

MARCH APRIL 2014

TASMANIA VOTES LIBERAL

The final results are Liberal:15, Labor:7 and Greens:3. The Members of Parliament who voted for the horrendous abortion bill and who lost their seats were Tim Morris and Paul O'Halloran (Greens), David O'Byrne, Brenton Best and Brian Wightman (Labor). The new Premier, Will Hodgman has been congratulated by Margaret Tighe.

Two of the most courageous proliferers in Australia would have to be Sandra Caddy and Ron McMillan who recently drove a truck carrying a huge billboard around Tasmania during the week leading up to the State election. Despite some nasty and threatening abuse Sandra and Ron stuck to their guns and kept on keeping on.



Well done Sandra and Ron! The unborn salute you!

The Right to Life Australia campaigned in Bass, against Michelle O'Byrne, Brian Wightman and Kim Booth. We posted the "Baby Nicholas" brochure to every house in Bass. There was a 15% swing to the Liberals, 11% swing against Labor and 8% swing against the Greens in Bass. Labor M.P. Brian Wightman, who voted for the infamous Reproductive (Access to Terminations) Bill 2013, lost his seat, replaced by a Liberal, Sarah Courtney. The new Premier is pro-life Will Hodgman.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

We are thankful that Bob Such does not have the balance of power, as it is he who has introduced nine euthanasia bills into the South Australian Parliament. Michael Hall, President of the South Australia Right to Life led the campaign, which letterboxed Bob Such's electorate twice. There was an 8% swing against him. See page 2 for campaign report.

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Lorraine Twentyman sorting the 40 000 Baby Nicholas brochures for delivery to Bass households.

TASMANIAN CAMPAIGN



Our Tasmanian Campaign included placing advertisements in the Hobart Mercury, Launceston Examiner and Huon News. Australia Post delivered the Baby Nicholas leaflet to almost 40,000 households in the electorate of Bass. The mobile billboard I would say was the highlight of the campaign. We designed a billboard which was attached to an A frame on a trailer. This was coordinated by Ron and Sandra with engineering work by Brendon Keogh. Ron McMillan and Sandra Caddy drove through all electorates, starting with North West Coast, then Launceston, then through to Hobart, to Huon Valley and then back through Hobart up to Launceston on Friday. We concentrated on Bass, which was the Health Minister Michelle O'Byrne's electorate. She sponsored the Reproductive Health (Access to Terminations) Act 2013. Their journey was eventful to say the least.

It has been very difficult as they were not allowed to park in council areas, and had to keep driving. Hard to even get a cup of tea! They met Graham Preston at the Hobart showgrounds, where Graham and some protestors had gathered. The Mercury journalist arrived and wanted to know what was printed on the truck. They received fantastic support from the locals, in particular Anna and Simon Greener for housing the truck and trailer and providing accommodation. - Mary Collier

Advertisement

FISHER VOTERS

ARE YOU DYING TO VOTE FOR BOB SUCH?

Bob Such (Independent Member for Fisher) wants to legalise patient killing or euthanasia in South Australia.

He has made nine attempts to do this – so far without success.

He intends to try again with another euthanasia bill if he returns to Parliament



YOU CAN STOP HIM

Vote Bob Such last!

Better patient care – NOT patient killing

Authorised by M Tighe for Right to Life Australia Inc
161A Donald St. Brunswick East VIC 3057



03.11.2014 22:01 News Limited Proof ©

Euthanasia MP targeted in SA election

The Right to Life Association of South Australia conducted an anti-euthanasia campaign prior to the recent South Australian state election held on March 15, 2014. The campaign consisted of two letterbox mail-outs, via Australia Post, to about 14300 delivery points in the seat of Fisher, in the southern suburbs of Adelaide. This seat was chosen because the long-term local sitting member, Bob Such, an independent, is the leading political euthanasia proponent in SA. Over the years he has made about nine attempts, via private members bills, to get euthanasia legalised in SA and he is therefore a major thorn in the side of the pro-life movement.

Currently he has a pending bill, entitled "Ending life with Dignity (No. 2) Bill 2013", which he intends to submit to the SA Parliament, with the aim of legalising euthanasia in SA in 2014. Although Bob Such is well-entrenched in his electorate, The Right to Life Association of South Australia decided to proceed with this electoral letter box campaign, highlighting deficiencies in this bill. The leaflets were mailed out in envelopes bearing the message:

In 1880, Ned Kelly's last words were "Such is Life".

In 2014, Such is Death.

