



# POLISH FEDERATION OF PRO-LIFE MOVEMENTS

## APPEAL TO THE POLISH PARLIAMENT MEMBERS

### for the right to live of every conceived child and protection of maternity

**W**e hereby appeal to the members of the Polish parliament and senators to amend the Act on Family Planning of 7th January 1993, to exclude thereof **all and any** regulations that would allow killing conceived children and pass a bill that will protect **life of every human being from the moment of conception regardless of health condition or circumstances of conception**. We would also like the mother of the conceived child to remain unpunishable.

Our other appeal is to provide complex and possibly complete **protection of the mother and family of the conceived child**. In this context, we would like to stress the necessity of providing proper support to pregnant women who found themselves in a dire situation. We also call for providing them with maternal social security benefits from the moment of registration of the pregnancy. And yet the pregnant women who require most immediate help are these, whose conceived children are prenatally ill, whose pregnancy poses a threat to their health, or when the pregnancy resulted from a criminal act. They require special medical, financial, psychological and legal aid. We for our part, as far as possible, provide aid and support on every stage of preparing, passing and implementing such a needed program.

#### **JUSTIFICATION:**

The Act on Family Planning, Human Embryo Protection and Conditions of Permissibility of Abortion of 7th January 1993, in force for 23 years, on one hand replaced the Act of 27th April 1956, enforced under the communist terror, that allowed to kill conceived children and introduced a general protection of the unborn, but on the other hand allowed abortion in three exceptional cases: 1. when the pregnancy poses a threat to the life or health of the pregnant woman, 2. prenatal examinations or other medical conditions indicate that there is a high probability of severe and irreversible fetal defect or incurable illness that threatens the fetus's life, 3. there are reasons to suspect that the pregnancy is a result of an unlawful act.

It should be stressed that pro-life activists have always stood for and still demand **complete protection of every conceived child, without exceptions**.

Regardless of its inconsistency, the Act in force for over twenty years was a vital contribution to increased respect towards life of the unborn. The number of abortions decreased manifold, health of the women and newborn children improved. It should be stressed that the good results were achieved without legal sanctions towards women who would decide to undergo illegal abortion. The legislator decided that, due to various mental and physical consequences of abortion, the woman, alongside the conceived child, becomes a victim of abortion herself.

Public opinion research performed in the last years show that most Poles support the right to life for every conceived child, without exceptions. They support the right to life for seriously sick or disabled unborn, they also acknowledge the fact that killing a child is not the appropriate solution to treat a woman, mother of the unborn. Considering the extremely rare situation when 'there are reasons to **suspect** that the pregnancy is a result of an unlawful act,' it cannot be agreed to dispose an unborn of his life just because the father **might** have committed a crime.

The right to life is a fundamental right of every human: healthy or sick, able or disabled, born or unborn. The right remains beyond faith and religion and is included within The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948. Article 3: 'Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.' and in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland (1997), art. 38: 'Republic of Poland provides legal protection of life to **every human**'. Modern science and medicine explicitly confirms the fact that human **life begins at conception**.

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