**A Position Statement on Abortion**

**Abstract**

Abortion is a critical life event and death choice for every pregnant woman. Women who are faced with unwanted pregnancies may seek abortions, regardless of religious or ethical, or legal sanction and any considerable risk. Opinions about abortion describe a combination of personal beliefs about fetal rights, beliefs about abortion morality, beliefs about governmental authority in public policies, and beliefs about the rights and responsibilities of the women seeking to have abortions. The purpose of this position statement is to pinpoint proponents’ and opponents’ viewpoints regarding abortion and provide recommendations to reduce unwanted pregnancies and meet the women’s family planning needs.

***Keywords*:** abortion, position statement, an unwanted pregnancy.

**A Position Statement on Abortion**

**Introduction**

Abortion is an ongoing controversial ethical and legal issue ([Arambepola](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Arambepola%20C%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700) & [Rajapaksa](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Rajapaksa%20LC%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700), 2017; [Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017). Reasons behind why women seek abortions are often complex and the decision to have an abortion is usually driven by more than one factor ([Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017). Abortions will remain difficult to prevent, because of the limits of women’s abilities to determine and control all circumstances of their lives ([Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017).

Abortion is a surgical or medical intervention used to terminate the pregnancy before the fetus is viable ([Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017; June 2016). This describes the induced or elective abortion, not the spontaneous abortion or miscarriage, in which the pregnancy ends because of natural causes ([Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017). Abortion occurs for many reasons when birth control fails, inability to support or care for a child ([Arambepola](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Arambepola%20C%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700) & [Rajapaksa](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Rajapaksa%20LC%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700), 2017; Ziraba et al., 2015), to prevent the birth of a child with defects or severe medical problems, when pregnancy results from rape or incest, and when physical or mental conditions threaten the woman’s health if the pregnancy is continued ([Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017).

In developed countries such as the United States (U.S.), abortion rates are declining. The abortion rate declined 25%, from 19.4 to 14.6 per 1000 women aged 15 to 44 years, between 2008 and 2014. This decline is related to improvements in contraceptive use. Despite recent declines in abortion, it is still a common procedure; one in four American women will have an abortion in their lifetime. Even in the U.S., abortion increased among poor women, who accounted for 49% of patients in 2014 (Jones & Jerman, 2017).

In developing counties, abortion rates varied by region. In 2010–2014, 86% of abortions concentrated in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) (Chae, Desai, Crowell, Sedgh, & Singh, 2017). The researchers reported that differential abortion levels are related to the variation in the level of unintended pregnancies and in the likelihood that women with unintended pregnancies choose abortions. A higher fraction of abortions occurred among women of high socioeconomic status. Policies and programs to reduce the incidence of unintended pregnancies were recommended.

Although they are old, statistics in Jordan indicated that illegal abortions were taking place, 2.4%-5.5% of abortions were done to terminate pregnancies to adolescent females (15-19, 20-24 years, respectively) (Almasarweh, 2003). Also, 16.3% and 23.7% of births and pregnancies in the same age groups were mistimed as the result of greater reliance on traditional family planning methods, which usually had higher failure rates (Johnson, Al Zoubi, & Wulfe, 2004; WHO 2019; 2017).

A position statement is a clear and brief statement developed by a group of experts to provide a better understanding of the discussed issue ([Larsson,](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Larsson%20S%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=26108479)  [Eliasson,](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Eliasson%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=26108479) [Klingberg Allvin,](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Klingberg%20Allvin%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=26108479) [Faxelid,](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Faxelid%20E%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=26108479) [Atuyambe,](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Atuyambe%20L%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=26108479) & [Fritzell, 2015](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Fritzell%20S%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=26108479)). It focuses on the development of strategies, plans, and recommendations for actions that reflect the debates on a certain topic, letting people know where you stand on a topic or debate. It can be used in a variety of areas like policy, literature, ethics, and legislation (Larsson et al., 2015).

The purpose of this position statement paper is to present proponents’ and opponents’ viewpoints regarding abortion and provide recommendations and a course of action to reduce unwanted pregnancies and meet the women’s family planning needs.

**Background**

**History of Abortion**

Abortion has existed for thousands of years, regardless of culture, society, race, and religion (Frohwirth, Coleman, & Moore, 2018). Women around the world have used abortion to control their reproduction regardless of its’ legality (Hoffer, 2011).

