

KENYA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS



KENYA CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT

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To the Catholic Members of Parliament and all Legislators of good- will

Dear Legislators,

We, the Catholic Bishops of Kenya, are aware that a proposal to legalize abortion has been presented in Parliament. While we respect individual opinions, and accept that Legislators may wish to present proposals which we do not agree upon, we cannot remain silent before issues that concern life. We are called by our faith and our African cultural background, to protect life and also the life of the unborn. As Bishops, we respond to our belief that regards abortion as the intentional killing of a human life. We wish to remind all Christians legislators that the teaching of the Church on this matter has never wavered. The life of the unborn is human life and its termination is homicide. We believe that people of other Faiths would share with us the respect towards human life.

The proposed legislation goes against the teaching of the Gospel. It is a Bill against the Constitution, against the right to life and against the protection of children and of the family.

The wording of the Bill is deliberately ambiguous. It speaks of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, when in fact it simply wishes to introduce in Kenya unhealthy practices. In the past decades, these words have been redefined by various UN agencies to encompass controversial sexual and abortion rights, including for young children.

The meaning given by the Bill to "pregnancy" as "the presence of a foetus in the womb" (Clause 2) read along with the provisions on termination of pregnancy (Clauses 26-30) fly in the face of Article 26(1) & (2) of the Constitution. It should be noted that these provisions of the Bill serve to amplify the ambiguity of Article 26(4) of the Constitution which was highly contested in the pre-referendum phase on the Constitution in 2010.

This Bill is a pathway to promoting a foreign agenda which insists that preventing unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions require States to adopt Policy measures to:

- a) guarantee all citizens access to affordable and effective contraceptives and comprehensive sexuality education, no matter their age;

- b) guarantee access to safe abortion services and quality post-abortion care;
- c) and respect the right of women to make autonomous decisions about their sexual and reproductive health, thus excluding their partners.

The Bill calls for the Ministry of Education to “integrate into the education syllabus age appropriate information on reproductive health”. The term “age appropriate” was once an effective modifier that served to protect children from exposure to harmful and explicit sexuality education. This is no longer the case, as the term has become the most effective strategy used by sexual rights activists to get comprehensive sexuality adopted in policy and legislation. “Age appropriate” is used to engender a false sense of security in those who want to protect the innocence of children, and it has become meaningless. It is these sexual rights activists who are implementing sexuality programmes for children who will determine the definition of “age appropriate,” not the policy makers who believe that the use of the term will protect children.

According to the Bill, women may seek the termination of the life of the unborn as a solution for “their problems”. We should then focus on how to prevent unwanted pregnancies through positive means such as mentorship and behaviour change programmes, life skills and human sexuality programmes. These will include a closer attention to social issues that lead to poverty, illness, fornication, peer pressure and uneasiness among people. We can identify ways to educate our youth about life and the fundamental choices regarding family life. We can support those structures that already now give shelter and protection to vulnerable minors and women.

We, the Catholic Bishops of Kenya, believe that our Legislators will want to interpret the will of our people. They want to promote life, not death. They want to promote the institution of marriage not same-sex unions. We urge you to reflect upon the consequences this Bill will have on the moral fabric of the Nation. We are certain you will consider our views, and the views of millions of Kenyans, and make the right choice.

We also take this occasion to assure you of our continuous prayers for your highly important service to society.

May God bless you; May God bless Kenya.

Yours sincerely,



Most Rev. Philip Anyolo
ON BEHALF OF ALL CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Signed: 23rd June 2020