



# RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011



## Introducing... **Katrina Haller**

Newly-appointed Executive Officer of *Right to Life*, Dr. Katrina Haller, brings intelligence, education, calm determination and a high-level of compassion to the pro-life fight. Katrina is a passionate defender of the protection of human rights from conception to death.

Katrina first became involved in the ProLife movement while studying at Melbourne University in the 1970s. Having emerged from a physiology lecture, in which she had marvelled at the beauty of images of unborn babies and their intricate development, she was confronted by a pro-abortion rally.

"I couldn't understand how anyone could want to destroy something so precious," says Katrina.

Around this time she attended a rally against the 1973 McKenzie-Lamb Bill which was the catalyst for the formation of *Right to Life Victoria*. The rally inspired her to take a week's leave from her studies and board a Canberra-bound bus to join another rally on the steps of Parliament House. The rally led to the bill's defeat.

Katrina completed a PhD in heart disease, became busy with study, work and family commitments, but remained a member of *Right to Life Victoria*, which became *Right to Life Australia*.

While teaching at university during the 1980s she became increasingly interested in bio-ethics.

"My students were asking lots of ethical questions about euthanasia and surrogacy and I found very little literature on these issues in the medical library," says Katrina.

Not to be deterred Katrina headed across to the law library where she found an abundance of relevant material. She felt that while there was a good knowledge of these issues in law circles, there needed to be greater awareness in the medical field.

Now a mother of three young children she enrolled in a law degree, completing two subjects a year over 10 years, while also writing submissions to parliamentary enquiries and letters to politicians and newspapers on pro-life issues whenever the opportunity arose.

The 2008 "Abortion on Demand" Bill (Abortion Law Reform Bill) prompted Katrina to become more involved in *Right to Life Australia*, and she has been an integral part of the organisation ever since.

"The moment of conception creates a genetically unique person. That is a scientific fact," says Katrina.

"My law background has provided me with the knowledge that in law every human has a very basic right to life. What is the point of having free speech if you don't have a right to life?"

Katrina played a major role in Right to Life Australia's very successful 2010 Victorian election campaign.

Katrina remains committed to her conviction that, "We must work to achieve legislation that protects all human life."

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## SA Death Bill Update

The Stephanie Key Criminal Law Consolidation (Medical Defences-End of Life Arrangements) Amendment Bill 2011 was due to be debated in the South Australian parliament on 10 November 2011. However, the debate has been adjourned for two weeks and will now return on 24 November 2011 where it is scheduled for one hour's debate. This is the last day of the year for debate on private members' bills so hopefully it will be delayed forever.

## Closure of Arbortuary

Dr. Christine Healy has closed her arbortuary in Berkeley Street, Carlton. She is having a six week break and announced that she is "relocating" to the infamous "Fertility Control Clinic" in East Melbourne. Congratulations to all the people who witnessed outside her arbortuary and gave practical help to the mothers to continue their pregnancy and care for their child instead of aborting their child. We hope Dr. Healy uses her break to decide to retire.



## “We must stop abortion becoming a human right” says Queen’s cousin

By Hilary White, Rome Correspondent (LifeSiteNews.com)



Lord Nicholas Windsor, in referring to the 1967 Abortion Act, in the Daily Telegraph 10/10/2011 writes, *“It hit me in the stomach that terminating a pregnancy equalled none other than the destruction of a human being”*. Lord Nicholas Windsor and Lord Alton of Liverpool launched the San Jose Articles at a meeting at the House of Lords, which have been drawn to counter a campaign to establish

abortion as an international human right. This year Navi Pillay, the UN Commissioner for Human Rights wrote that, “on the basis of existing international law, several human rights bodies have called on governments to review and amend restrictive abortion laws.” Lord Nicholas Windsor says, *“the cost is too high because the cost is paid in innocent life.”* He says that abortion is a form of eugenics, moulding the human race.



## Tony Abbott on Abortion

Many pro-lifers were dismayed to read in the Melbourne Age (Oct. 21, 2011) of Tony Abbott’s less than enthusiastic response to a question from Age journalist Katherine Murphy regarding his stance on the abortion issue.

Unlike U.S. politics, abortion is not considered an important issue for Australian voters! (What does that tell us about Australia?)

The sad reality is that more than 100,000 unborn Australian children are killed in abortions each year. Abortion at all stages of pregnancy is freely available legally in Victoria and the A.C.T. and is available in other states because of un-enforced laws.

