

Submission

Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013

4. Support for campaigns by United Nations agencies to end the discriminatory practice of gender-selection through implementing disincentives for gender-selection abortions';

I urge Australian Federal Politicians to support this Bill, which would ban gender-selective abortions (gendercide) in Australia.

At the Commission for the Status of Women held in New York from the 4th March to 15th March, which I attended, the issue of sex-selected abortions was raised frequently.

The following points were made:

- Sex-selection abortion is illegal in China and India but is used in both countries.
- In China it has caused an extreme imbalance in the ratio of boys to girls. In two Provinces the ratio is 190:100
- In China there are now 34 million more men than women. There are whole villages of men, called bachelor villages. These men have no prospects of marrying.
- In India the ratio is 112:100
- This is causing social problems. It leads to trafficking and less respect for women and girls, violence and abduction of little girls to provide a future wife.
- Rita Banerji leads a campaign, in India, called 50 Million Missing Women, which acknowledges that women killed in her country in honour killings, femicide, neglect and **foeticide**.
- Worldwide the United Nations estimates that as many as 200 million girls have been killed just because they are girls. A high proportion of these are killed through abortion.

There is some evidence to show that preference for a boy, among immigrants from countries where boys are favoured, is being carried over to Australia.

The United Nations condemned gender selected abortion in a 2011 report as “gender discrimination against girls and women and a violation of their human rights.”

We need to stand in solidarity with our sisters all over the world who are suffering or dying due to this form of abortion, by totally banning it in our country.

Jane Munro