



**REGISTERED CHARITY No. 274144**

**Thursday 21st May 2009**

### **LIFE welcomes slight fall in abortion total**

LIFE, the largest national pro-life charity, is delighted to see at last a reduction in the number of abortions in this country. The total number of abortions performed in England and Wales in 2008 was 202,158 compared to 205,598 in 2007. This means that there were 3,440 fewer abortions, a drop of 1.7%. This news is even more encouraging in light of the fact that the total number of pregnancies rose last year, meaning that the actual proportion of pregnancies ending in abortion has declined.

"This reduction in the number of abortions is definitely positive news and reason for hope," said LIFE spokesperson Michaela Aston. "While there are still far too many abortions, the small decrease in numbers in nearly every age group suggests that more and more women are recognising the value of their unborn child and seeing that there are positive ways to cope with crisis pregnancy."

"Recent polling suggests strongly that the public is unhappy with the present high rates of abortion. Many people have been moved by the detailed images of the unborn child in the womb and concerned by the growing evidence that abortion can cause psychological problems for women, while others have been influenced by the pro-life arguments aired during last year's high-profile debates about time limits and abortion for disability. Do today's figures perhaps reflect this growing unease?"

"LIFE hopes to build on this good news to create a culture that is friendlier to new life. Perhaps it is time to re-examine society's attitudes. All too often, our current culture treats sex merely as recreation, forgetting the possibility for new life; sees the unborn child as a burden and a problem, rather than a uniquely valuable human individual, and neglects the needs of women and their families, who often feel pressured into abortion when they would prefer to welcome new life."

**ENDS**

**For more information or comment, please contact Michaela Aston on 07515, LIFE London on 0207 240 1276, or LIFE National HQ 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.**