Our taxes have been used to prop up this human carnage in the form of health care monies which should properly be used to provide good health care for all Australians – not death for the most vulnerable!

Mr Abbott was very quick to proclaim his “personally opposed” views on abortion via a conscience vote, but as for anything else – Mr Abbott told the Age he will not turn back the clock on abortion laws – “Look at the record in government. It didn’t happen” And it won’t happen? “No” – “End of Story”!

What naked ambition can do to a man!

## “Let’s bring the abortion debate to life.”

### An abridged version

Mary Wakefield of the U.K., in an article published in the Spectator, Australia, September 2011, page 8, says “It doesn’t make you a bigot to be melancholy about the killing of 200,000 embryos a year – it makes you human.” She discusses Nadine Dorrie’s and Frank Field’s amendment to the Health and Social Care Bill which was defeated in the British House of Commons recently. It was designed to ensure that groups who counselled young women about abortions were different from the groups who actually provided them. She observes that the abortion rate in Germany is half that in the U.K. In Germany the physician must be separate from the counsellor and a woman must wait three days between her decision and her operation.

“Marie Stopes provides both counselling and abortion in the UK, and ran an advertisement of beautiful women whose inconvenient pregnancy would otherwise cloud a perfect life.”

“When Dr Fox said, “I would certainly support any amendment that saw the number of abortions fall in the U.K. I think the level is far too high.” Fleet St and the Twittering classes called him a bigot, a misogynist. The opposition said it was nonsense to say that we need fewer abortions, and secondly that those who frown on abortions might be awarded contracts. It was as if Christians

were a terrorist-style threat.”

“She asks, “How do you feel about killing kittens?”

“From a utilitarian point of view she says that the most ethical thing to do with an unwanted pregnancy, what would make most people most happy, is for the unwanting mother to carry the baby to term and give her up for adoption. The adopted parents will be thrilled, and their happiness has every chance of lasting a lifetime-longer than the biological mother’s discomfort. And then there’s the child’s happiness to consider. What would you prefer? Anyone would rather be adopted than aborted. To suggest otherwise is to spit in the eye of life.”

“That’s what I think of this very gung-ho attitude to abortion – it’s just bloody ungrateful. A spit in the eye of life.” “No sane well-fed bitch would kill her healthy puppy because its lip was twisted. There’s a tragicomic horror about a society in which every year a few couples undertake the incredible business of making a new human, only to throw it away because a tiny bit of her is folded wrong, and you know, the corrective operation might leave a scar.”

“We know that it is wrong, but it’s just easier to stay in denial.”

## Baby Safe Havens

On 2 November Senator Polley from Tasmania raised the issue in the Senate of Baby Safe Havens.

She said that a change in legislation needs to occur in every State and Territory. At present baby abandonment is treated as a criminal offence Australia-wide. The offender is able to be prosecuted. In October 2011, a baby, dubbed "Baby Willow," was found deceased in a Hobart park, and the community have suggested that the park be named "Willow Park" after her.

Senator Polley is passionate about saving the lives of these babies. Of the 10 babies that are abandoned and found each year in this country, the majority are found deceased. Please ask the Victorian Minister, Mary Wooldridge, the Attorney-General, Robert Clark, the Health Minister David Davis, the Premier Mr Baillieu, the Deputy Premier, Mr Peter Ryan and your parliamentary representatives in your lower and upper electorates to introduce baby safe haven legislation. To find your representatives go to [www.parliament.vic.gov.au](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au)



Baby hatch in Germany



Baby hatch called "Baby Box" in the Czech Republic

## Ann Bressington One Courageous M.P.

Ann Bressington is an Independent member of the South Australian Legislative Council. She has recently been responsible for the distribution of a very effective anti abortion leaflet in Adelaide – 30,000 in fact!

When Ann was questioned about her action on radio, she didn't go to water. She spoke up for the babies, Ann said that an Adelaide doctor told her, "they have an ethical responsibility to care for born alive babies until it passes. He said they are thrown into a kidney dish and wheeled into a freezer to die." This is the link to Ann's radio interview with radio FIVEaa in Adelaide.

[http://www.fiveaa.co.au/audio/ann-bressington-talks-about-anti-abortion-brochure\\_103245](http://www.fiveaa.co.au/audio/ann-bressington-talks-about-anti-abortion-brochure_103245)

Write and encourage her and ask for a copy of the brochure.