We pointed out that this radical bill would allow doctors to kill terminally-ill South Australians, either by lethal injection or by giving drugs to the person to self-administer and that this would be a huge step for SA – a giant leap off the moral cliff.

After signing the euthanasia request form, there is no specified cooling-off period for the patient. Also, if the person is unable to sign the voluntary euthanasia request form due to ill-health, the bill says a verbal request in front of two witnesses is sufficient. The witnesses are then able to sign the form on the patient's behalf – a very dangerous idea! How easy it would be to fill in the form for old, sick and incompetent people who have not asked for nor agreed to euthanasia: the slippery slope of legalised euthanasia. We pointed out that with this legislation, the safety of the sick and elderly in hospitals, nursing homes, hospices or even their own home cannot be assured.

This campaign did raise the ire of Bob Such and gained publicity in the SA media. Bob Such was re-elected, but The Right To Life Association of SA has informed Bob Such's electorate, at some cost, about the deficiencies of his proposed euthanasia bill, and thus hopefully will generate appreciable opposition to it in the foreseeable future.

Michael Hall.

President

The Right To Life Association of SA

Incidentally Bob Such suffered an 8% swing against him. Fortunately he does not hold the balance of power, as that appears to be held by Geoff Brock, Member for Frome.

– Editor Margaret Tighe

Letter from the President

Dear Friends of life,

These past weeks have been extremely busy for Right to Life Australia as we concentrated on the Tasmanian elections and the preselection battle in Kew, in which we saw Mary Wooldridge, Victorian Community Services Minister, defeated because of her support for the infamous Abortion Law Reform Act 2008. As luck would have it, we have a significant number of members and supporters in Kew.



The Tasmanian election was a very significant battle ground for us. I don't believe Tasmanians have seen anything like it! Despite being short of funds, we believe that we had to remind Tasmanians of the appalling actions of the A.L.P. and Greens in legislating to allow abortions till birth and severe penalties for doctors and health professionals who do not refer for abortions and severe penalties for protestors outside the abortion facilities.

This is the worst abortion legislation in the Western world!

The courageous actions of South Australian Right to Lifers in campaigning against euthanasia advocate, Bob Such, Independent for Fisher, were admirable. We gave our support with a half page advertisement in the Advertiser. To those people who responded so generously to our appeal for funds, let me assure you that none of this could be done without you. So – thanks a million!

Meanwhile we keep on reminding people of the culture of death in which we live.

In Life

– Margaret Tighe.

Bernard Finn M.L.C.

Member of the Victorian Legislative Council for the Western Metropolitan seat since 2006, previously he was member for Tullamarine in the Legislative Assembly between 1992 and 1999.



Bernard Finn deserves great credit for having the courage to speak out against the killing of unborn children by abortion – something he has been doing since early times. Indeed he joined Right to Life as a teenager. The treatment he has received from the media and Victorian Premier Dr Dennis Napthine – his party leader – is nothing short of disgraceful. They have lampooned him by publishing unattractive photos of him and by depicting him as cruel and heartless because he, quite correctly stated that pregnancy from rape is no justification for abortion. During debate on the infamous Abortion Law Reform Act 2008, Bernard Finn was on his feet making a speech against it for 11 hours collectively. Only one other M.P. – Peter Kavanagh – did the same. One thing is for sure, he has never shirked from proclaiming the need for us all to uphold the most basic of human rights – the right to life itself – a principle he put into practice as a young new father, faced with the birth of a very disabled son.

– Margaret Tighe.

Geoff Shaw M.P. Frankson

Good on Geoff Shaw who has stuck to his guns on the abortion issue.

Much has been said and written about Mr Shaw because he has been in the hot seat about the use of his parliamentary entitlements which he has repaid. Whilst I don't condone these misdemeanours I believe that Geoff Shaw has shown immense courage in speaking out for the unborn!



I was so impressed with his interview recently on the 7.30 Report (Victorian Eastern) especially with his obvious sincerity, being unafraid to spell out the reality of our abortion, or lack of abortion law.

– Margaret Tighe.

Brisbane's Rally For Life

Hundreds rallied to urge a culture of life on 22nd Feb in Brisbane. Speakers were Margaret Tighe, Right to Life Australia President, Australian Christian Lobby state Director, Wendy Francis and Tim Rushbrook, father of a child with Down syndrome.

Margaret encouraged those to "keep up your opposition to the tragic destruction of human life that occurs in Australia today." "...there is a silent group of human beings in Australia today who have no rights, who are denied the very basic of human rights – the right to life itself."

