

# **For Immediate Release: International Human Rights Day-December 10<sup>th</sup>-By Denise Mountenay**

In 1948, after the systematic termination of millions of innocent people during the Nazi Holocaust, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was established. This document states: **"Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."**

Article 3: "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status". In other words, human rights are simply those rights that all human beings possess simply by virtue of being human beings. Article 6 states, "Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law". Article 7 continues, "All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law".

"The right to life is undoubtedly the most fundamental of all rights." <sup>1</sup> The preamble in **The Convention on the Rights of the Child** includes "the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of *all* members of the human family" (my emphasis).

The rights or needs of children including those that are temporarily in utero are stated most directly in the Covenant on the Rights of the Child, which states; **"The child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before, as well as after birth."** Clearly the "child" includes the ones temporarily residing in his/her mother's womb.

Therefore, the systematic termination and destruction of children developing in-utero before birth is a huge human rights violation and the greatest crime against humanity in our generation. The inalienable right to life is tantamount in UN documents. The definition of human rights according to Miriam-Webster is "rights regarded as belonging fundamentally to all persons", and according to the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, "rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status".

**The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms** affirms in Article 7. "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice." And Article 12 states: "Everyone has the right not to be subjected to any cruel and unusual treatment or punishment." Children in utero who are violently poisoned, crushed or dismembered suffer cruel and unusual punishment. As well, Article 15 (1) states: "Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, **age** or mental or physical disability." Consequently, we urge our Government to adhere to these principals and policies and begin a campaign to protect every human being, no matter how small. The right to abortion stops where the death of another human being happens. The right to have ones child killed before birth is a violation of our inherent right to Life. Every human being deserves the right to life, no matter how young, or small, or where they reside.

## **Citations**

<sup>1</sup>*Textbook on International Human Rights, 5th Edition*, Rhona K. M. Smith, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2012, p.217. The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, once again, refers to "recognition of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family" in its preamble.