Medical ...
medlineplus.gov › Medical Encyclopedia"

"Babies do not exactly "breathe" in the womb; at least not by inhaling air the way they do after delivery. Instead, oxygen travels through the mother's lungs, heart, vasculature, uterus, and placenta, finally making its way through the umbilical cord and into the fetus. Sep 25, 2017

How Do Babies Breathe in the Womb? - ABC Law Centers
www.abclawcenters.com › frequently-asked-questions › h..."

Hon Speaker, some may refer to developing babies as a ball of cells or tissue, those cells are alive the moment conception has taken place. Why am I saying that, because oxygen is needed for the developing baby to grow from conception? Every breath that the mother

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takes brings oxygen into her bloodstream, which is then carried to the placenta through the umbilical cord and into the baby.

We all know that **life is in the blood**. That is why our Blood transfusion unit needs blood from blood donors to save lives.

How can one terminate human pregnancy through abortion while there is life? To Pro Life Namibia supporters that is murder.

Namibian Christian Women and the Pro Life supporters cannot and do not give consent for the legalization of abortion. We are kept responsible by God the Father, the Creator of Mankind in whom we believe, for the blood of the unwanted unborn babies in our country. I quote a scripture according to Gen 4:9-10 "Where is your brother?, Am I my brother's keeper. The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground."

We believe in biblical principles:

(a) "you shall not murder" Ex 20: 13.

(b) Mankind is formed by our Creator before conception. Understanding according to Jeremia 1: 5 " Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born I sanctified you."

Isiah 49:5 " The Lord says, Who formed me from the womb."

Psalms 139: 13-15 " For You formed my inward parts, You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made, marvelous are Your works. And that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skilfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth."

" Every Unborn Baby Matters."

(c) With reference to Genesis 2:7 God our Father, The Creator of mankind breath into our nostrils, and we became a living beings.

Acts 17:28 " For in Him we live and move and have our being."

We admit we have a broken Namibian society and our moral values have been decayed. At the end we as the nation of Namibia have to deal with the results of Gender base violence, Rape, Sexual abuse, Sex outside marriage, Dumping of new born babies and a generation of young people who lacks to know their real identity.

We know that we have a big percentage of single mother households. A great contribution of an unbalanced community of young people. This is because of the absenteeism of fathers in the household.

Our young girls and young ladies are out there looking for someone to fill the gap and the NEED for love. Their need is for the acceptance to fall in love with a male person. Our young girls and ladies are falling trapped in the arms of brutal young and old men, of whom some also grew up without a father figure. These men were never taught and did not have a mentor to show them how to first respect a woman as a person and secondly the respect of her body.

We put our petition to you on the following:

1. Collectively reject the "Legalization of Abortion in Namibia."
2. We prevent the evil of legalizing abortion to look good under the system of human rights.

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3. We will no longer keep silence, as it will be a sign of rejecting the Biblical form of life giving through birth.
4. Be the voice for the voiceless, the unborn.
5. We say no to Planned Parenthood abortion facilities.

Hon Speaker, we recognized and acknowledge the current debate on the issue of abortion, thereby:

PRO-LIFE NAMIBIA SUGGESTS THE FOLLOWING AS ALTERNATIVES TO THE LEGALISING OF ABORTION

1. Lobby for Funding for Namibian Orphanages and Children's Homes (this will serve to curb the problem of children living on the streets/street kids).
2. Lobby for Amendment on the Adoption Policy to streamline the current cumbersome adoption processes.
3. Lobby for Pregnancy Centres to be established in all 14 regions in Namibia (to assist young, new mothers through the processes of pregnancy, motherhood and Sexual Reproductive Health Education).
4. Lobby for Adoption Centres to be established in all 14 regions of Namibia to decentralise all adoption services.
5. Lobby for Baby Drop Centres in all 14 regions in Namibia (this initiative will solve the problem of Baby Dumping in Namibia).

And at this juncture we hereby officially submit our petition for "The Rejection of Legalization of Abortion in The Republic of Namibia."

I thank you

On behalf of Pro Life Namibia