



# Heart to Heart . . .

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**W . A . K . E . U . P .**

Women Against the Killing & Exploitation of Unprotected Persons

## OUR CURRENT MISSION

To mobilize people of all faiths to the "Awakening" of the consciences of the world to the current Culture of Death, and for a changing of hearts to embrace the Culture of Life.

## OUR CURRENT PLAN

To use the social educational means of communication to draw public attention through the plight of the unborn, and to promote, among our youth, The New Sexual Revolution, CHASTITY.



**Missy  
Smith**

*President  
and  
Founder*

**Donations are welcome.**

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## THE LAST ABORTION MYTH DISPELLED

Welcome to the second issue of our newsletter "**Heart to Heart**". Like the first issue this issue will focus on women's health education.

Most of us who counsel at abortion mills have difficulty in convincing a women victim of rape or incest to let their baby live. Using arguments that the baby has a right to life, is made in the image of God, and deserves a chance at life at least through adoption has little effect. These arguments are usually expressed through the mother, father or a friend. It seems we don't often get a chance to talk to the victim her self. The reason for this is probably because most of the time the abortion is driven by the mother, father or friend. They "know what's best" for the rape or incest victim.

However the **Elliot Institute** has reported (September 7, 2006) that recent studies show that **RAPE AND INCEST VICTIMS DON'T WANT ABORTIONS, SAY IT DOESN'T HELP WOMEN**. Instead abortion intensifies victims trauma.

Abortion creates more problems for rape or incest victims than it solves, according to the Ad Hoc Committee of Women Pregnant by Sexual assault (WPSA).

In an effort to gain a public voice in the contentious abortion debate, the group has written a petition to Congress and state legislatures asking for public hearings at which women who've become pregnant through sexual assault can share their stories and address the real concerns that they have faced.

"In virtually every case, those people who claim to represent our interests have never taken the time to actually listen to us or to learn about our true circumstances, needs, and concerns," they wrote. *"We are deeply offended and dismayed each time our difficult circumstances are exploited for public consumption to promote the political agenda of others."*

The group is particularly concerned about the widespread misconception, even among people who generally oppose abortion, that sexual assault victims generally want or benefit from abortions.

For example, a statewide survey in South Dakota recently found a proposed abortion ban there would receive overwhelming support at the polls as long as it provided an exception for rape and incest cases. Without an exception for women who become pregnant through sexual assault, the ban is favored by only 39 percent, with 47 percent opposing it and 14 percent undecided.

However, the WPSA members say that abortion does nothing to help women pregnant through sexual assault, and in many cases is actually detrimental to them.

"In many cases, we felt pressured to abort by family members, social workers, and doctors who insisted that abortion was the 'best' solution," they wrote. "For many the abortion caused physical and emotional trauma equal to or exceeding the trauma of the sexual assault that our abortions were supposed to 'cure.'"

Dr. David Reardon, who co-authored the book *"Victims and Victors: Speaking Out About Their Pregnancies, Abortions, and Children Resulting from Sexual Assault,"* said the results of the South Dakota poll reflect voters' desire to spare women from the hardships often associated with giving birth to a child conceived in sexual assault.

"Typically, most people have accepted the premise that sexual assault victims not only want abortions but will actually benefit from them," said Reardon, a leading researcher on post-abortion issues and director of the Elliot Institute. "They assume abortion will help victims put the assault behind them, recover more quickly, and avoid any problems that might arise from giving birth to the child--who is often described as the 'rapists' child' rather than the woman's child."

But the only two published studies that have actually tracked the choices and experiences of women who have become pregnant after rape or incest, Reardon said, actually lead to the opposite conclusions. Remarkably, both studies found that approximately 70 percent of pregnant rape victims chose to give birth rather than have abortions,