**Send all letters to:** Ms Ann Bressington - Independent MLC  
Parliament House  
North Terrace  
ADELAIDE SA 5000



## Latest on U.S. Presidential Election Race

House Bill 358, the Protect Life Act has passed the U.S. House and is currently in the hands of the Senate Finance Committee. As you may know its most important provision prohibits the federal government from paying for any part of any health plan which covers abortions. It is sponsored by Rep. Joe Pitts of Pennsylvania and passed the U.S. House by a vote of 251-172 on the 13th of October. The Senate version, Senate Bill 377 is very similar and is sponsored by Sen. Orin Hatch of Utah. It is also assigned to this Committee. Neither lawmaker's office had any idea of when a committee vote might take place. Only one version, however, will emerge.

The last couple of weeks have been problematic for both Gov. Rick Perry and Mr. Cain. In addition to the harassment charges, Mr. Cain also set off alarm bells on the life question. In an interview, he certainly appeared to state that abortion in the case of rape should be decided by the victim and her family and was no business of the President of the U.S. The next day, in response to a FOX news reporter's questioning he stated that he believed abortion should be illegal but that some families might choose to break the law. The reporter seemed to have to pry this "pro-life" answer out of him. I came away feeling very uncomfortable with his grasp of the issue.

The sexual harassment charges sound, to some conservatives, a bit like "deja vu all over again" to quote Yogi Berra, the famous baseball player. Many of you of course remember the Clarence Thomas controversy. There are some odd coincidences in this case. One of the accusers works for the Obama Administration, and one lives in the same building in Chicago as Mr. Obama's campaign manager, Mr. Axelrod. Mr. Cain has volunteered to take a lie detector test. Gloria Altgeld, the attorney for one of the accusers, came very close to stating her client would not take one. However having several accusers come forward is enough to rattle even the most ardent Cain supporter.

Mr. Perry's "brain freeze" and other problems have cut his contribution level, although he still has seventeen million dollars to use to re-invent himself.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich has been doing very well. He certainly has one of the best minds in American politics. However, his marital status (married for the third time) and his statements on global warming will hurt him in the race for the GOP (Grand Old Party) Nomination. He's an idea man, having come up with the Contract with America in 1994, credited with helping the Republicans take control of the U.S. House of Representatives for the first time in half a century.

Mr. Romney is holding steady at around twenty-three percent in most polls. Many in the party are still searching for the "un-Romney." (A popular soft drink used to advertise itself as the "un-cola".)

To sum up, with the stakes so high, one wishes for a field with less baggage.

**Kathy Edgeworth  
U.S. Correspondent**

*[Kathleen Edgeworth and her late husband Professor Bob Edgeworth lived in Australia for several years where he taught classics at the Australian National University in Canberra. Whilst in Canberra, both Kathy and Bob were active members of the A.C.T. Right to Life Association]*

## Victoria Marches for the Unborn

Melbourne's annual pro-life march was again held in October to commemorate the passing of Victoria's shameful pro-abortion legislation on October 10, 2008.

This year approximately 2000 committed pro-lifers from Victoria and interstate converged on State Parliament House to make our views known to the current government in the hope that this law will be repealed and some legal protection restored for pre-born babies.

Assembling in the Fitzroy Gardens and peacefully marching through the streets en route to Parliament House, the march made a brief stop outside Victoria's first legal baby-killing facility the notorious East Melbourne "Fertility Control Clinic" on Wellington Parade.

At Parliament House we were met with the usual rump of about 20 noisy and unkempt pro-death activists who as in previous years were made up of various socialist groups and supporters of the perverted "Australian Sex Party". Despite this opposition and thanks to a superior public address system, the pro-life crowd enjoyed inspiring speeches from a range of local, interstate, and international speakers. Capably MC'ed by Bernie Finn MLC, speakers included Cindy Collins of Louisiana USA, NSW Attorney-General Greg Smith, and Michael Gidley MLA who with the help of RTLA's campaign, defeated the pro-abortion Maxine Morand in Mount Waverley at last year's Victorian state election.

Ewan McDonald



Three Right to Life Stalwarts since the 70's  
Left to right: Eugene Ahern, Margaret Tighe and Dr Katrina Haller.



Anna McDonald, daughter of committee member Ewan McDonald from Timmering Victoria.



