

To: The Community and Protective Services Committee and City of London Council.

Re: abortion photos shown in public

Date: July 4, 2024

I am writing this letter today to encourage you to vote against the proposed by-law that would ban photographs of prenatal children from public view. Some claim that the public display of abortion victim photography causes harm to people passing by. I too shared the opinion that these graphic photographs of aborted prenatal children would only alienate and disgust the very people who need to see them, i.e., those who think abortion is "the termination of a pregnancy" or that the aborted child is "just a fetus" or "a blob of tissue", but not a tiny human being that has been brutally killed. For many years, my wife was involved with a pro-life group that publicly displayed large graphic photographs of aborted babies. These peaceful witnesses to the truth of abortion were often not welcomed and sometimes subjected to violent counter-protesters.

At the time I was still working as a high school science teacher and discussed abortion when the topic came up during a lesson. I taught my students the scientific truth that human life begins at conception and that abortion is the deliberate killing of a prenatal child to terminate a pregnancy. However, I was shocked to learn that some other science teachers were not teaching the truth about when human life begins or about the reality of abortion. This discovery was made during a very heated discussion that occurred in the science office during a prep period when another science teacher brought up the issue of abortion. How could science teachers deny basic scientific truth? I realized emotions and feelings around this issue can dispel reason.

It was still several years before I joined my wife in publicly displaying photographs of abortion victims. These photographs cut through the rhetoric to show the humanity of the prenatal child and the horrific nature of abortion. Some people will still deny that abortion kills a child despite seeing the truth; they have eyes but cannot see through the veil of their emotions and feelings. The reality is that abortion victim photography saves lives by changing hearts and minds. If you ban the display of these images abortion will remain hidden and the killing will continue. "It's just a fetus!"

I have experienced many different reactions to abortion victim photographs during my 16 years of publicly displaying the visual truth of abortion. Most people are uncomfortable with these images, some cry, some scream obscenities, some thank us, and some tell us about their abortions. Others pretend not to see the victims.

"Having seen all of this, you may choose to turn away, but you can never again say that you did not know." - William Wilberforce, who fought against slavery.

I trust you will affirm our Charter right to freedom of expression and peaceful protest. Some people may feel they were harmed by seeing the photographs of abortion victims, but there is no doubt that every abortion kills a child and harms her mother.

Abortion Victim Photography Saves Lives

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5iiadqC6YiazWf4kz3PBARgAZKTK1Lgl&si=KuOnIMdMS1-G8vU5>

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I would like to have this letter included in the agenda and/or as part of the public record.

Sincerely,

Vince Gedge