

To: Community and Protective Services Committee and the City of London Council

RE: Proposed bylaw – Abortion photography

June 21, 2024

This is my second submission. I have been involved with the showing of abortion victim photos for many years. In this letter I would like to explain the viewing of the photos by people who have had abortions or have come close to having one.

Because we are strangers many women open their hearts to us about abortion regret. One woman probably in her forties who representative of many who have stopped talked of the pressure to abort a baby when she was 18 years old without any information and offers of support. She never had more children and talked sadly about her sister who refused abortion for her first child now has a family of 8.

On the same day another woman stopped with her daughter who was about 15. She told us that she was “encouraged” to have an abortion but that a kindly doctor showed her the abortion instruments and method and talked about the development of the baby. She immediately refused abortion of the daughter standing with her. What very different stories. One sad and one glowing with pride.

In another situation we were on the sidewalk at a school in Hamilton and had lively opposition and discussions. When the bell rang and the crowd went back into the school after lunch break a female student stayed behind and wiped tears as she talked to me. She said she wasn't 17 yet but had been forced into aborting 3 children! She said the photos made her sad but she was finally meeting people who understood her grief. There seemed to be some relief as she talked because her parents never talked to her saying everything was over. The hurt was deep down but there for her every day. What a heavy regret for a 17-year-old to carry for life! I gave her a business card with resources to help her cope. She ended the conversation by saying her parents “let her keep” her fourth child because she hid the pregnancy until it was too late for an abortion.

Rosemary Connell

June 21, 2024

I give my consent to have my second letter included in the addenda and /or as part of the public record concerning this issue.

Rosemary Connell