

References

- ¹ Mara Hvistendahl, *Unnatural Selection: Choosing Boys Over Girls, and the Consequences of a World Full of Men* (Public Affairs, 2011).
- ² Prabhat Jha et al., "Trends in selective abortion of female foetuses in India," *Lancet* 377 (2011): 1921-1928.
- ³ "Figure 1.9 Sex ratio at birth, 1982–2017," United Nations Children's Fund, www.unicef.cn/en/figure-19-sex-ratio-birth-19822017.
- ⁴ Douglas Almond & Yixin Sun, "Son-biased sex ratios in 2010 US Census and 2011–2013 US natality data," *Social Science & Medicine* 176 (2017): 21-24.
- ⁵ J.L. Natoli et al., "Prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome: a systematic review of termination rates (1995-2011)," *Prenatal Diagnosis* 32, no. 2 (2012): 142-53.
- ⁶ Julian Quinones & Arijeta Lajka, "'What kind of society do you want to live in?': Inside the country where Down syndrome is disappearing," *CBS News*, 14 August 2017. www.cbsnews.com
- ⁷ Candice Y. Johnson et al., "Pregnancy termination following prenatal diagnosis of anencephaly or spina bifida," *Birth Defects Research* 94, no. 11 (2012): 857-962.
- ⁸ "Abortion statistics in England and Wales," United Kingdom Department of Health and Social Care, www.gov.uk/government/collections/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales.
- ⁹ "Netherlands grapples with euthanasia of babies," *NBC News*, 30 Nov. 2004, www.nbcnews.com.
- ¹⁰ David Rennie, "Half of infant deaths in flanders were euthanasia," *The Telegraph*, 9 April 2005. www.telegraph.co.uk

Updated 4/28/2023



P.O. Box 901 · 2340 Porter St. SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49509-0901
(616) 532-2300 · info@rtl.org · RTL.org

GET CONNECTED! Find us on social media:



Abortion is a powerful force for dehumanization. It ends the lives of nearly 1 million children in the womb in the United States every year. Abortion can also be used as a tool for discrimination. Abortion declares that the value of a group of human beings is purely subjective; it's all up to personal opinion. Once you declare one group of human beings as unpersons, it becomes easier to change that arbitrary line of who counts as a person.

What happens when abortion collides with members of groups that are targeted for discrimination?

160+ Million Missing Women

Many hold up abortion as the foundation of women's rights, but in reality abortion is a tool of discrimination which has devastated the global female population. One estimate put the number of sex-selection abortions and infanticides globally in recent decades at **163 million**, nearly the entire female population of the United States.¹

Some cultures have strong preferences that favor the births of boys, for economic or social reasons. The natural birth ratio of boys to girls in every population is around 1.05. Several countries now have alarmingly skewed statistics. India's 2011 census showed a ratio of 1.09 boys for every 1 girl aged 0-6. An estimated 12 million sex-selection abortions have taken place in India since 1980.² The problem is so dire that India makes it a crime to help parents to discover their child's sex before birth.

China's old one-child policy led to female sex-selection

abortions because many parents desire at least one boy, and parents faced extreme fines and penalties if they had more children than their government allowed. China ruthlessly enforced the policy with forced abortions and other coercive measures. China's census data showed a sex-ratio at birth of 1.12 boys for every 1 girl.³

Sex-selection abortions happen in the United States as well. A study from Columbia University indicated American parents of Asian descent had normal sex ratios for first children, but if they had only girls previously the ratios of boys born were 1.08 for the second child, 1.30 for the third child, and 1.44 for the fourth.⁴

Abortion & Disabilities

The advent of modern prenatal testing has greatly increased the likelihood of disabled children being discovered during a time in which their life can legally be taken. In many cases doctors and hospital staff heavily push abortion following an adverse diagnosis or



provide unrealistically negative portrayals of the disabled. This is a serious problem, both in America and around the globe.

Down Syndrome – There have been several studies over the years that showed a large majority of children diagnosed with Down syndrome in the womb are aborted. A meta-analysis from the University of South Carolina looked at 24 studies and found an average of 67% of children diagnosed with Down syndrome in the womb were aborted, with studies ranging from 61% to 93%.⁵ Iceland and Denmark

have proudly announced they have nearly eliminated Down syndrome through abortion rates of nearly 100%.⁶

Spina Bifida – Children diagnosed prenatally with spina bifida were aborted 63% of the time.⁷

Minor conditions – Even minor conditions that are correctible with surgery are used as reasons to take a child's life. Statistics from the UK showed 71 children diagnosed with cleft lips or palates were aborted in the United Kingdom from 2012 to 2018.⁸

Infanticide – There are growing calls in academic circles for allowing the killing of disabled newborns. Groningen University in the Netherlands advocated just such a policy, and even went as far as killing a few infants.⁹ In neighboring Belgium, a study found that half of all infants who died in one region were purposefully killed by doctors.¹⁰ Both Belgium and the Netherlands allow children to be euthanized.