

## SUBMISSION to the NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION.

Professor Louis Waller pointed out that human rights are precisely what we give to people, no more and no less. Bismarck said "Might is Right". The only rights we have are what the law gives us.

In Britain, these rights commenced with Alfred the Great's code of laws. The first chapter of this endorses the biblical (Matthew 7:12) "Do as you would be done by."<sup>1</sup> Alfred was influenced by the Mosaic Ten Commandments and Paul's modification of Jewish law for Christians, as well as the laws of the West Saxons. Human beings are only equal in the dignity and love given them by their creator expressed in the Judeo Christian context.<sup>2</sup> Islam has picked up some of these ideas, but some of the developments of Sharia law are decidedly counterproductive.

Modern Rights laws have a tendency to elevate the rights of some to the disadvantage of others.

In some places power grows out of the barrel of a gun, while in some societies it now grows out of a suction curette. In both cases human life is devalued first, and then destroyed.

Christianity has been more successful in building democratic societies than others, and has found it easier to implement equality through the Golden Rule. Australia's educational system commenced with the efforts of individuals from the various Christian Churches. The shift to State education has overshadowed these beginnings. But the law forbidding discrimination on the basis of religion did allow many Christian individuals to gain employment in the state schools, and the Christian ethos flourished as the background culture in them. The Churches realized that completely eliminating the teaching of religion would eventually result in the loss of knowledge of the foundations of our cultural heritage. Despite being denied state funds they continued to teach at their own expense until the mid nineteen-fifties saw some state relief being given to them.

However the loss of respect for others, implicit in using others for sexual gratification without responsibility or commitment, shows that we are losing some of that culture. Ignorance of fundamental Christian concepts leaves our youth open to the blandishing advertisements that sex is responsible if you use the right pill or condom, or kill the unborn child inconveniently conceived by their predictable failures.

Psychopaths, who can be extremely clever and charmingly manipulative, use other people for their own ends, with no regard for the consequences to others. The freedom of religion act gives them carte blanche. If there is no right and no wrong, who is to gainsay them?

Our community appears not to recognise that there are serious differences in religions which need to be debated and discussed openly. Conscience to many, appears to be doing what you want to do regardless. The idea that conscience is the ultimate freedom of deciding for oneself what is right in God's eyes, as opposed to men's, is foreign to them.

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Alfred the Great Asser's Life of King Alfred and other contemporary sources. Keynes and Lapidge. Penguin Classics 1983 –reprinted 84,85,87,88. P163.

Despite the fact that the law recognizes the biological beginning of life as at fertilization, and pregnancy as the symbiotic union of two distinct beings, it refuses to grant legal personhood to the unborn, until birth. The European Court of Human Rights found that the unborn child is not regarded as a "person", and if the unborn child does have a "right to life", it is implicitly limited by the mother's rights and interests. (VLRC Final Report on Abortion p 166) The corollary to this finding is obviously that the mother's rights and interests are also limited by the child's right to life, but somehow this side never gets put.

The International human rights covenants positively discriminate against the developing child by refusing to recognise abortion as the legal execution of the unborn. Their equating of this killing with "family planning" is deceit and hypocrisy of the highest order. Men and women should responsibly plan their families before pregnancy commences. The Victorian Attorney General recognized the dangers of international rights law as regards abortion when he precluded any reference to abortion in the Victorian Rights Act

The Victorian Law Reform Commission stated that "International human rights law does not preclude abortion, and does not establish a right to life of the fetus. Nor does it guarantee a right to provision of abortion services beyond the general right to health..."

My experience is that many women say that as soon as they woke up from the anaesthetic, they regretted their decision to abort. Of particular poignancy, was one woman who suddenly realized that at 41 years, she had possibly destroyed her last chance of having a child.

Abortion is frequently associated with coercion. The first case to leap to mind is that of the Chinese woman who was fleeing to Australia to escape an abortion, and was deported back to China where she was forcibly aborted of her viable infant. Australia's role in this case was infamous.

I was involved with a young woman engaged to be married, who became pregnant only to find that her fiancée wanted an abortion. Usually she had a normal blood pressure, but when I found her with a raised blood pressure every time her fiancée visited her, specialist advice was that the fiancée be barred from visiting for the duration of the pregnancy and six weeks after. This solved her blood pressure problems, she had the baby, and married a widower whose infant son was of a similar age.

Once while I was on holidays, a business man friend sent one of his staff to a pregnancy support centre, with which I had previously been connected. When I got back he rang me to say what a marvelous job the social worker there had done, in getting the lass back with her family with the relationship enhanced. I rang the social worker to congratulate her, only to be told sorrowfully by the office, that she had had to leave because some of the volunteers had objected to her. It transpired that this was because they were pro-abortion.

I remember asking a patient why she wanted an abortion. When she remarked "Its only cells," I showed her some pictures from fertilization through the first three months. In recent years, she greeted me with smiles in the local shopping centre. "You know that baby" she said, "he's eighteen years old now." The recent Victorian legislation is coercive in that it attempts to divert patients to abortion providers, so that they will not get a balanced opinion from someone who has a working knowledge of human embryology and obstetrics.

Today's young mothers proudly display the first ultrasounds of their babies, so knowledge is improving, but there are still gaps.

If a human rights law could be framed to acknowledge the actual physical existence of the unborn, and their existential rights, it would help both mother and child. Over the last 40 years, maternity hospital numbers and maternal services have declined. Mothers have lost the prenatal help which they used to have, and the post natal visits from the baby health centre nurse. Fathers have been landed with the job of postnatal care of Mum, and care of the other children unless he ferries them to expensive child care facilities.

Generations of midwives have been deskilled in helping the first mum get her babe on the breast, because the Mums are sent home from hospital before the milk comes in on the fourth day. I found one patient in tears with large blood blisters on her nipples, because she had been forced to keep the babe on the breast for ten minutes each side on day 1. When I explained that 2-or 3 minutes on each side was more appropriate for day 1, they told me that the lactation consultant was away on school holidays. This deskilling has resulted in a dramatic fall in Australian breastfeeding. This in turn has increased the number of food allergies in children. The infantile digestive system may take up to 12 months to develop the acids and enzymes necessary to break down artificial foods, and in the meantime the undigested food may travel across the bowel wall into the blood where it sets up allergies. This then puts another strain on the health system later.

Into the midst of this mess, in 2002, came the Marie Stopes Society from England, with hundreds and thousands of dollars, to buy up 8 daycare centres across Australia. (Euphemism for day contraceptive and abortion procedure centres.) Now it is payback time, and Governments are being lobbied for money to support intrauterine executions here and abroad.

Reproductive rights are an absolute sham. Rights legislation which allows children to be given birth certificates with the false information that they have two parents of the same sex, as in Victoria, is utterly dishonest. A freedom of religion act legalising blasphemy which attacks religion is an absolute no-brainer. To accuse people who enjoy a good robust religious discussion of incitement to religious hatred , and cost them thousands of dollars is religious oppression. Scrap these laws.

Talk about human rights is useless without goodwill and commonsense. The examples above lack these attributes. The constitution has served us well for 200 years. Leave it alone.

This is a personal submission and available for publication

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