

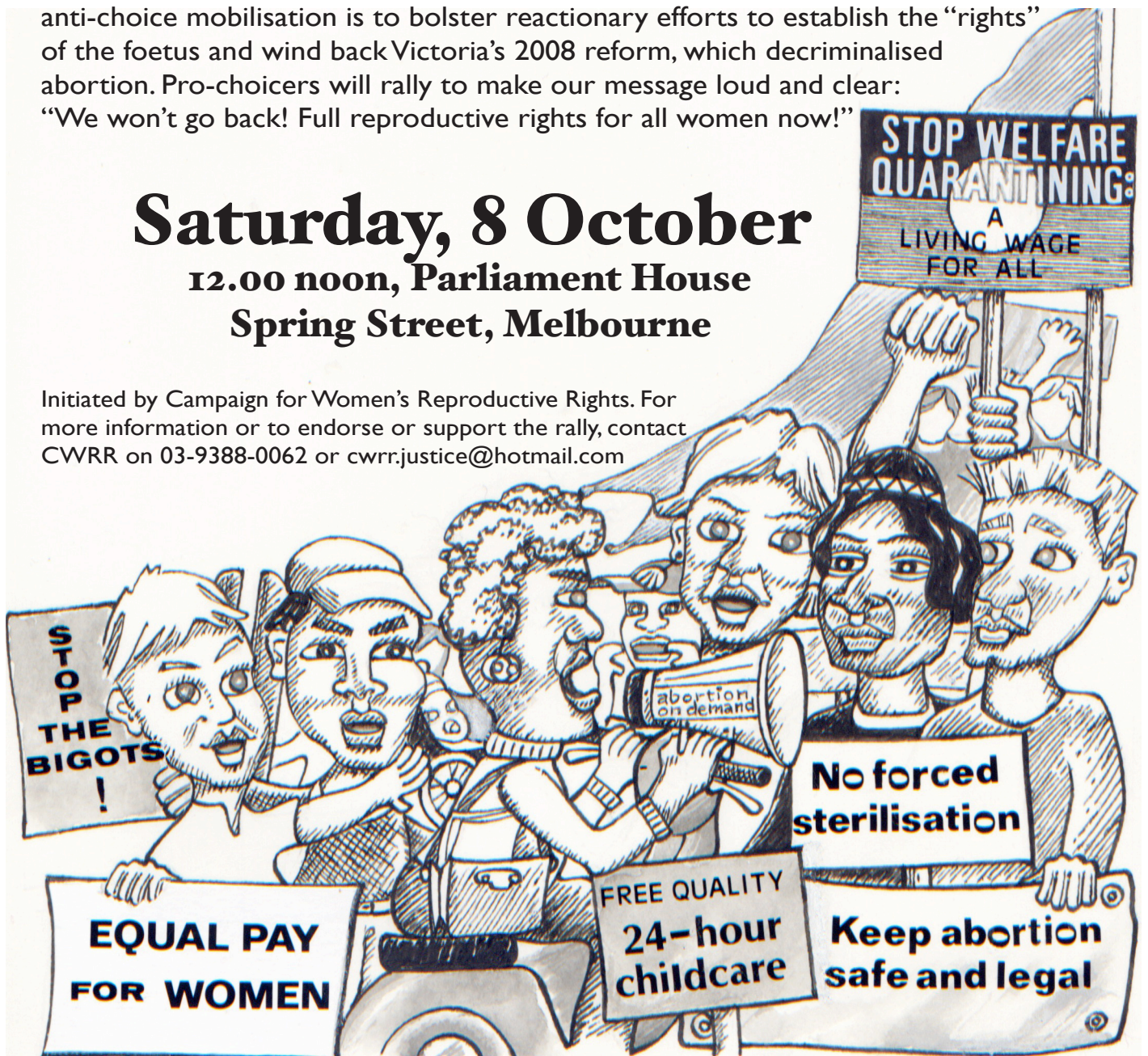
Hit the Streets for Abortion Rights!

