

Support Her, Protect Them

When a woman first finds out she is pregnant, there may be a tremendous amount of fear, anxiety and pressure from varying sources. She might immediately feel like she has no other options than abortion, that if she continues with the pregnancy she will change her whole future, or that she will not be able to raise a child of her own.. At times when women find themselves in similar situations such as these, society typically advocates for women and at the same time provides a devastating solution that would result in the permanent loss of the life of their unborn child. "Support Her, Protect Them" challenges the faulty choice that society offers to women by promoting that women should be fully supported with compassion and care, while reminding them that they do not have to sacrifice the life of their unborn child to receive that compassion and care, relieving the scare. Realistic support for women does not abandon the most vulnerable, but instead uplifts both the mother and child, recognizing the dignity and worth of each individual.

From the moment of conception, a new and separate human life begins, which includes its own DNA and the natural ability to grow, develop and make contributions to the world ahead of them. The unborn child is not just a part of the mother's body, but is a separate living being that is completely dependent upon the mother for its protection and nutrition. Protecting the unborn is not a form of control or judgment against the mother, it is a recognition of the intrinsic value of every human being, done in a supporting way. When taking action, we cannot claim to believe in the principles of justice and equality for our society and then deny those principles to the weak and/or the convenient. As we protect the unborn, we recognize that human rights are not based on one's size, location or dependence, and that all human lives deserve the right to life.

Every human being should have the opportunity to live their own life, as God created each and every human being with great value, meaning, and purpose.

Protecting the lives of the unborn also needs to be paired with real support for women. Many women who are considering having an abortion are not doing so because they want to, but are forced into committing this act due to financial difficulties, abuse in the relationship, lack of support, or a general fear of social rejection that some might not feel comfortable admitting to.. When we present abortion as a solution to these problems we send the wrong message to women that they cannot overcome adversity unless they remove their child from the equation. This message undermines the strength of women and ignores the fact that there are many resources available to assist them in achieving success. There are many pregnancy resource centers, maternity homes, community organizations, and social services that offer medical care, counseling, housing assistance, educational opportunities and emotional support to women. These resources show us that there is never a woman that must fully choose between her future and the life of her child.

Both the biological and emotional connections between mothers and their children are deep rooted. Through pregnancy, a woman's body is created to naturally protect and care for the development of her child and a bond develops between the two that usually continues long after the child is born. A mother's body will care for anything and everything that is needed for this baby. While abortion is commonly viewed as an easy fix, many women experience long-lasting emotional effects, including grief, regret and unaddressed pain that they may be uncertain of. A culture that genuinely cares to support women must acknowledge and see through these experiences rather than disregarding them. Genuine compassion hears without judgment and heals through listening, rather than through a complete silence. By promoting life-giving choices

and providing care to women, a society can prevent the loss of innocent purposeful life and the long-term emotional damage that many different people can feel from a heartbreaking abortion.

Ultimately, "Support Her, Protect Them" is not simply a slogan for people to hear and agree with, but is a call to action. It calls for individuals and communities to go beyond using words and create a culture of life based on love, accountability and unity together as God would desire. Supporting women involves many different measures, but entirely includes standing with them in moments of fear and providing support to best help them. Protecting the unborn involves advocating for those who cannot advocate for themselves and upholding their glorious right to live. When a society chooses to do both, it creates a future where no woman feels isolated or scared and no child is seen as expendable or unworthy. By supporting her and protecting them, we proclaim the value of every human life and establish a world built on compassion, hope and respect for all human life.