

## The Un-Choice ...

**“They said I made the right decision ... but I was never given a choice.”**

- 64% felt pressured by others.<sup>1</sup> Coercion can escalate to violence.
- Deceptive or inadequate information presented as fact by health officials, experts, authorities, educators, pastors and other leaders also acts coercively.
- Up to 83% of abortions are unwanted.<sup>2</sup>
- Most felt rushed and uncertain, yet 67% had *no* counseling before abortion.<sup>1</sup>
- 79% not informed about available alternatives.<sup>1</sup>
- 84% said they were not given enough information to make an informed choice.<sup>1</sup>

**An injustice to *both*: lack of authentic choice, truth or support ... but above all, the loss of a child**

**“When I learned the truth, I can’t tell you how betrayed I felt.”**

- 60% said, “Part of me died.”<sup>1</sup>
- Women are more likely to suffer from clinical depression, substance abuse, anxiety disorders, and suicidal behavior after abortion.<sup>3</sup>
- 65% suffer multiple symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.<sup>1</sup>

**Directly and indirectly ... abortion kills women, too**

**“We were maiming at least one woman a month.”** Carol Everett, former clinic operator

- 31% suffer health complications.<sup>1</sup>
- Death rates from all causes are 3 times higher after abortion.<sup>4</sup>
- Suicide rates are 6 times higher among women who abort vs. giving birth.<sup>5</sup>

**It’s not about “choice” when others decide ...**

“... it will be her duty to undergo an invasive procedure and an emotional trauma and so sort the situation out. The crowning insult is that this ordeal is represented to her as some kind of a privilege.” Germaine Greer, in *The Whole Woman*

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## PORTRAITS OF COERCION America’s Silent Epidemic

“I screamed that I didn’t want the abortion.”

“They said I made the right decision, but I was never given a choice.”

“The nurse said this was not the time for questions.”

“My husband exploded in anger ... ‘Have an abortion or I’ll leave you.’ ”

“Our pastor assured us that abortion was ok.”

“The doctor leaned across his mahogany desk and snapped, ‘It’s not a baby!’ ”

“My parents locked me in the house and made the appointment.”

“No one told me there were places I could go for help.”

“The counselor drew a micro-dot ... I feel so betrayed.”

“It doesn’t look like you have much choice.”

“He destroyed our apartment ... he was killing me with his words.”

“My boss threatened to push me down the stairs if I didn’t abort.”

“They would just look down their noses at me for being pregnant.”

“The abortionist strapped me down and said, ‘Shut up and quit that yelling.’ ”

“All the people that mattered told me to abort. No one would help me.”

“Everything in me was yelling, ‘No! No! No!’ ”

“Every Tuesday, a scheduled bus took students to the clinic.”

**I don’t know why  
they call it a choice**



## The rhetoric of choice hides the reality of coercion.

64% were pressured to abort. Homicide is the leading killer of pregnant women.

**It was all so organized.  
A weekly bus took students to the clinic.**

Every Tuesday a scheduled bus picked up students and took them to the Planned Parenthood clinic. School counselors arranged the visits. It was all so organized ... Still today, I feel like I did not decide to have the abortion ... I was only 14 ... The nurse said this was not the time to be asking questions, that I should have asked them sooner.

**Gaylene, survivor of two post-abortion suicide attempts**

**My husband said  
he'd leave if I didn't abort.**

He told me, "Either you have an abortion, or I'll leave you."

**Sandra Morean**

**I sped away ...  
my mother caught up with me.**

When I told my mom I was pregnant, she immediately made the appointment [for abortion]. I kept hanging the phone up on her and she kept redialing. Finally she got through ... The next morning, I crept downstairs, got into my car and sped away—she quickly followed and finally caught up with me.

**Laura O'Brien**

**The social worker made us feel like dirt.**

Since Jim was unable to find another job, we had to go on welfare ... Our caseworker was just disgusted with us. She urged us to have an abortion, saying, "You just can't go around having babies all the rest of your life." After making us feel like dirt, she reassured us Medicaid would pay for the abortion ... There was pressure from everyone ... Confusion mounted, tension and pressure took control, and I became another victim of "free choice."