In 1803, Great Britain first passed anti-abortion laws, which then became stricter throughout the century. The U.S. followed as individual states to outlaw abortion ([Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017). By 1880, with the end of the Civil War, the establishment of the American Medical Association, and the anti-abortion movement began, most abortions were illegal in the U.S., except those necessary to save the life of the woman. So, women seeking abortion turned to illegal and unsafe options, putting themselves at risk of losing future fertility and life ([Arambepola](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Arambepola%20C%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700) & [Rajapaksa](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Rajapaksa%20LC%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700), 2017; [Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017).

After that, 1973 was the next milestone in the evolution of abortion legislation in the U.S. The past years have been fraught with controversy over the availability of abortion, its’ ethical complications, its’ effect on attitudes about sexual activities, and family values ([Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017). Abortion continues to place obstetricians in a pivotal psychosocial role with women, taxing their broad skills as caregivers and including them with surgical techniques and procedures they may or may not be comfortable with ([Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017).

During the 20th century, various [women's rights](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_rights) groups, doctors, and social reformers were successful in having abortion bans repealed. While abortion remains legal in most of the West, this legality is regularly challenged by anti-abortion groups ([Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017).

**Arguments of Abortion**

Abortion is a controversial ethical and legal issue, involving issues of the beginning of human personhood, the right of the fetus, and the right of self-determination of the pregnant woman (June 2016; [Khatri](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Khatri%20RB%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=31596879), [Poudel](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Poudel%20S%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=31596879), & [Ghimire](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Ghimire%20PR%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=31596879), 2019). Abortion debates arise from the right of the pregnant woman to decide whether to terminate a pregnancy which is called pro-choice, and the right of fetus or embryo to gestation and to be born which is called pro-life (Ingravallo, Dietrich, Gilja, & Piscaglia, 2014).

**Proponents of Abortion**

Proponents, identifying themselves as pro-choice, contend that choosing abortion is a woman's right that should not be limited by governmental or religious authority, and which outweighs any right claimed for an embryo or a fetus. They claim that pregnant women will resort to unsafe and illegal abortions if there is no legal option ([Hoffer](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Peter_Charles_Hoffer&action=edit&redlink=1), 2011).

Women have the right to control their bodies, which is an extremely popular argument, therefore, they have the right to undergo abortions for any reason they deem fit ([Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017).

Personhood begins after a fetus becomes viable, able to survive outside the mother or after birth not at conception, a person’s age is calculated from the birth date, not from conception, and the word “person” doesn’t include the unborn child (Lowery, 2012).

A fetus is incapable of feeling pain when abortion is performed; a fetus can’t be held to experience pain; because the cortex is necessary to perceive pain and it doesn’t become functional until the 26th weeks of gestation (Lentiro et al., 2019).

Access to legal, professionally performed abortions will reduce maternal injuries and deaths, which caused by unsafe and illegal abortions ([Arambepola](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Arambepola%20C%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700) & [Rajapaksa](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Rajapaksa%20LC%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700), 2017; [Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017; Ingravallo et al., 2014; Larsson et al., 2015; Ziraba et al., 2015). Between 2010 and 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that worldwide there are 25 million unsafe abortions (45% of all abortions) that occurred every year. 97% of unsafe abortions occurred in developing countries such as Africa, Asia, and Latin America (WHO, 2019; 2017), which is an escalating figure ([Arambepola](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Arambepola%20C%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700) & [Rajapaksa](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Rajapaksa%20LC%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700), 2017; [Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017; Larsson et al., 2015; Ziraba et al., 2015). Women and girls in these countries cannot access effective contraception and safe abortion services, thus serious consequences occur (WHO, 2019; 2017). It is well known that abortion is a safe medical procedure, 88% of women who have abortion usually do it in their first trimester, and medical abortions have less than 0.5% risk of serious complications and do not affect a woman's health or future ability to become pregnant or give birth ([Arambepola](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Arambepola%20C%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700) & [Rajapaksa](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Rajapaksa%20LC%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700), 2017; [Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017; Ziraba et al., 2015).

Women who receive abortions are less likely to suffer mental health problems. Women who were denied abortions felt more regret and anger, less relief and happiness than women who had abortions ([Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017; Grimes & Stuart, 2010). Women who receive abortions felt it was the right decision after a week of the procedure ([Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017; Grimes & Stuart, 2010).

