

WOMEN'S CAUCUS
Room 6
307 West Broadway
Vancouver, B.C.

March 19, 1970

Prime Minister P. E. Trudeau
and
The Ministers of Health and Justice
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario

RE: WOMEN'S RIGHTS - ABORTION

Dear Sirs:

We are FURIOUS WOMEN in a nation that does not recognize or respect our basic rights as human beings and citizens of Canada.

We charge the Government of Canada with violation of its responsibility and trust to serve all of its citizens. We charge the Government of Canada with the following:

1. Of being responsible for the MURDER BY ABORTION OF 2,000 CANADIAN WOMEN who die each year from illegal abortions.

2. Of being responsible for the hospitalization and possible mutilation of 20,000 WOMEN, who enter hospitals for treatment of complications arising from illegal abortions.

3. Of being responsible for the psychological, physiological and economic oppression and degradation of thousands of women who are forced into unwanted motherhood and who depend on inadequate medication over which they have no control (the abuses of the pill and lack of adequate research into new methods of birth control and abortion). We understand that the medical profession and the hospitals share this responsibility. But also we recognize that the situation would be greatly alleviated if the Government met our demands.

We, therefore, demand the following:

A. That Abortion (Section 237) be removed from the Criminal Code of Canada.

B. That all persons who have been convicted under Section 237 or 150 of the Criminal Code of Canada be pardoned and that current prosecutions arising from this section be nullified.

C. That methods of safe birth control for women and men be researched by the Federal Government.

D. That new methods of abortion be researched by the Federal Government, and that both the birth control information and methods of abortion be made public and that this information be sent to all medical doctors and be taught in medical schools.

If another country murdered 2,000 Canadian WOMEN the Canadian Government would take immediate steps to stop the murders, and should the murdering not be stopped, the Government of Canada would probably call an Emergency Meeting and could quite conceivably declare war on that country.

Laws can be changed very quickly in wartime, in a state of national emergency. The deaths of thousands of women and the tragedy of unwanted pregnancies constitute such an emergency.

We, therefore, demand that an Emergency Meeting be called to end such carnage of Canadian women by illegal abortion.

The Vancouver Women's Caucus, along with other Women's Liberation groups have declared the week beginning May 9th as Abortion week throughout Canada. We will be leaving Vancouver in a Cavalcade for Ottawa and will stop in cities and towns along the way where other Women's Liberation groups will join us.

We trust that we will be able to meet with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Health, and Members of Parliament.

The Federal Abortion laws kill 2000 women a year. We consider the government of Canada is in a state of war with the women of Canada. If steps are not taken to implement our demands by Monday, May 11, 1970 at 3:00 p.m., we will be forced to respond by declaring war on the Canadian government.

We are angry, furious women and we demand our right to human dignity.

Yours 'til Repeal,

Copies/
Members of Parliament