



**REGISTERED CHARITY No. 274144**

**ABORTION REVIEW WILL NOT HELP WOMEN OR INCREASE PUBLIC  
CONFIDENCE IN LAW – LIFE**

The national pro-life caring charity LIFE has expressed disappointment at the contents of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee’s report on the abortion law. There will be no reduction in the upper time limit for abortion, and further liberalisation of the law – for example, allowing nurses to sign off on abortions – looks set to be recommended.

Michaela Aston, a spokeswoman for LIFE, said that “many witnesses brought forward information to suggest that the 24-week limit is no longer appropriate, including evidence there has been an improvement in recent years and that adoption of best practice in neonatal units will bring further improvements in the near future. The report seems to have wilfully ignored a great deal of this evidence, and followed a predetermined ideological agenda that owes very little to a careful consideration of the facts. It is particularly shocking that attempts were made to discredit pro-life witnesses with groundless attacks on their experience, judgment and expertise. The lazy assumption that pro-life witnesses were by definition biased and incapable of a fair assessment of the evidence about the medical and technological aspects of abortion is both offensive and deeply mistaken.”

She added: “We also feel that by refusing to discuss the ethics of abortion, the committee passed up a valuable chance to hear from experts in bioethics and to have the full and frank debate that is needed on this most sensitive of all issues. Recent poll data indicates a groundswell in public support for changes to the law. 65% of respondents felt that there were too many abortions in the UK and that the current level should be reduced. Most people feel that – contrary to the original intention of the 1967 Abortion Act – abortion is now available on demand, while 85% of all women questioned said that they wanted to see “more support for women who wish to keep their baby” as opposed to just 8% who wanted “easier access to abortion”. This was especially pronounced among younger women; 92% of 18-24-year-olds and 86% of women aged 25-34 agreed that there should be more support for women to keep their babies.

“At LIFE, we find that women are always grateful for our counselling services, and our supported accommodation, which are a positive alternative to abortion. We seek to meet the needs of every individual in a crisis pregnancy situation.”

**For more information, please contact Michaela Aston on 07747 187 436, or LIFE National Headquarters on 01926 421587.**

LIFE, a registered charity (no. 274144), is the UK's leading provider of crisis pregnancy and post-abortion counselling and supported accommodation for pregnant women and mothers of small children.

LIFE Caring offers counselling, information and support on abortion and pregnancy related issues via our free phone national helpline (0800 915 4600) or our nationwide network of pregnancy care centres.

LIFE Housing runs a supported housing programme for pregnant women and mothers of small children.

LIFE Education employs full-time education officers throughout the UK, who speak to students about abortion, euthanasia and embryo research, as well as sex and relationships. We encourage them to save sex for marriage, and promote commitment, fidelity and permanence in all relationships.