**Lorijo Nerad**

**I screamed that I didn't want the abortion.  
Doctor: "Shut up and quit that yelling!"**

I was a victim of incest at 15 ... In spite of the pain and guilt I felt ... it was far better to have a baby than the alternative—to kill it ... My father flew into an uncontrollable rage and demanded that I consent to the abortion ...

[The doctor] asked three nurses to hold me while he strapped me to the bed ... I continued to scream that I didn't want an abortion. He told me, "Shut up and quit that yelling!" ... I was violated by my father ... I was violated again by the abortionist.

**Denise\***

**The doctor begged me to abort.**

[The doctor said the medication I'd been taking] causes birth defects ... and literally pleaded with me, "Please reconsider ... You're a fool to think of not aborting ..." He was so serious that it frightened me.

**Deborah Hulebak**

**His family pushed for abortion.**

His family pushed for abortion—because I was in their home and they were having to help care for my children while I was bedridden ... I felt obligated, totally helpless. A part of me died that day.

**Lori Rachuleta**

**Our pastor assured  
my mother that abortion was fine.**

My mother arranged my abortion. She didn't like my boyfriend and wanted to protect my "reputation" ... Our pastor had assured her that having an abortion was fine. No one helped me ...

**Jane Crawford**

**My mom said I must abort ...  
my boyfriend left town.**

I told my boyfriend I was pregnant and he acted as if he were happy. He left town a short time later leaving me to face the pressure of what to do. My mother figured out that I was pregnant ... and she told me I must abort. She said my life would be ruined if I stayed pregnant.

She also sent me to Planned Parenthood [and to two other counselors] ... who all agreed with my mother and counseled me to abort. I had no one who said I could give life to my child ...

**Carla Matrisch**

**My relatives made the arrangements.  
Afterwards, I was on my own.**

The baby's father retracted his marriage proposal as soon as he found out I was pregnant. I had no money, no medical insurance, and didn't realize that there were places to turn to for help ...

My relatives made all the arrangements ... everyone was there to give advice before the abortion, but afterwards I was on my own. If I had had love, support, and above all, the true facts, I would have never even considered an abortion. The pain never goes away.

**Carolyn Walton**

**All the people at the clinic were helpful.  
Everybody else just looked down on me.**

There I was alone having an abortion. I was really low ... I didn't want an abortion ... But all the people at the clinic were real helpful and friendly and tried to make you feel like you were doing the right thing. Nobody else in my life had tried to help me ... Everybody else would just look down their noses at me for being pregnant.

**Cathe Birtwell**

**My parents locked me  
in the house for two weeks.**

My parents told me I was to get an abortion. They locked me in the house and took the phone off the hook for two weeks. They told me not to tell anyone I was pregnant ... Two weeks later they took me 240 miles to Spokane for the abortion ...

**Julie Woodley**

**He destroyed our apartment ...  
killing me with his words. "Get rid of it!"**

He destroyed our apartment ... and told me to get rid of it. Now! The whole time he cornered me ... throwing things and killing me with his words ... The abortion ripped me apart. Any strength I had to leave the abuse was torn away from me.

**Mary**

**The counselor never gave me alternatives.  
She just kept playing on my fears.**

She told us it would be very difficult for us to have a baby. She said she had three kids herself and the financial aspect was difficult for her. She never gave me alternatives or asked if I wanted to keep the baby; she just kept playing on my fears and making me believe it would never work out.

**Kelly**

**It wasn't my choice. It should be called  
"Your Parents' and the Guy's Choice."**

No one would support me ... The worst day of my life got closer and closer. I think in more cases than not, it isn't the woman's choice. It should be called "Your Parents' and the Guy's Choice" ... I needed someone to tell me that it was possible to keep my baby, but no one did.

**Amanda**

\*name has been changed