

Every Life is Precious



Each year, we recall the decision made by the Supreme Court of Canada on January 28, 1988 which removed all legal protection for our unborn children. Since that fateful day, Canada has lost more than 4 million unborn babies.

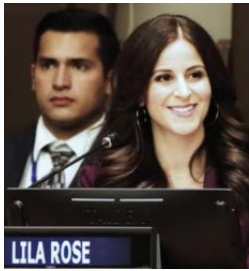
This year, **Respect for Life Week** is **January 22 - 28**. We kindly ask that you devote some time each day during this week to **pray for a return to a culture of life**, where every human life will be respected and protected from conception to natural death.

Respect for Life Sunday is January 28th. Local churches have been asked to help mark this day by preaching about the sanctity of life. Here, the power of prayer can be amplified as we come together as one.

Suggested Prayer Intentions:

- That God grant us the wisdom and courage to lovingly protect His gift of human life at every stage.
- That each woman facing an unplanned pregnancy be guided by caring people to bring her baby to term.
- That men and women suffering after abortion may find peace and healing through Christ's endless mercy.
- That those nearing the end of life receive care that respects their dignity and protects their lives.
- That the life of every human person, from conception to natural death, be protected in our laws.

Lila Rose takes UN to task for promoting abortion

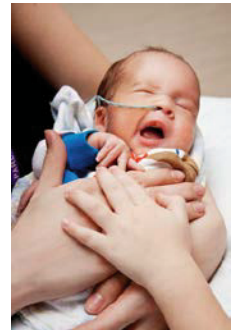


Lila Rose, the founder and president of Live Action, addressed the United Nations Transatlantic Summit in New York on November 17, 2023. She **called upon the UN to recognize that abortion “is a contradiction of every human right” and urged the body to pass a resolution to end abortion worldwide.** The UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) affirms the fundamental “right to life, liberty and security.” It also affirms freedom from “torture or ... cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” It further states that the “recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.” Rose told delegates that **the UN routinely violates the UN Declaration of Human Rights with its incessant promotion of legalization of abortion in all countries.** “Abortion not only violates the unborn child’s right to life,” but “also violates the child’s right to be free from slavery and their right to be free from torture,” because abortion involves an “excruciating, torturous killing.” “Most of the members of the United Nations support and justify this human rights abuse,” because “Every year, globally, 70 million children are slaughtered by abortion.” **Rose called abortion “by far, the worst human rights crisis of the last half century, one that is ongoing, and one that few today even acknowledge.”** The UDHR was adopted in 1948 in the aftermath of World War II and the Holocaust, during which Jews and others were “cruelly tortured and degraded as if they were less than animals.” Rose said the same thing is happening today with abortion. **“Many powerful people today argue that a human in the womb is not a human, not a life, not worthy of the basic human rights”.** “Instead, they argue that one must pass through the magical birth canal in order to receive one’s humanity.” Rose said that **a mother’s womb “should be a safe haven, a place of nourishment and love,”** but “has become a war zone” where innocent babies are destroyed by abortionists, and “because the unborn cannot speak, the born — the powerful — have succeeded in trampling on their rights,” she said.

~ [*The Interim, December 2023*](#)

Perinatal Palliative Care

Every year, approximately 4% of children born in Canada are diagnosed with one or more serious congenital anomalies. Many who are born with an anomaly live fulfilled adult lives. However, some with severe anomalies only live a short life and may never leave the hospital or celebrate their 1st birthday.



Perinatal palliative care is a new service which is emerging as an essential lifeline for those children with life-threatening anomalies and their families. It **provides comfort and relief from pain and symptoms for newborn babies who are dying, and emotional support and healing for their families.**

As a result of increased prenatal testing, **the vast majority of children with genetic anomalies are aborted.** While the termination of pregnancy is an attempt to eliminate suffering, research finds that **40% of women who abort for fetal anomaly suffer long-term emotional distress.**

Perinatal palliative care is an alternative to abortion for children with severe genetic anomalies. The choice between abortion and giving birth to a disabled child often depends on the type of counselling offered to parents. In one study, 80% of parents who received non-directive counseling chose to abort, while **80% of parents who were provided the option of perinatal palliative care chose to carry their child to term.**

Perinatal palliative care provides a hopeful option that **values and supports the life of both the child and the parents.** Parents have the chance to love their baby for as long as their baby is able to live - give their baby a peaceful life and a peaceful goodbye.

~ [*The deVeber Institute, October 2023*](#)

In-Utero Therapies treat a host of Fetal Conditions

Mount Sinai Hospital and The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, have come together to provide improved access for patients and their families to cutting-edge **in-utero medical and surgical interventions for sick babies**. With a world-renowned team of experts, the **Ontario Fetal Centre (OFC)** offers the best and most advanced care to some of the highest-risk pregnancies.



Some of the conditions that can be treated in-utero include spina bifida, fetal tumors, abnormal heart development, congenital diaphragmatic hernia (a hole in the diaphragm), congenital high airway obstruction (blockage in the upper airway of the fetus), congenital pulmonary airways malformations, pleural effusions (accumulation of fluid around the lungs).

~ [Ontario Fetal Centre](#)

Theme - "Human from the Start!"

This contest is open to all students in Grades 7 & 8 in Oxford County.

Draw a picture to depict this year's theme using your choice of pencil crayons, coloured markers and/or graphite pencil on plain, white, 8½" x 11" paper.

Artwork will be judged on the following criteria: originality, adherence to the theme, artistic ability, and overall effect. Use of words or captions will disqualify the entry.

A completed entry and release form must accompany your work. Please see our website, www.oxfordcountyrighttolife.com

1st Prize - \$50, 2nd Prize - \$25, 3rd Prize - \$15

Entries are due Friday, March 29, 2024

Send to: Oxford County Right to Life
P.O. Box 1545
Woodstock, ON N4S 0A7
(or call 519-421-0029)

Oxford County RIGHT TO LIFE

MAiD is not the way to address Mental Illness

Intensive compassionate care is the most effective way to address mental illness, writes Dr Harvey Chochinov, the well known professor of psychiatrist from the University of Manitoba and the developer of dignity therapy, December 30, 2023.

He believes the federal government would be well-advised to scrap this mission because **no mental disorder can be described as irremediable and no psychiatrist has the ability to distinguish those requesting MAiD for reasons of committing suicide from those requesting whose sole underlying medical condition is mental illness**.

On December 15, 2023, Stephanie Taylor reported for the Canadian Press that Justice Minister Arif Virani stated that **the federal government may "pause its plan" to permit euthanasia (MAiD) when a person's only underlying condition is a mental disorder**.

Members of Parliament will have an opportunity to oppose euthanasia for mental illness when they return to Parliament after the Christmas break.

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition Canada has created a **petition demanding that the Canadian government reverse its decision to permit "MAiD" for mental illness alone**. Your help is needed to urge Members of Parliament to not abandon people with mental illness to death by "MAiD".

Please consider signing the petition from EPCC [here](#) or contact your local MP.

~ [Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, January 2024](#)

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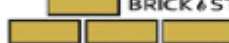
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**Life is so precious!
Respect for it must begin
with all of us!**



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