Wendy Francis spoke of the death of her two sisters "I have experienced walking the journey to death with two people who I love dearly. And there was pain and joy in that journey. But through it all, the overwhelming emotion that I experienced was the great privilege I had in caring for them"

Mr Rushbrook spoke of the "extremely high value" to his family and others of his son with Down syndrome, Jireh.

Theresa Martin, President of Cherish Life Queensland organised this event which was a great witness to protecting life at all ages.



From left to right: Howard Warren, Tim Rushbrook, Wendy Francis, Margaret Tighe and Teresa Martin

Walk for the Unborn 2014 Update....

Planning for the Walk for the Unborn 2014 is well underway. The walk will be located on the old rail trail between Bright to Everton, which has been groomed for both cyclists and walkers to use. Most of the planning involves working through logistical issues.

Mapping of the route has been submitted to the Councils. Today, routes are defined by online map outlines and satellite maps showing terrain. No need for MELWAYS! However, a "dummy walk" has to be undertaken on location prior to the walk, to identify issues which cannot be predicted merely by looking at maps. The Great Ocean Walk in 2011 provided logistical problems for lunch and drink deliveries as entry points to the track were in rugged and remote terrain. These issues are solved by "walking the walk" and using creative thinking.

Approvals for the walk are conditional on many written documents- one such document is the risk management plan. This includes aspects such as devising how the crossing of intersections of the rail trail with major road crossings (Great Alpine Road) will be managed. Every step of the way needs to be documented and signed off on for council requirements and insurance purposes.

Vic State Police in Alpine Health area and Vic Roads have been notified. We do not expect protests, however this must be included when thinking about risk management.

We are looking for walkers who are interested in being a 'group marshal' as well. Walkers will be divided into smaller groups of 5-6 people of similar ability who will be "guided" by a marshal, who also walks with the group. This is an important safety and communication role. The marshal will have responsibility for communicating with other group marshals as well as the marshal in the support vehicle. If you are interested in this role, please call me at the office to discuss. Meetings will be held prior to the walk to brief marshals on their responsibilities.

Accommodation has been booked at Myrtleford Holiday Park for both Friday and Saturday night, 23-24 May 2014. Allocations will be coordinated by event management. The owners of the accommodation are looking forward to meeting us.

Catering is being organised to feed walkers with lunches, snacks and drinks at stops during the walk. Evening meals will be barbeque style meals with meat, salads and dessert/fruit.

Registration forms and further information available from the office on (03) 9385 0100 or on line www.righttolife.com.au. Everyone, whether you are walking, marshaling, support person, film crew, must use the registration form and submit to the office.

– Mary Collier, Event Manager.

WALK for the Right to be Born 2014

*Join our 3 day fundraising trek
through beautiful country Victoria on the Murray
to Mountains Rail Trail & Indigo Gold Trail*



Your sponsorships will

- help Right to Life Australia continue its work for the unborn in Australia's Parliaments
- &
- help other babies make it to birth like newborn Tobias

Friday 23 • Saturday 24 • Sunday 25 • May 2014



For registration or more information telephone Right to Life Australia on (03) 9385 0100 or www.righttolife.com.au

For Pregnancy Counselling Australia 24 Hour Helpline 1300 737 732

TRAIL BLAZERS FOR LIFE!

Walk for the Right to be born 23-25 May 2014



Registration Form

Please fill one registration form per person

My details: Name (BLOCK letters)

Email:

Address: (Include suburb and postcode)

Telephone: (home)

(Mobile)

(work)

Please tick

Full registrant ☐ \$50 each ☐ or Student registrant \$30 each

Do you require transport to/from the Walk by bus?

Bus will depart/return to RTLA office ☐ Yes ☐ No

Accommodation

Basic accommodation will be provided at Myrtleford Holiday Park www.myrtlefordholidaypark.com.au. There are a small number of cabins which will be allocated as shared bookings in order to minimize costs. Otherwise, bunkhouse accommodation will be available. Participants are welcome to book alternative accommodation. There is a harvest festival in the area that weekend, so book early.

Friday night 23 May 2014 ☐

Saturday night 24 May 2014 ☐

Please indicate days you will walk:

Tick boxes which apply. Or: Please indicate if you are a support person

Friday 23 May 2014 ☐ Saturday 24 May 2014 ☐

Sunday 25 May 2014 ☐

Please return registration form to the Right to Life Australia Inc. PO Box 2029 East Brunswick VIC 3057. Either send cheque, or pay by VISA, Mastercard, via PayPal or deposit funds directly into our bank account [advise surname and postcode if you deposit money into our account] (Commonwealth BSB 063-111 Account No 10109208)

Alarm Bells Ring If Hospital Funding Tied To Advance Care Plans



by Dr Katrina Haller

If the well known entertainer Molly Meldrum had signed an Advance Care Plan, he would not be alive today, yet he suffered an extremely life threatening injury and was not expected to live.