Abortion gives pregnant women the option to choose not to bring fetuses with abnormalities to full term ([Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017; [Hoffer](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Peter_Charles_Hoffer&action=edit&redlink=1), 2011). Some fetuses have severe fatal conditions that death will occur before or shortly after birth such as encephalopathy, and some of them have non-fatal conditions such as Down’s syndrome, in which parents don’t have the resources, emotional power, and support to care for a severely disabled child (Lowery, 2012).

Women who were denied aborting their fetuses were more likely to become unemployed, were below the poverty level and became victims of domestic violence (Lentiro et al., 2019). Women who turned away from abortion clinics were three times more likely to be below the poverty level two years later than women who were able to have an abortion (Lentiro et al., 2019; [Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017). Women who were unable to have an abortion were more likely to stay in a relationship with an abusive partner than women who had an abortion and were more than twice to become victims of domestic violence ([Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017).

A baby should not come into the world unwanted; having a child is an important decision that needs consideration, preparations, and planning (Lowery, 2012). An unwanted pregnancy is associated with birth defects, low birth weight, maternal depression, increased risk of child abuse, and low educational achievement (Lowery, 2012).

Abortion reduces welfare costs to taxpayers; women seeking late-term abortions are economically disadvantaged and their children need welfare assistance ([Hoffer](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Peter_Charles_Hoffer&action=edit&redlink=1), 2011). Additional births will increase the need for Medicaid coverage ([Hoffer](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Peter_Charles_Hoffer&action=edit&redlink=1), 2011). Abortion reduces crime; women who have abortions are at risk of giving birth to children who would engage in criminal activity ([Hoffer](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Peter_Charles_Hoffer&action=edit&redlink=1), 2011).

Abortion is justified as a means of population control, malnutrition, starvation, poverty, lack of medical and educational services, pollution, and underdevelopment, all are consequences of overpopulation; abortion is used as a way to curb overpopulation (Yokoe et al., 2019).

**Opponents of Abortion**

Opponents, identifying themselves as pro-life, contend that personhood begins at conception, and therefore abortion is the immoral killing of an innocent human being. They claim that abortion inflicts suffering on the unborn child and that it is unfair to allow abortion when couples who can’t biologically conceive are waiting to adopt ([Hoffer](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Peter_Charles_Hoffer&action=edit&redlink=1), 2011).

Abortion is a murder; the killing of an innocent human being is wrong, even that a human being has yet to be born, life begins at conception, so unborn babies are human beings ([Arambepola](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Arambepola%20C%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700) & [Rajapaksa](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Rajapaksa%20LC%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700), 2017; [Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017). Abortion is killing a human being which defies the word of God. Human life is sacred and all people should be treated with dignity and respect, and life is a gift from God and we are answerable to God for the taking of life ([Arambepola](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Arambepola%20C%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700) & [Rajapaksa](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Rajapaksa%20LC%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700), 2017; [Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017).

Abortion can result in medical complications later in life; the risk of [ectopic pregnancy](http://womensissues.about.com/od/womensbodiesminds/f/ectopicpreg.htm) doubles, the chance of a miscarriage and a [pelvic inflammatory disease](http://womensissues.about.com/od/womensbodiesminds/f/pelvicinflamdis.htm) also increases, the risk of breast cancer increases as the number of abortion increases, and abortion causes intense psychological pain and stress ([Arambepola](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Arambepola%20C%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700) & [Rajapaksa](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Rajapaksa%20LC%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700), 2017; [Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017; Ziraba et al., 2015).

Abortion reduces the number of adoptable babies. The number of adoptions has dropped from 90.000 in 1973 to 18.000 in 2002 (Jones, 2009), these figures are expected to decrease over the years.

A fetus feels pain during the abortion procedure, pain perception is developed by eight weeks of gestation with the development of the spinal reflex, so the fetus feels pain in the first trimester (June 2016; [Khatri](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Khatri%20RB%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=31596879), [Poudel](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Poudel%20S%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=31596879), & [Ghimire](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Ghimire%20PR%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=31596879), 2019).

Selective abortion based on genetic abnormalities is discrimination; physical limitations don’t make individuals with disabilities less than a human (Yokoe et al., 2019); people with Down’s syndrome are active in their families and communities ([Arambepola](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Arambepola%20C%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700) & [Rajapaksa](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Rajapaksa%20LC%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700), 2017).