Part of the crowd

## New IT system will bring us closer to you!

Right to Life Australia is investigating the purchase of a new info technology system which will assist us in contacting you more effectively. At the moment we have a basic banking and membership data base. It is difficult to send action alerts or information members except via "snail mail" system and we know most members are now familiar with electronic methods of communication. The highlight of the new system is that both the banking and the membership components of the system will be fully integrated. That means that you will be able to pay your membership, donate, book and pay for conferences on line. Don't panic if you are not familiar with these systems as we will still be able to contact you, by mail, telephone or even fax.

One of our prolife supporters Mr Simon Greener, an IT consultant from Tasmania is currently researching an appropriate system. An exciting feature of the system will be the interaction between our membership and Google maps (a visual Melways system). As an example, we will be able to

identify all members who live in one region according to their location on Google maps. Effectively the system will operate like a GPS in your car. We can instruct the the system to send only those specific members an action alert. We may want to identify all the members who live within a 5 minute drive of an abortion clinic e.g. if organising a protest at short notice. In addition the electronic alerts will be much cheaper than sending letters. We will keep you posted about the purchase and implementation of the new system, which should be functional by early 2012.

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please could you let us know. Our email address is [rtl@rtlust.com](mailto:rtl@rtlust.com)

**REQUEST:** Approximately 40% of Right to Life Australia supporters have given us their email addresses. **Please could you send your email address if you have not already done so.** We need to ensure that our database is up to date before the introduction of our new system.

## Witnessing for Life- Judy Reid

Dr. Grundmann was running a late-term abortion clinic in Brisbane, in the 90s-apparently he decided it was time to expand into Melbourne, and chose Croydon as his site. At the time there was an article in the 'Herald Sun', describing the late-term procedure in all its grisly detail but, there was no reaction of public indignation and the clinic went ahead. A group of committed people began a witness in the street at the front but gradually the numbers reduced; and although the witness has continued, with mainly Right to Life members, at the most there would be four or five people, on one day a week. Anne O'Dwyer has been the coordinator, and two years ago, she courageously decided to have the witness on two days, which means that very often there are just two people there.

Some clients do arrive on foot, or from the bus; some just seem to have not taken in the advice which we know they are given in great detail about reaching the clinic; they park near the medical centre and look around for the entrance on foot; and sometimes they come by taxi - and we often wonder if the drivers are actually trying to give us a little help, by stopping just off the street to let their clients out, so we can try to make contact.

On a typical morning, we arrive and set up some signs - a phone number for those "Hurt By Abortion", a picture of an 18-week baby in utero, one saying "Make Adoption Your First Option; we have a box of model babies at different stages. We have pamphlets - one with the Pregnancy Counselling phone number and others with various information.

We stay for two hours and during that time anything can happen - or nothing. Sometimes, (from the cars driving along Dorset Road) we are subjected to loud tooting and shouted abuse or, in the case of cars leaving the abortion clinic or the medical clinic, much loud revving of engines or squealing of tyres. Often, we are told to "Get a life!" which we feel is somewhat ironic, as that is exactly what we are there to do. Some drivers stop and wind down their windows to yell abuse, which we usually ignore; we have had things thrown from cars at us or been spat on. So far, we haven't sustained any personal injuries. Occasionally people attack our signs, requiring some running repairs. Recently our model babies were flung out of their box and the box was broken but the babies weren't harmed. The abortionist himself has approached us, more than once - and once, at least, flung some of our signs on to the road. But he didn't remain to talk.

Sometimes, people actually get out of their cars and come and speak with us, sometimes very aggressively and often without any interest in anything we have to say.

And sometimes, people genuinely do want to know why we are there, not knowing there is an abortion facility nearby and their reactions to that information vary from indifference to real concern.

And then, there are people who come up to say "I've been meaning to come and tell you for weeks that I admire what you're doing" or "I pray for you whenever I see you here". One morning a car turned into the driveway right beside us. We looked at each other apprehensively - such arrivals could be aggressive sometimes. A young woman got out and greeted Ann, then opened the back door of the car. There on the back seat, in a capsule, was a beautiful new baby. Anne had some ongoing contact with this Mother, from the day when she arrived at the clinic, to abort her baby, because her boyfriend had said he would leave her if she didn't. She had already had one abortion and was not keen to repeat the experience.

He did desert her, at that time but, by the time she was due to deliver she was seeing him again and he attended the birth and appeared ready to resume supporting her and the baby.

