



MIDWIVES  
FOR CHOICE

Press release – for  
immediate release,  
Tuesday 06 September

## Midwives concerned at report of misleading pregnancy counselling

Midwives for Choice is concerned at the report of erroneous and dangerous advice provided by a Dublin-based pregnancy counselling centre, in an article by @ellenmcoyne (The Times, 4 September).

Says spokesperson Philomena Canning: 'It is deeply disturbing that misleading information can legally be provided to vulnerable women and girls facing a crisis pregnancy. It constitutes a grave abuse of the human rights of these women and girls. People in crisis pregnancy situations need access to objective, evidence-based medical information and non-biased counselling in order to facilitate them to make the right, informed decision for themselves. This report shows the difficulties arising from the lack of proper regulation in Ireland of pregnancy counselling services.

'It reveals that assertions which have no basis in evidence, yet which provoke fear, were made to the attending woman. There is categorically no evidence of increased risk of breast cancer, suicide or child abuse associated with abortion, as claimed. Women and girls in crisis pregnancy situations should be reassured of the safety of abortion pills in terminating a pregnancy up to 10 weeks' gestation, and that abortion is a safe procedure for the vast majority.

'For women in need of abortion information, we advise they seek this through "3-option" agencies such as the IFPA, One-Family and Well Woman centres.

'As we have advised before, all women and girls in need of post-abortion care in Ireland should visit their GP, or present to maternity hospital services, in the event of any concern, and be reassured of the high standard of care and treatment they will receive.