



## Christian Voices for Life

### Weekly Pro-Life

#### Education

#### Prayer

#### Action

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### This week's Topic: Sex-Selection Abortions

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**Education:** You may be aware of the problem in China and India with baby boys being valued more highly than girls, and sex-selective abortions producing an unbalanced sex ratio. But sex-selection abortions are happening in the United States as well, particularly among Asian families. Families with two girls and no boys still should have a biologically normal ratio of 1.05 boys for each girl as third children, but the actual ratio for the third child in those families was 1.51.(1) Large scale surveys in India showed a corresponding figure of 1.39, and in China that ratio was 2.25 in the 1990 census.

Asian cultures have traditionally prized boy babies, who are expected to inherit land and stay home to care for elderly parents. Daughters joined the household of their husband's family when married. (2) In India the dowry system also presents a disadvantage for raising a girl. (3) The one-child policy in China and the use of sex-selection abortion produced such highly skewed boy:girl birth ratios in China, that in 2001, it was made illegal for a doctor to reveal the sex of the child to expectant parents. (2)

However, in the U.S., there is now a gender prediction test that can be done at 10 weeks of pregnancy to determine the baby's sex with 85-90% accuracy.(4) And of course any woman can generally choose abortion in the United States because of a child's sex, not only Asian women. Several states have enacted laws to ban sex-selection abortions, but Congress failed to pass such a law when it was proposed in 2012. (5) Some claims have been made that sex-selection abortion bans are discriminatory because Asian women are more likely to seek them and could be denied abortion simply on the basis of suspected sex discrimination.(6)

1. Almond, Douglas, and Edlund, Lena, "Son-biased sex ratios in the 2000 United States Census", Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Vol. 105 (15). Retrieved 8/27/14 from <http://www.pnas.org/content/105/15/5681.full>
2. Larson, Christina, "In China, More Girls Are on the Way", *Bloomberg Business Week*, July 31, 2014. Retrieved 8/29/14 from <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-07-31/chinas-girl-births-ratio-improves-as-country-gets-more-educated>
3. See [www.itsagirlmovie.com/en/synopsis](http://www.itsagirlmovie.com/en/synopsis)
4. Smith, Wesley J., <http://www.lifenews.com/2014/09/05/sex-selection-abortion-home-gender-test/>
5. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/bill-banning-sex-selection-abortions-fails-in-the-house/2012/05/31/gJQAaWFd5U\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/bill-banning-sex-selection-abortions-fails-in-the-house/2012/05/31/gJQAaWFd5U_story.html)
6. International Human Rights Clinic Report "Replacing Myths with Facts: Sex-selection Abortion Laws in the United States", summarized at <https://ihrcclinic.uchicago.edu/page/replacing-myths-facts-sex-selective-abortion-laws-united-states>



**Prayer:** Dear Father God, please touch the hearts of Asian people to help them value women and girls as equally precious human beings as their male counterparts. Help them to overcome the cultural bias that has been handed down for so long, and respect every child as a gift from you, to be treasured and nurtured. Please bless those mothers and fathers who do value their daughters, and help them to raise both sons and daughters who respect every child of God. Bless the efforts of those who are working to change these attitudes, and help the Asian families in our country to abandon that aspect of their cultural heritage.



**Action:** Go to [www.itsagirlmovie.com](http://www.itsagirlmovie.com) to watch the trailer of the movie "It's a Girl". Spread the word of the female gendercide happening in the world and pray for greater respect for women. Always express equal respect for members of both sexes.

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