It's not easy, being part of the witness at an abortion clinic; all the time I am there, I am thinking of what is going on inside and of how the mothers are going to feel tomorrow; as well as nerving me to stand up to any hostile approaches. We are very short of manpower. I was deeply affected by a young woman who came from the medical centre and marched up to me, with a baby in her arms. "I've had two abortions and I've got three beautiful children", she began. "Oh", said I, "have you had any counselling?" "Counselling - what for?" "For the pain you must be feeling". With that, she seemed to change gear completely - "Pain" she almost shrieked at me; "You can't do anything for THAT pain! I'll never get rid of THAT pain! I'll have THAT pain for as long as I live!"

So, I think, one of the things I'm trying to do, is prevent others from going through "that pain" and that helps to keep me standing there, week after week, year after year.

If you are interested in joining Judy's group at the Croydon clinic please call us at the Right to Life Office on (03) 9385 0100.



Baby "Harry" saved from the Croydon Clinic

# Annual Right to Life Australia A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of Right to Life Australia was held at our new office in East Brunswick on October 27th with Dr John James presiding.

We are pleased to announce the election of the following office bearers for 2012:

<b>Dr John James</b>	President
<b>Margaret Tighe</b>	Vice President
<b>John Dynan</b>	Treasurer
<b>Mary Lou Corboy</b>	Secretary
<b>Ewan McDonald</b>	Committee Member
<b>Paul Johnson</b>	Committee Member
<b>Lien Van der Velden</b>	Committee Member
<b>Veronica Alp</b>	Committee Member
<b>Stephen Jury</b>	Committee Member
<b>Sheila Wells</b>	P.C.A. Representative

We are sorry to lose Dr Mathew Piercy from the committee. He has carried out some excellent work in defence of human life.

Unfortunately, Dr Piercy's work as an Intensive Care Specialist in country Victoria means that he no longer has the time to be a committee member.

It is good to have two young people on our committee – Veronica Alp and Stephen Jury.

## MARK YOUR DIARY NOW FOR OUR GREAT 2011/12 EVENTS:

**Sat 17 Dec 2011** (note this year)

**Youth for Life forum** – 1.30pm - 4.30pm  
Venue: RTLA, 161 A Donald Street, E Brunswick  
Mr Bernie Finn MLC, film and letter writing  
Light lunch provided

**Sat 25 February 2012**

**Japanese dinner** – hosted by Dr Katrina Haller  
Register your interest now – places limited

**Sat 17 March 2012**

**Eastern Metropolitan Dinner**  
Whitehorse Club, Burwood

**Sat 28 April 2012**

**Pregnancy Counselling Australia Fundraising Dinner**  
Aurora Receptions 149 Donald Street, E Brunswick

**Thu-Sat 3-5 May 2012**

**Life Hike 2012** Venue to be notified.

**Sat 26 May 2012**

**Italian Regional dinner** – hosted by Lucia Doyle

**A**fter you die,  
help someone to live

**R**emember our life-  
saving work in  
your will

**Right to Life Australia Inc.**

Further information

Phone (03) 9385 0100 or

Fax (03) 9384 6811

Ask for Doris Rossi



## We need more bequests to keep us going

We are always so grateful to receive a bequest from one of our deceased supporters. Occasionally the person, who in life valued our work and wanted to help it continue after his/her death has not even been on our mailing list. It really gives us a lift to learn that the deceased has placed so much confidence in us and in our work.

Those who wish to see what you have earned be put to good use please consider the life saving work of Right to Life Australia. As we say – after you die, help someone to live!

## SILVER CIRCLE A PREGNANCY COUNSELLING AUSTRALIA FUNDRAISER

### Results

#### September

(No. 9) \$100	1st Sr Bernadette Fox	– Abbotsford, VIC
(No. 142) \$40	2nd Miss Patricia Worm	– Kyabram, VIC

#### October

(No. 30) \$100	1st Sr Barbara Walsh	– Abbotsford, VIC
(No. 115) \$40	2nd Mr David Kane	– Mooroopna, VIC

**Want to Join? \$24 per annum**

Phone (03) 9416 1686 or 0417 096 377  
mkanergs@goodshp.com.au

Payments to Pregnancy Counselling Australia  
19/7 Clarke Street, Abbotsford, Vic., 3067

## Stephanie Key's Criminal Law Consolidation (Medical Defences – End of Life Arrangements) Amendment Bill 2011

Comments prepared for Right to Life Australia by Dr Mathew Piercy MBBS, FANZCA, FCICM (Intensive Care Medical Practitioner, Shepparton, Victoria)

The basis of this Bill is to provide a legal defence for a doctor who willingly prescribes medication for a terminally ill patient with the intention of ending their life. As such this Bill effectively allows the practice of euthanasia under the guise of palliative care.