Why do we need such a plan? Is it aimed at saving health care dollars?"

The Victorian Government seems to have plenty of money to spend on car racing, but seems now to be considering tying hospital funding to "Advance Care Plans." How alarming to have the funding of hospitals dependent on how many "Advance Care Plans" they can get patients to sign! You could be admitted to hospital for one condition but then acquire another condition and be killed because you signed an "Advance Care Plan."

Already people can have, and are advised to have a Power of Attorney so that, if they lose the ability to make decisions about their health, their chosen person can make those decisions. This has nothing to do with hospital funding. It has something to do with the patient's healthcare and wishes.

Why is the government threatening to tie hospital funding to "Advance Care Plans?" Are sick people seen as a financial burden on the hospital system, so it is cheaper to do away with them than treat them? People need to be treated as people, not financial burdens. It seems the government is embracing the idea that the holy dollar is more important than the health of our citizens. People have been happy to pay for their health - there was very little objection when the National Disability Insurance Scheme was being discussed and little objection based on its cost.

Does this mean that hospitals that refuse to pressure their patients into signing "Advance Care Plans" will have their funding reduced? This makes hospitals and their staff agents of the State, instead of having the professional freedom to determine the best treatment or palliative care for their patients. There are dangers in the State government's plan to allow people to sign Advance Care Plans because a well person cannot understand how they may feel in the case of a future illness. In many instances, people will be signing away their lives needlessly when in many instances they may have recovered.

We call on the government to assure the public that we will not be coerced into signing "Advance Care Plans" as part of a hospital funding agreement.



After you die, help someone to live
Remember our life-saving work in your Will
The Right to Life Australia
161A Donald St. Brunswick East 3057

RETIRED ABORTIONIST CAMPAIGNS FOR EXCLUSION ZONES IN ALBURY

by Dr Katrina Haller

Retired abortionist, Dr Pieter Mourik, has launched a campaign to stop weekly protests outside an Albury abortuary. He started a petition in which he hopes to gather over 10 000 signatures.

The Border Mail's Nigel McNay wrote (8/2/14), "He raised the issue in a 10-minute meeting with NSW Health Minister Jillian Skinner in Albury" on 5th February 2014. "Dr Mourik highlighted legislation in Tasmania that creates 150-metre exclusion zones that make it illegal for people to protest, threaten, intimidate, film or harass patients. Dr Mourik and fellow organiser Susie Reid have a table in Albury's QEII Square ... for people to sign the petition. It is also available at St Matthew's Anglican Church and Albury Day Surgery."

It is perfectly legal for people to peacefully protest and offer leaflets to people. It is an offence to "intimidate" others which is why we hear this word being used by abortionists, when protestors are trying to protect the lives of babies of vulnerable pregnant women. Congratulations to the protestors - keep up the good work. It is essential that Dr Mourik and Susie Reid fail in stopping the defending of human lives.



Saturday 11th October 2014
1pm at Treasury Gardens, Melbourne
(meet at the corner of Spring Street & Wellington Parade)



Show your Support: Wear Pink and/or Blue



This is me!
BEFORE BIRTH - LEGAL TO KILL



Still me!
AFTER BIRTH - ILLEGAL TO KILL

Graham Preston in Hobart

"Well, I thought I should let you know that I am safely back in Brisbane - it was quite a two weeks down in Tasmania! Thanks for praying as it was not an easy time in many ways.

"The second week wasn't quite as dramatic as the first, although another woman did physically assault me but not to the same degree, or for as long a duration, as the first one. Unfortunately, overall, the number of passers-by who expressed opposition to someone taking a public stance for the unborn very considerably outnumbered those who indicated support and I could hardly get a person to take a leaflet. Nevertheless I did have some good conversations with a number of people. (Curiously, a man who was very aggressive toward me told me that he had been very hurt when his partner had had an abortion against his wishes. Very sadly, a woman told me that the day she had her abortion was the best day of her life.)

"As you've probably heard, there was a change in Tasmania's government following the weekend's election but I wouldn't hold my breath waiting for the new administration to scrap the terrible abortion laws that were introduced under Labor."

