



Rabbinical Council of Victoria

Religious Leadership for the Jewish Community

ועד הרבנים דויקטוריה

President: Rabbi Meir Shlomo Kluwgant
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To whom it may concern

The Rabbinical Council of Victoria (RCV), representing the spiritual leadership of the Jewish community of Victoria, is grateful for this opportunity to place on record our unease with the current practice of non-medically indicated abortion, especially as a method of gender selection.

It is the unequivocal position of Judaism that abortion of a viable foetus should only be performed in a situation where the continuance of the pregnancy would pose serious risk to the mother. To offer an abortion for any other reason is tantamount to manslaughter.

Abortion as a method of 'family balancing' is abhorrent and under no circumstances should be subsidised by the State.

Even in such case where there is a clear medical indications for gender selection, such as X- linked recessive disorders, we would submit that offering pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) would offset the demand for so drastic a step as abortion.

We pray that members of Parliament, as the temporal representatives of this great nation, be blessed with the spirit of wisdom to make the correct decisions on behalf of all its citizens, while protecting those yet to be born.

Yours faithfully,

Rabbi James Kennard
 Secretary
 Rabbinical Council of Victoria