Anti-choice advocates claim to be driven by an indiscriminate empathy (love both) and a genuine concern for human beings' universal right to life (hence the 'pro-life' label)

Can these claims be taken seriously?

Not for a second.

The **vast majority** of abortions occur in the 1st trimester (0 - 12 weeks) before the nervous system is developed enough to experience pain, This number would be even closer to 100% if abortion was easily accessible.

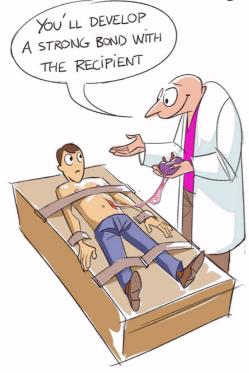
The perception of pain requires connections between the thalamus and the cortex, which is not formed until 30 weeks of gestation.

No Cortical connections = no pain!





Pro-life advocates claim to be concerned about the few minutes of pain foetuses are assumed to experience, and use this argument to overlook the experiences of people who have gone through unwanted pregnancies. They do this **regardless** of the amount of abuse endured, of the acuteness of the trauma, of the duration and type of suffering, or of its life threatening consequences.



Anti-choice advocates would argue that carrying a pregnancy is rarely lethal, while abortion always is, and that the main concern is about human beings'

universal right to life

But if the right to life means a foetus can use a person's body without their consent and as long as their life isn't threatened... then every person in need of a life saving medical intervention should be granted the right to harvest any compatible donor's organs, tissues and blood as long as it doesn't kill the donor.

Anti choice advocates would say that the comparison doesn't work because organ donation is a lot riskier than pregnancy. This is untrue in the case of interventions such as kidney and bone marrow donation, and laughably false in the case of blood donation, yet you do not see anti-choice advocates campaigning to make blood donation compulsory.



The fact that the donor and the recipient might be strangers to one another shouldn't make a difference since the right to life is supposed to be universal.



anti-choice advocates will also deny
that these two situations are comparable by saying
that while the donor has to consent before being
operated on, a pregnant person has already consented
to bear a child by having a sexual intercourse.
This of course overlooks cases of rape, or the fact
that a lot of people get pregnant
because contraception failed.
It implies that consent is something that
cannot be withdrawn,
which is another way of endorsing rape.

Empathy,

the capacity to experience pain when aware of someone else's pain, can be reduced or made selective by various circumstances.

So what makes the empathy of anti choice advocates so **selective**?



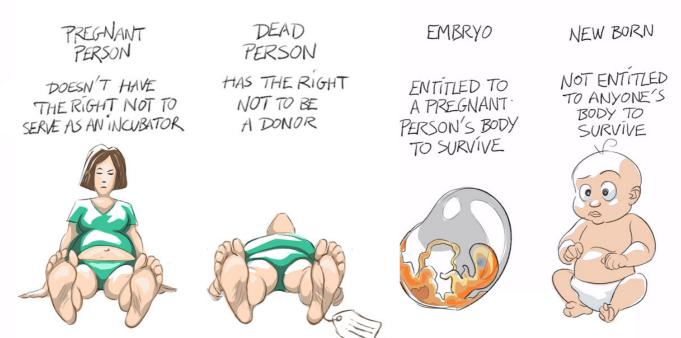
According to this ideology, pregnant people have value only insofar as they bear and raise children, the traditional family is the basic unit of society, women are the property of their husband and their sexuality should be under the control of the husband.



The selective empathy and the selective use of moral arguments by anti-choice advocates reveals one thing: they are not driven by moral principles or empathy, they are instead driven by a misogynistic ideology which they hide behind opportunistic moral arguments.



And if you think this is an unfair depiction, just look at what anti-choice advocates never say about **adoption** every time they suggest this as a solution: in Ireland, despite the fact 52% of women who accessed abortion in the UK in 2015 had children, if you are married, you can only give your child for adoption after having been declared an **unfit mother** (which means any other children you may have had before will have to be **taken into care**) or if the child is born outside of marriage (which means it isn't legal to give up a child born as a result of marital rape).



The main problems with the use of the universal right to life...

Not consistent

- otherwise all lives would be treated the same
- foetuses wouldn't get special treatment over newborns
- -corpses wouldn't have more bodily autonomy than pregnant people
- Embryos would have no more rights to a person's body than a blood/tissue recipient.



This position is not PRO-LIFE it is PRO FORCED BIRTH