



SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

11 January 2008

Rt Hon Mr Tony Blair
P O Box 60519
London
W2 7JU

Dear Mr Blair,

We are writing to you regarding your position on key issues of concern to this Society in the light of your reported reception into the Catholic church..

Your position on pro-life issues and your record as prime minister as a Member of Parliament are a matter of justified concern to people in the pro-life movement, regardless of their faith. The Catholic Church teaches that “In the case of an intrinsically unjust law, such as a law permitting abortion or euthanasia, it is...never licit to obey it, or to ‘take part in a propaganda campaign in favour of such a law, or to vote for it’”.
(*Evangelium Vitae*, 73)

We would therefore be most grateful if, in the light of your reception into the Catholic church, you would tell us if you now repudiate:

- voting in 1990 for abortion up to birth three times during Parliamentary debates on what became the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990;
- personally endorsing your government’s policy of supplying abortion and birth control drugs and devices to schoolgirls as young as 11 without parental knowledge or consent;ⁱ
- your government introducing legislation which has led to a lawⁱⁱ which allows, and in certain circumstances requires, doctors to starve and dehydrate to death vulnerable patients;
- your government’s commitment to the promotion of abortion on demand as a universal fundamental human right.ⁱⁱⁱ
- personally championing destructive experiments on human embryos.^{iv}

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

John Smeaton, National Director

ⁱ Foreword, Teenage Pregnancy Report, Social Exclusion Unit, 1999



ⁱⁱ The Mental Capacity Act 2005

ⁱⁱⁱ Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, A position paper, Department for International Development, 2004 <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/sexualreprohealthrights.pdf>

^{iv} "Let us get to the facts and then judge their moral consequences. There is a danger, almost without noticing or desiring it, that we become anti-science. The distinction I believe is this: our conviction about what is natural or right should not inhibit the role of science in discovering the truth; rather it should inform our judgement about the implications and consequences of the truth science uncovers. We should also recognise there are areas where even in exercising such judgement, there is more than one morally acceptable outcome. Today the House of Commons debates stem cell research. There are strong views on all sides, and it is right that advances in science are debated in a moral context. Some people are opposed in principle to all forms of embryo research on ethical grounds. But we must also recognise that when stem cell research has huge potential to improve the lives of those suffering from disease, there are also strong ethical arguments in favour so long as clear and effective regulation remains in place." Mr Blair's speech to the European Bioscience Conference, shortly before his government passed legislation to allow embryonic stem cell research, 17th November 2000 <http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page1548.asp>

"We will not stop this research." Mr Blair referring to opposition to embryonic stem cell research, speech, 17th November 2004
<http://news.sky.com/skynews/article/0,,30100-13249589,00.html>

"This is an area that I think is of fundamental importance for my country and its economic developments in the future." Mr Blair referring to embryonic stem cell research, speech visiting Genentech <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/08/01/BUGP5K8N7P1.DTL> a biotechnology company in San Francisco which has allegedly conducted research using tissue from aborted fetuses <http://www.mnlife.org/reports/1999/oct99/oct99.html> 1st August 2006.

"America does not want stem cell research, we do, we welcome it here." Mr Blair referring to embryonic stem cell research, farewell speech to the Labour Party conference, 26th September 2006
<http://politics.guardian.co.uk/labourconference2006/story/0,,1881445,00.html>