Women should not use abortion as a form of contraception ([Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017; Terzo, 2013), it’s immoral to kill an unborn child for convenience, conceptions rose by nearly 30%, but births fell by 6%, indicating that many women were using abortions as a method of birth control ([Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017; Martin, 2013).

Abortion promotes a culture in which human life is disposable; the legalization of abortion sends a message that human life has little value and we can throw away things or ones that or who are inconvenient for us, so women should take responsibility for their actions and accept the consequences; the unborn baby should not be punished for mistakes made by adults ([Arambepola](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Arambepola%20C%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700) & [Rajapaksa](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Rajapaksa%20LC%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28662700), 2017; [Bere](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Berer%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28630538)r, 2017; Hultgren, 2014).

Most religions do not allow abortions; regardless of advances in science, technology, and society, religion remains a major influence on contemporary attitudes surrounding the beginning and the end of life issues, and mainly those surrounding abortions (Ismail, 2015). Muslims, for example, are encouraged to read and analyze religious sources to find solutions to contemporary problems. In cases where Islamic jurisprudence is unclear, religious leaders will issue Fatawa, a religious statement, to provide guidance (Ismail, 2015). Fatwa in 1991, in Saudi Arabia allowed for abortions in the first 120 days after conception in cases of fetal impairment, and if a woman’s health and life were at risk (Ismail, 2015).

**Abortion Policy in Jordan**

In Jordan, Abortion is prohibited under the penal code No 16 of 1960. Any person who performs an abortion is subjected to one to three years imprisonment. Penalties are increased when the abortion is performed without the woman’s consent or results in her death.

Under public health law No. 20 of 1971, abortion may be performed when it is necessary to avert a danger to the life of the pregnant woman. Abortion must be approved by two physicians and the written consent of the pregnant woman must be obtained, unless she can’t write or speak. In this case, her spouse or the person legally responsible for her must give written consent (Ismail, 2015).

Jordan implemented its’ first National Population Strategy in 1996, and it’s currently being revised to include reproductive health and gender issues. The National Population Commission was established in 1973 and is now under the chairmanship of Princess Basma bint Talal, a step that indicates a new impetus toward explicit support to birth spacing nationwide (Ismail, 2015).

In summary, abortion has been a debatable ethical and legal issue for many years, bringing up a lot of controversy and opinions both for and against its’ practice.

**A Position Statement**

The current authors are against abortion because human life is sacred, we should consider the moment of fertilization as the start of human life; the fetus is a gift from God and thus it should be treated with dignity and respect. We should protect and promote the welfare of all people including the unborn fetus.

This position statement paper articulates the following recommendations with some possible solutions for abortions; this would reduce unwanted pregnancies and meet the women’s family planning needs.

**Recommendations**

* Develop family planning approaches that respect women’s autonomy and the use of newly available contraceptive devices.
* Provide clinical protocols, guidelines, and post-abortion care services to reduce the burden of unsafe abortion toward preventing the incidence of unintended pregnancies.
* Provide regular counseling sessions, follow-up, and intensive programs for married couples; specialty centers are needed.
* Design and provide training programs in family planning for all healthcare providers.
* Conduct longitudinal studies to explore the relationships between abortion and medical and mental health problems.
* Increase the involvement of men; they and women have equal parts in creating pregnancies. Therefore, they should have equalroles in preventing unwanted pregnancies.
* Establish a trusting relationship with pregnant women and healthcare providers.
* Provide pre-abortion counseling to show the consequences of abortion on health.
* Support the referral of married couples to the psychiatric clinic and provide free consultation for these couples.

**Summary and Conclusions**

The purpose of this position statement was to present proponents’ and opponents’ viewpoints regarding abortion and articulates some recommendations to reduce unwanted pregnancies.

Abortion is a controversial ethical and legal issue. Women have the right to control their bodies, which is a popular argument, therefore, they have the right to undergo abortions for any reason they want. Abortion is considered a legal status in special cases; to preserve the women’s physical and mental health; to save the mother’s life; and in cases of rape and incest, which needs a consent form, medical practice, administrative requirements, the availability of trained practitioners, and facilities, funding, and public’s attitudes.

Healthcare providers play a critical role in informing couples about the methods that could be most appropriate for their particular circum­stances and how to use these methods correctly.

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