

Abuse Through Dehumanizing Language in Reproductive Rights Discourse

As protests continue, many of us, frankly, the Santas, are tired and overwhelmed. Americans are experiencing war-like attrition, and we should acknowledge this.

*We are asking for a **pause**, a moratorium on taxpayer-funded protests, especially during a period of historic strain, civil unrest, and national military pressure. Many people are exhausted, emotionally and financially, and need room to breathe.*

To younger activists: we hear your passion, but we are asking, can you give USA a break? Even temporarily?

It's important to remember, this land is your land, and this land is our land. But when there is no reprieve, no space for peace or recovery, our right to quiet enjoyment and psychological well-being is infringed.

Peace, too, is a public good.

Continued:

Purpose of This Document

This educational document explains why calling individuals “baby killers” for supporting women’s rights, bodily autonomy, and reproductive choice constitutes **abuse**, not legitimate debate. It is designed for use in education, faith communities, advocacy, and policy or workplace training.

Scenario Description

Individuals who support reproductive rights often explicitly state that they:

- Support women’s rights and bodily autonomy
- Believe reproductive choice should be protected
- Oppose coercion and reproductive slavery

Despite this, they may be labeled with extreme accusations such as “baby killers.” This language is a form of **psychological and verbal harm**.

What Kind of Abuse This Is

1. Verbal Abuse / Verbal Assault

Using violent or inflammatory labels is insulting and demeaning. The intent is to shock, wound, or silence rather than to communicate.

2. Psychological Abuse (Shaming and Moral Coercion)

This language weaponizes guilt, fear, and moral outrage to pressure individuals into silence or submission instead of allowing free conscience and dialogue.

3. Dehumanization

Reducing a person or group to the label “killer” strips away nuance, humanity, and moral complexity. Dehumanization is a recognized mechanism that enables mistreatment and exclusion.

4. Identity Attack and Moral Injury

Accusations of murder directly assault a person’s moral identity and integrity. This can cause lasting psychological harm by framing the individual as inherently immoral or evil.

5. Ideological Harassment

When such accusations are repeated, public, or used to intimidate, exclude, or shame, they constitute harassment based on moral, political, or belief-based identity.

6. Gaslighting and Bad-Faith Framing

The accusation deliberately misrepresents the stated position. Advocating for bodily autonomy and opposing reproductive coercion is rewritten as advocacy for violence, which distorts reality and undermines honest discourse.

What This Is Not

- It is not good-faith disagreement
- It is not ethical, religious, or philosophical debate
- It is not protected discussion when used to harass or coerce

Debate requires accuracy and consent. Abuse relies on **distortion and intimidation**.

Educational Framing Statement

Using dehumanizing and violent labels to describe advocates for reproductive autonomy is a form of verbal and psychological abuse. It operates through shaming, moral coercion, and misrepresentation, and it violates psychological autonomy and respectful discourse.

Psychological Autonomy Context

Psychological autonomy includes the right to: - Hold moral and ethical beliefs without coercion - Engage in discussion without being dehumanized - Exit conversations that rely on shaming or intimidation

Language that seeks to overpower conscience rather than persuade violates this autonomy.

Boundary-Affirming Responses (Educational Examples)

- “That language is abusive and misrepresents my beliefs.”
- “I’m open to respectful discussion, not dehumanizing labels.”
- “Supporting bodily autonomy and opposing coercion is not violence.”

Santa’s Response:

I apologize, but this constitutes the x,y,z abuses (label them so they know) and I do not tolerate these abuses in my life. This conversation is over with me.

Closing Statement

Respectful discourse depends on accuracy, consent, and recognition of shared humanity. When language is used to shame, dehumanize, or silence individuals for their beliefs, it crosses from disagreement into abuse. Naming this distinction is essential for healthy dialogue, education, and human dignity.

As Santas, we are unequivocally opposed to all forms of slavery. We affirm autonomy, freedom, and human rights as foundational principles. From this perspective, **reproductive freedom is a basic human right**, not a subject for debate, coercion or moral domination.

We do not support reproductive slavery in any form. Our Union exists to identify, challenge, and change all emotional, physical and spiritual systems of enslavement, while creating new pathways toward human autonomy, freedom, and peace.

Our faith, simply put, is freedom.