

Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action



Media Bias - Well Known for Decades



***Education:** Let's suppose that a proposal is made that parents should be allowed to kill their newborn infants up to 7 days after birth. A news article about the issue refers to an advocate of the proposal not as "pro-infanticide" but "pro-choice," "pro-parental rights", or perhaps "pro-after-birth-abortion." Opponents of the proposal would be termed "anti-parental rights" as well as "anti-choice." This is precisely the type of media bias in favor of abortion that has been going on since before Roe v.

Wade. Magazine articles prior to the decision were almost always slanted toward legalization. Abortion is presented as a compassionate solution for a woman in great difficulty. (1)

When a bill to ban partial-birth abortion was in Congress, the vast majority of news reporters avoided that term, even though it was used in the bill itself. Rather they would say something like "what opponents of the procedure call partial-birth abortion." (2) Major news sources described the procedure as "rare," perhaps a few hundred a year. When one reporter investigated and reported that 1,500 partial birth abortions had been done in New Jersey alone in one year, most other major news organizations ignored that information.(3) When hundreds of thousands of pro-life advocates showed up in Washington for the annual March for Life, in spite of a blizzard, the event was still largely ignored.(4) An article in the New York Times refers to "Twin reduction" when a mother pregnant with twins has one of the babies killed so she will only give birth to one live baby. Instead of using the term "kill" words like "eliminate" and "reduce to a singleton" are used. (2)

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1. Scheidler, Joe, Pro-Life Action League, 2011, "Pro-abortion Media Bias: Still Here after All These Years.", retrieved 10/13/17 from <https://prolifeaction.org/2011/mediabias/>
2. Groseclose, Tim, Fox News Opinion, 2011, "Media Bias and Abortion Language", retrieved 10/13/17 from <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2011/09/10/media-bias-and-abortion-language.html>
3. Kincaid, Cliff, Accuracy in Media, 2010, <http://www.aim.org/aim-column/losing-the-pro-abortion-media-bias/>
4. Servold, Maria, The Federalist, "Media Continues to Sideline March for Life Coverage," retrieved 10/13/17 from <http://thefederalist.com/2016/01/23/media-continues-to-sideline-march-for-life-coverage/>



Prayer: Dear Father God, please touch the hearts of journalists and editors who cover stories related to abortion, and make decisions about what is published. Help them to remember the duty of journalists to be "accurate and fair", "not to misrepresent" and "Give voice to the voiceless." (1) Let readers of biased stories learn about the well-known media bias relating to abortion, and seek to understand the complete and accurate story of whatever the article seeks to describe.

1. Society of Professional Journalism Code of Ethics, <https://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp>



Action: When reading or listening to news relating to abortion, be aware of the well-documented bias of the majority of mainstream media in favor of legal abortion. Remind your friends of this bias as well, as stories are discussed. Consider writing a letter to the editor to point out media bias when it is published, and call on editors to print more balanced reports.