



ALLIANCE FOR THE FAMILY FOUNDATION PHILS., INC. (ALFI)

Statement on Family and Life Issues

This Statement is shared in the spirit and service of clarifying some truths concerning abortion and marriage which are current topics of public discussion:

Abortion is illegal under any and all circumstances under the Philippine Constitution and statutes. Abortion is not allowed even when the life of the mother is in danger, and similarly when the life of the unborn is threatened. Under the law, the life of the unborn and the life of the mother shall be equally protected because they are equally valuable.

In a conflict situation between the life of the unborn and the life of the mother, the doctor is professionally and morally obligated to try to save both lives because both are his patients. However, he can act in favor of either one when it is medically impossible to save both, provided that no direct harm is intended to the other. Intentional harm to mother or unborn child is never justified, even if intended to bring about a “good” result. If these principles are observed, the loss of the life of either the mother or the unborn that may result is not intentional, and unavoidable, and the doctor will have met his obligation to each of his patients. This is called the **Double-Effect Principle**, which our Supreme Court has recognized.

Consequently, 'therapeutic abortion' is illegal and is a crime.

The laws penalizing abortion as a crime do not provide any exceptions, not even for rape or incest, because a wrong, no matter how grievous, cannot be rectified by another wrong. No one should be deprived of human life without legitimate cause, which in law is established by due process. A fetus, like any other human, is presumed innocent unless proven guilty of some crime. But it is obvious that a fetus has done no wrong except to be an unwanted baby. The appropriate solution for this is for adequate social services to be provided to the mother, especially the handicapped and the underprivileged, by a loving and caring society.

The right to life of the unborn is more basic and superior to the right to privacy of her mother. This restrains a woman from doing whatever she pleases with her body by evicting an unwanted unborn from her womb. The unborn child, while dependent on her mother, is already a separate body—and a new life—distinct from that of her mother. The unborn child is never pitted against her mother because both are human beings whose lives are equally precious. Any conflict of rights between the mother and the unborn is only apparent, not real.

With regard to marriage, sexual complementarity and fruitfulness belong to its very essence and nature. While persons who are same-sex attracted must be respected and accorded the same dignity as all others, this cannot justify legal recognition of same-sex unions. Philippine civil laws already provide enough protection to all individuals as regards their properties and goods, and there is no need to extend legal recognition to such unions to avail of such rights and protection. Moreover, granting legal standing to same-sex unions cannot be done without the State failing in its constitutional duty to defend, protect and strengthen marriage as the foundation of the Filipino family.