



**JCHS Statement for Anniversary of Roe v Wade
January 22, 2016
“The 43rd Anniversary of America’s Day of Shame”.**

On January 22 1973, the United States Supreme Court declared that there was a constitutional right to abortion, thus rendering it legal for a pregnant woman to deliberately destroy her own child. The two decisions on that shameful day effectively made abortion legal throughout the entire duration of pregnancy.

The notion of a “right” to abortion is supported by a secular philosophy that denies any transcendent moral laws and therefore formulates public policy based on absolute personal autonomy.

The United States has one of the most liberal abortion policies in the world, being one of the less than ten countries that allow unrestricted access to abortion after the 14th week of pregnancy. Also, the US is one of four countries that allows abortion for any reason after the fetus is viable (able to survive outside the womb)

Because of the global influence of the United States, many other nations are under pressure to pass similar laws. International bodies, with the assistance of developed nations continue to push Jamaica to follow this policy.

Since 1973 it is estimated that over 58.5 million babies have been aborted in the United States alone. Even more shocking is the fact that blacks account for 12.6 % of the American population but 30% of abortions.

In 2015, a new low was reached with the video evidence of Planned Parenthood of America exchanging fetal body parts for money.

Abortion has led to serious harmful effects for the woman, the family and the society in countries where it has been legalized; in contrast the nation of Chile has dramatically improved maternal health after making abortion illegal.

Complications of abortion include bleeding and premature delivery in a subsequent pregnancy. A full-term first pregnancy provides some protection against breast cancer. This protection is lost particularly when a young woman aborts her first pregnancy. There are also serious mental and psychological harms that may occur.

Even if elective abortion were perfectly safe, it would still represent unprovoked violent destruction of an innocent human being. The mantra “My body My right” is a

morally myopic view that ignores the mutually interdependent framework in which we were designed to live.

Please stand for life by urging all Christians to pray that Jamaica may never follow in the footsteps of other nations to legalize the unlawful act of killing innocent and vulnerable human beings.

The respect for sanctity of life must be undergirded by policies that encourage and build stable families and support our women and girls. The church should lead the way in showing love to women who are in crisis pregnancies and those men and women who are hurting after participating in abortions.

The Jamaica Coalition for a Healthy Society