The principle of "double effect" is something that is generally accepted in the medical community in a palliative care situation – that is pain-relieving medication such as morphine can be prescribed in doses aiming to adequately treat a patient's pain, knowing that as a possible side effect the patient's life may be shortened. In my experience this is something that is done in the final hours to days of a patient's life, and does not shorten a patient's life to any significant degree.

An argument that has been touted by members of the euthanasia lobby is that this accepted palliative care practice constitutes "slow euthanasia." Whilst continuing to advocate for voluntary euthanasia, proponents of this argument, such as

Helga Kuhse of Monash University, claim that such a practice constitutes a form of euthanasia that is not regulated by any legislation, and hence needs to be clarified by law reform specifically allowing such a practice. Published studies of figures suggesting such a practice is widespread have been used in European countries, such as the Netherlands, to pave the way for the legalisation of voluntary euthanasia.

In some countries, because of the spectre of the euthanasia campaigns by the Nazis before and during the Second World War, prefer to use a different term from the word euthanasia. In Switzerland, for example, a term *Sterbihilfe*, is used to describe acts and omissions intended to shorten life.

I would make the simple point that this Bill is an attempt to "muddy the waters" between a perfectly acceptable palliative care practice and euthanasia. In effect, should this law be passed, it would become legal for a doctor to willingly prescribe an overdose to a terminally ill patient with the intent of ending their life. Such an act crosses the line from palliative care to patient killing and is not an accepted part of medical practice.

**"BE AT THE TABLE  
OR  
BE ON THE MENU"**  
The Hon Nick Goiran  
MLC WA

## The U.K. case of W and M and S and a NHS Primary Care Trust

In a case decided on 28/09/2011 in the Court of Protection at the Royal Courts of Justice, in London, permission to withdraw artificial nutrition and hydration from M was refused because she was in a "minimally conscious state" and not in a "vegetative state."

M had sustained brain damage as a result of brain stem encephalitis. Applications to withhold or withdraw artificial nutrition and hydration from a patient who is in a "vegetative state" or a "minimally conscious state" must be referred to a High Court Judge.

The patient was (mis)diagnosed to be in a "vegetative state" so an application was made to the court to withdraw artificial nutrition and hydration. It was only some time after the application was launched that the SMART (Sensory Modality Assessment and Rehabilitation Technique) test was administered and disclosed that M was in fact in a "minimally conscious state." The case confirmed that it is important to diagnose a patient's true condition before any application is made to the court. There was an argument about whether or not M was hypersensitive to stimuli. However it was pointed out that her exaggerated responses were reduced when actions to be undertaken were explained beforehand. For example, M jumped when a person clapped their hands without warning, but not when she was warned in advance. It was argued that M showed signs of interaction and recognition of objects.

The formal assessment tools, the SMART and the WHIM tests, (Wessex Head Injury Matrix) were done in June and July 2011. These record activity and responses, such as opening eyes and looking around, appearing to relax when sitting quietly in the sun and appearing to turn her head towards the sun. The history of this case shows how cases can be misdiagnosed if these tools are not used.

Referral was made to a 2010 paper by Seel: "Failure to detect behavioural signs of consciousness may lead to premature termination of treatment and missed clinical opportunities... Conversely, misinterpreting non-purposeful or reflexive behaviour as conscious behaviour may lead to falsely optimistic prognoses... in the most severe circumstances, misdiagnosis can cause inappropriate family and legal decisions regarding withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment."

A report was provided by Professor Turner-Stokes. Initially her report included consideration of the best interests of M, but also the interests of her family and the costs to the State. In a supplementary report she acknowledged that the legal question to be determined by the court is that of M's best interests only. She added, "I therefore formally resile from the broader assessment of impacts contained in my earlier report – specifically, neither the benefits to the carers nor the burdens to the family and to the State are relevant to the case currently before the court."

The Court of Protection did indeed protect the right to life of M.



