



Doc. 12684

07 July 2011

Natural Human Rights

Written declaration No. 488

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

A new human life begins at conception and evolves until death. From conception each unborn child is by nature a human being, entitled to recognition of his inherent dignity and to protection of his inalienable human rights. These principles are recognised in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other international instruments. States may and should invoke treaty provisions guaranteeing the rights to life as encompassing a state responsibility to protect the unborn child from abortion.

The international law does not recognise any right to abortion. The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other treaty monitoring bodies have directed governments to change their laws on abortion. These bodies have no authority to interpret these treaties in ways that create new state obligations or that alter the substance of the treaties.

Since there is no international legal obligation to provide access to abortion on any ground, assertions by international agencies or non-governmental actors that abortion is a human right are false and should be rejected.

Governments and members of society should guarantee that national laws and policies protect the right to life from conception, rejecting and condemning pressure to adopt laws that legalise or depenalise abortion.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

VOLONTÈ Luca, Italy, EPP/CD
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Total = 21

1. EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party