On May 7 my charges – both for "failing to comply with a direction of a police officer" – are due to be mentioned in court. It is not clear at this stage if the draconian provisions in the new Reproductive Health (Access to Terminations) Act are going to be used against me or not. While I have had a couple of very good barristers come forward to offer their assistance when this gets to trial, the solicitor who originally gave me help is unable to continue to do so on a pro bono basis. So if you should know of a solicitor, preferably in Hobart, who would be able and willing to help, we would be glad to hear about them. It is not certain either as to whether I'll have to make another trip to Tasmania to be present in court on the 7th for the mention.



Graham Preston campaigning
- photo by Mishka Gora

On **Saturday 24th May 2014**, the annual RTLA Walk for Little Feet will be held in Brisbane starting from the new Woolloongabba abortion "clinic", corner Annerley Rd and Catherine St, at 11.00am and finishing at Parliament House at 2.30pm.

Please join us in speaking up for the defenceless – while we still freely can!

Please make it known – see <http://www.walkforlittlefeet.org/>
Thanks again for your support – we can't do it on our own.

Sincerely **Graham**

Protect Life

The Golden Sceptre – Make a difference

This month Mary Collier spoke to Mansel Rogerson, a RTLA member, about his emailing service to make us effective lobbyists!

MC: Good morning Mansel, tell us about "The Golden Sceptre"

MR: Politicians don't receive as many letters as they should on prolife issues-concluding there aren't many votes in it for them. The Golden Sceptre does the work for you. We design emails to send to politicians, you edit them and send through my website with one click.

MC: How often do subscribers receive emails to send to politicians?

MR: They receive two emails/month – emails can go to several MPs, subscribers can send >100 emails every year effortlessly!

MC: What is the cost?

MR: There are two systems-standard or unique -both are low cost, with trial periods.

MC: Why did you call your service 'The Golden Sceptre'?

MR: From the Book of Esther- Queen Esther risked her life asking King Ahasuerus to save God's people-the King extended his Golden Sceptre, inviting her to state her petition.

MC: How do we find out more?

MR: www.thegoldensceptre.com.au

phone 0423 564 151 or

mansel@thegoldensceptre.com.au



The Golden Sceptre
www.thegoldensceptre.com.au

Parliamentary Banner- Dates

The Victorian Parliament is in session on:

May 6, 7, 8, 27, 28, 29 and June 10, 11, 12, 24, 25 and 26.

"I would like to display the first of our larger banners - the one with 3000 crosses - but we need seven people to handle this. So your presence would be much appreciated. We organise ourselves to commence our presence at the Parliament car park entrance from 8am to 9.30am. I am on leave in May and need a co-ordinator for this period. If you can help please call."

- Des Kelly 9561 3784

SILVER CIRCLE WINNERS

Feb 2014: 1st Prize (\$100) No. 138 Elaine Kendall Trafalgar

2nd Prize (\$40) No. 77 Leanne Kearney Exford

March 2014: 1st Prize (\$100) No. 151 John O'Dwyer Montrose

2nd Prize (\$40) No. 50 Pat Fleming Alphington

If you would like to join for \$24 per year please contact
christine.wong@goodshop.com.au



WHO Concedes That Making Abortion Legal Does Not Make It Safe

BY PAT BUCKLEY Mar 20, 2014

March 20, 2014 (*European Life Network*) - The pro-life movement has always rejected the rhetoric put forward by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) the World Health Organization (WHO) and many others in favour of so called 'safe and legal abortion'.

Hillary Clinton is on the record for making statements such as the following (*Toronto Star* 2010)

"You cannot have maternal health without reproductive health and reproductive health includes contraception and family planning and access to legal, safe abortions."

The implication in this statement and many other similar expressions, is that all legal abortions are safe and illegal abortions are unsafe. A standard response to this claim from pro-lifers has always been that irrespective of whether the terms 'safe and legal' are used it is never safe for the baby and regularly unsafe for the mother. The World Health Organization should have known better than to blindly follow pro-abortion propaganda but it seems that they have had a late conversion to the fact that making abortion legal does not make it safe judging by an **editorial in their latest Bulletin**.

The editorial with the title, 'From concept to measurement: operationalizing WHO's definition of unsafe abortion', considers the definition of "unsafe abortion" and distinguishes the safety of abortion from its legality. This is a reversal of a policy that has been in place since the early 1990s and a step in the right direction.

The article acknowledges, "WHO has historically used a pragmatic operational construct that measures safety in terms of only one dimension—legality—in developing its regional and global estimates of rates of unsafe abortions."