# News from around the World

## United States

**Major pro-life documents will help nations resist UN pressure to legalize abortion** By Austin Ruse (Lifesitenews.com) NEW YORK, October 7, 2011 (C-FAM) – Last month the UN Special Rapporteur on Health, The Secretary General and the UN High Commission on Human Rights claimed that UN officials commonly tell foreign governments that they are required by international law to liberalize their abortion laws.

The High Court of Colombia changed their abortion laws based on these assertions from a UN committee.

Enter the San Jose Articles, launched this week in the UN press briefing room at UN headquarters in New York. Professor Robert George told UN press and observers that the San Jose Articles were drafted to help government officials fight back against such assertions.

“The San Jose Articles were drafted by a large group of experts in law, medicine, and public policy. They support and assist those around the world who are coming under pressure from UN personnel who say falsely that governments are required by international law to repeal domestic laws protecting human beings in the embryonic and fetal stages of development against the violence of abortion” said George.

**House OKs Legislation Stopping Abortion Funding in Obamacare** By Steven Ertelt, Washington, DC (LifeNews.com – 13.10.11)

The House approved the Protect Life Act, to stop abortion funding in Obamacare. Senate Democrats are not expected to approve the bill and, pro-abortion President Barack Obama is expected to veto the measure if it reaches his desk.

H.R. 358, Protect Life Act, makes it clear that no funds authorized or appropriated by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), including tax credits and cost-sharing reductions, may be used to pay for abortion or abortion coverage.

The pro-life measure also ensures that state laws “protecting conscience rights, restricting or prohibiting abortion or coverage or funding of abortion, or establishing procedural requirements on abortion” are not abrogated by Obamacare.

## Rome

**Pro-life groups applaud EU ruling against patenting embryo-destructive technologies** By Hilary White, Rome Correspondent

ROME, October 20, 2011 (LifeSiteNews.com) – An array of pro-life and family groups in Europe have applauded a decision by the European Court of Justice that banned scientists from patenting technologies that require the destruction of human embryos.

Rebecca Roughneen of Ireland’s Youth Defence told LifeSiteNews.com, “The ruling is very specific: it says that ‘a process which involves removal of a stem cell from a human embryos at the blastocyst stage, entailing the destruction of that embryo, cannot be patented’.”

The Grand Chamber of the European Court of Justice upheld a 2008 decision of the EU patent office, saying the definition of a human embryo includes a “fertilized egg.” The ruling is binding on all 27 EU member states and strengthens the existing prohibition on the patenting of embryonic stem cell research.

“Indeed, fertilization marks the beginning of the biological existence of a human being that undergoes a process of development. Therefore the human embryo, at every stage of development, must be considered a human being with potential, and not just a ‘potential human being,’” said the COMECE bishops.

The new ruling says that the human embryo is an organism “capable of commencing the process of development of a human being, “however it was created, whether naturally or by cloning.”

## Ireland

**Irish government rejects UN abortion demands**

By John Jalsevac (LifeSiteNews.com)

October 11, 2011– Following intense criticism of the passive response of the Irish Minister for Justice to a UN meeting’s call for Ireland to legalize abortion at a UN hearing, the government said it will reject recommendations attacking Ireland’s pro-life laws. At the UN meeting, delegates from Britain, Denmark, and Spain called for Ireland to legalize abortion. Minister for Justice Alan Shatter had claimed that the Irish Supreme Court had decided that it was lawful to terminate a pregnancy in Ireland when it is necessary to preserve the life of the mother. “The people, not the European Court, decide Ireland’s pro-life laws,” said Niamh Uí Briain of the Life Institute.

## Spain

**Death by prenatal screening: how one girl with Down syndrome narrowly escaped** By Dr Esteban Rodriguez Martin

Translated by Matthew Cullinan Hoffman (LifeSiteNews.com)

October 21, 2011– “One month ago a precious girl was born in my hospital with Down Syndrome – a rarity these days, since 90% of these children diagnosed before being born end up in a container of biological waste. “Hope” is the child of a young couple. Her parents were screened for risk of chromosomal defects which revealed that she was at an elevated risk of Down Syndrome. The peace of mind that the test had promised disappeared. They were offered an amniocentesis. The parents accepted this. The amniocentesis failed after several attempts to extract the sample of amniotic fluid in which Hope’s chromosomes would be analysed. The doctors proposed repeating the amniocentesis the following week, but the mother did not arrive for the appointment.

Hope was born, beautiful, very healthy, with three chromosome 21’s instead of 2. What has saved her life is that the diagnosis was made after her birth.