Keep abortion legal in Victoria!

Abortion rights in Victoria are under threat. The Right to Life is organising a “March for the Babies” on October 8, wanting to recriminalise abortion. This anti-choice mobilisation is to bolster reactionary efforts to establish the “rights” of the foetus and wind back Victoria’s 2008 reform, which decriminalised abortion. Pro-choicers will rally to make our message loud and clear: “We won’t go back! Full reproductive rights for all women now!”

Saturday, 8 October
12.00 noon, Parliament House
Spring Street, Melbourne

Initiated by Campaign for Women’s Reproductive Rights. For more information or to endorse or support the rally, contact CWRR on 03-9388-0062 or cwrr.justice@hotmail.com



Graphic by Peter Hannaford

On October 8, the Right to Life will mark three years since Victoria's full legalisation of abortion by holding a "March for the Babies." This time last year, anti-abortionists mobilised a similar march that launched a campaign to recriminalise abortion.

A war on abortion rights is raging across the world, as a global ultra-reactionary movement demands that governments dictate what women can and can't do with their bodies. But it doesn't stop there. The far right is also out to repress immigrants, Indigenous Australians, sexual minorities and workers as well as women. Above all, they want to control women's reproductive capacity in order to make it as difficult as possible for them to act as leaders of the struggle for a safe, just and equal world.

Abortion is under fire in Victoria and other states.

Six months after Victoria's decriminalisation in 2008, a young couple in Cairns were charged and tried under Queensland's 1899 abortion laws that could have sent them to prison. In October 2010, the couple were acquitted — a victory for them and for women across the country. However, Premier Anna Bligh refuses to initiate abortion reform, defying the majority of Queenslanders who support a woman's right to choose. Also in October 2010, a Family First Member of the South Australian Parliament introduced a bill requiring doctors to provide women seeking an abortion information about adoption and foster care. This year in Victoria, the Catholic Church is using a review of the Human Rights Charter to establish the "human rights of the unborn" and allow healthcare professionals to refuse referral for a woman wanting to terminate her pregnancy.

Developments in Melbourne and Albury NSW have turned the fight for abortion rights into a free speech

struggle. In Albury, police have asserted that those defending women from harassment as they enter the clinic can be charged with assault. Defenders of East Melbourne's Fertility Control Clinic have been locked in a parallel battle with Melbourne City Council over its enforcement of local laws that infringes the right to protest.

Ninety percent of the Australian population believes that women should have the right to choose abortion. But pro-choicers also have to link abortion rights to all other factors that make choice for women truly attainable: childcare, health services, housing, education and training, jobs, equal pay, unrestricted access to contraception and an end to all forms of discrimination.

On October 8, let's stand up to the woman-haters and demand:

- free, safe, unrestricted abortion on demand for all women, throughout Australia
- end the harassment of those defending abortion services
- make provision of abortion services compulsory in medical training
- stop the removal of Indigenous children into foster care; stop the genocidal detention and deaths in custody of Indigenous people
- stop the forced sterilisation of women with disabilities
- access to quality health services for women in remote and regional communities
- end employers' bullying of immigrant women on temporary work visas — no forced abortions
- free access to reproductive technology for all women, including lesbians and single women
- free, quality 24-hour childcare
- access to free, safe contraception for women of all ages
- universal, non-moralistic sex education in all schools
- guaranteed social services, free education and training.

Endorsers (list in progress): Albury Choice, Freedom Socialist Party, *Green Left Weekly*, Social & Community Sector (Australian Services Union) Metropolitan Delegates Committee, Radical Women, Socialist Alliance

How to get involved

Contact Campaign for Women's Reproductive Rights

Join the elist & stay informed

Email cwrr.justice@hotmail.com or phone 03-9388-0062

Defend the Fertility Control Clinic

10.00 am, fourth Saturday each month.

118 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne (between Powlett & Simpson Streets)