Thus, illegal abortion is not synonymous with unsafe abortion, as indicated by the original definition: "... legality or illegality of services, however, may not be the defining factor of their safety [...] the safety of abortion must be considered within both the legal and legally restricted contexts."

Rates of induced abortion are difficult to measure because of frequent underreporting or misclassification in surveys, hospital records and health statistics.

In light of this, WHO has historically used a pragmatic operational construct that measures safety in terms of only one dimension – legality.

Clearly this methodology distorts the number of so called "unsafe abortions" in countries that prohibit abortion, and has been a useful tool in the hands of pro-abortionists in persuading Governments to legalize abortion.

In point of fact legalizing abortion has never made it safe. It only makes it more common. Evidence from around the world clearly demonstrates that legalizing abortion is not necessary to reduce maternal mortality and protect the lives and health of women.

The article concludes,

"This emphasizes that the termination of pregnancy is neither as simple nor as safe as some advocates of abortion would have the public believe. Moreover, the incidence of such complications as infertility, recurrent miscarriages, premature labor, ruptured uterus or emotional manifestations cannot be assessed at this stage."

It is to be hoped that the WHO conversion to the truth in respect of this one issue will continue and that they will revise their entire approach to motherhood and childcare by recognizing the humanity of the unborn, the injustice of terminating the lives of unborn babies and that they will genuinely research the physical, psychological and emotional consequences of abortion for women.

Reprinted with permission from European Life Network

Council of Europe to Consider Problem of Late Abortions

21/02/2014 from familyandlife.org

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe will soon have to decide whether to take action to deal with the issue of late abortions, answering a written question submitted last month. The question raises particular issues for the United Kingdom following the revelation that each year about 60 fetuses survive after late abortions for several minutes, and sometimes for several hours. They are left to die or killed by medical staff even though some could survive with medical assistance.

The problem also exists in other countries, including Sweden and Italy, where in 2010 a 22 week "foetus" was found alive 20 hours after being aborted. The baby was then placed in intensive care, where he died the next day. He was aborted because he had a cleft lip and palate. Another child in Florence survived three full days after having been aborted. Such events are happening everywhere that late term abortions are allowed, but are rarely reported and made public.

The question asks the Committee of Ministers to act "in order to guarantee that fetuses who survive abortions are not deprived of the medical treatment that they are entitled to—as human persons born alive—according to the European Convention on Human Rights". Even people who argue that life only

begins at birth must accept that a human "foetus" born alive is a person.

To prevent these situations, Norway decided at the beginning of January to prohibit abortion completely after 22 weeks, the threshold of viability outside the uterus as determined by the World Health Organisation.

The Committee of Ministers will provide a written response to this question in the coming weeks. The response adopted by the Committee of Ministers has political authority. Last July, in response to another question, the Committee of Ministers acknowledged the absence of a European consensus as to the existence of a "right to abortion" under the European Convention on Human Rights.

Zenit. February 11.

Stop 'eugenic' creation of 3-parent embryos: Council of Europe to Britain

By Hilary White, Strassbourg, 28/10/ 2013 (*LifeSiteNews.com*) – A group of thirty-four Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), have written a **strongly worded letter** to the British government calling for a halt to the creation of so-called "three-parent" embryos in IVF labs.

The members called the practice of "germ-line" genetic tampering with embryos, so that the changes are passed on through the generations, incompatible with human dignity and international law, labelling it a "eugenic practice."

They quoted Article 24 of the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights, that warned that "germ-line interventions could be considered as practices which are 'contrary to human dignity.' The letter also quoted the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union that said, "In the fields of medicine and biology (...) the prohibition of eugenic practices, in particular those aiming at the selection of persons, must be respected." **"Unethical and macabre"** says SPUC London, 19/1/12 The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) has described as "macabre and unethical" a so-called 'three-parent' embryo technique which is due to receive £5.8 million of funding. Anthony Ozimic, SPUC's communications manager, commented: "These macabre experiments are both destructive and dangerous and therefore unethical. The vast majority of embryonic children created in the laboratory are killed because they do not meet the 'quality control' requirements dictated by scientists involved in such increasingly macabre experiments. It doesn't matter how an embryonic child is created, he or she is still an innocent member of the human family and therefore has the right to life. Scientists should abandon the spurious field of destructive embryo experimentation and instead promote the ethical alternative of adult stem cell research, which is already providing cures and treatments for the same conditions."

www.spuc.org.uk