



Directors Gregg & Lois Cunningham  
and daughters

Center for Bio-Ethical Reform

June 2021

# CBR Summer Interns Taking the Truth to the Streets

**O**ur summer interns have been hard at work since they began CBR’s program on May 17. In addition to classroom training and various assignments, we are giving them real-life experience in reaching the general public with our photo signs.

From June 2 to 4, CBR staff took the interns to Washington, D.C., to conduct our ALL Black Lives Matter campaign outside the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). This Smithsonian Museum recently reopened, so we were eager to reach those entering with the reality that abortion disproportionately affects Black Americans. Museumgoers certainly do not learn about these facts inside the NMAAHC. We also concentrate on this tax-funded museum because it has become the propaganda arm of the deeply racist “Black Lives Matter” movement.

Our team of staff and interns observed many people thoughtfully considering our signs as they stood in the entrance line, and they were able to interact with some people who had questions.

After the time in Washington, D.C., the team traveled to Virginia Beach to reach the crowds at the beach. This may have been the first time that bikini-clad women stopped to read our signs. CBR summer intern Rebekah spoke with them; it was her first conversation with pro-abortion women since she began her training with CBR. Mik’aela Raymond, CBR staff member, reported that Rebekah did well in the lengthy conversation. Rebekah has a knack for debating yet she was respectful the entire time. It was

clear that she cared about the young women and was not solely focused on winning the argument.

That conversation, coupled with our photo signs, surely had an impact on those young women.



*CBR intern Triniti speaks with passerby during the ALL Black Lives Matter (ALBM) project outside the National Museum of African American History and Culture during the June 2-4 outreach.*



*In Virginia Beach, four pro-abortion girls spoke with CBR intern Rebekah (in the reddish top and denim shorts). This was her first conversation/debate with pro-abortion people during the first month of her internship.*



# Criminal Penalties for Post-abortive Women?

**A**n ideology that has recently crept in among small numbers of pro-life activists and has brought concern to CBR. This group of people thinks that women who have abortions should face criminal prosecution, if and when abortion becomes illegal. We believe they are clearly mistaken, and this article will address the matter.

CBR and other major pro-life organizations strongly oppose the prosecution of post-abortive women, and there are a number of sound reasons that it would be a losing battle and a foolhardy proposition.

First, it is significant to note that prior to the legalization of abortion in the United States, no woman was ever successfully prosecuted for having an abortion. Marvin Olasky, in his book *Abortion Rites*, wrote that his research unearthed only one woman who was prosecuted for an abortion, and her case was ended without criminal penalties.

American feminists in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries fought for basic rights such as the right to vote, the right to own property, and the right to shared custody of their children if divorced. They called abortion “child murder.” Many of these women were Christian leaders who saw abortion as another means for men to dominate and exploit women. Susan B. Anthony gave a speech in 1875 entitled “Social Purity,” and in it she compared abortion and infanticide to rape and prostitution, referring to all four practices as male wrongs against women. *Feminists for Life* wrote: “Anthony argued that laws pertaining to these matters, made and enforced exclusively by men, further victimized women while absolving men of all responsibility.”  
<https://bit.ly/35DvCDX>

There is a powerful passage in Miss Anthony’s article in the feminist newspaper *Revolution* entitled “Marriage & Maternity”: “Guilty? Yes, no matter what the motive, love of ease, or a desire to save from suffering the unborn innocent, the woman is awfully guilty who commits the deed. It will burden her conscience in life, it will burden her soul in death; but oh! thrice guilty is he who, for selfish gratification... drove her to the desperation which impelled her to the crime.”  
<https://bit.ly/3wAz1PE>

A woman who has an abortion is surely burdened by a guilty conscience in this life, and she is also prone to suffer

physical complications as well as emotional and spiritual turmoil. A man who participates in an abortion also suffers, though in some different ways from the woman. It serves no useful societal purpose to further punish her with criminal prosecution.

CBR Executive Director Gregg Cunningham co-sponsored the Abortion Control Act which was made into law in Pennsylvania in 1982. Thousands of preborn babies were and still are being saved from abortion by the restrictions enacted. Mr. Cunningham learned first hand when he served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives how challenging it is to get legislators to vote on abortion; weak pro-life legislators are especially loathe to go on the record.

If *Roe v. Wade* were reversed, and Congress ever became pro-life enough to enact anti-abortion legislation, the law would likely criminalize the act of performing abortions rather than the act of obtaining them. Even in the case of abortion pills, the provider rather than the user should be punished. Abortionists understand the horror of abortion far more clearly than panic-stricken mothers and it is these doctors who should go to prison.

Many law enforcement officials in both pro-life and pro-abortion jurisdictions would be reluctant to investigate, much less arrest, post-abortive women for infractions. Prosecutors would be unlikely to charge arrestees, juries would be reluctant to convict, and judges would probably try to avoid imposing significant penalties on those found guilty of violations – especially post-abortive women charged with homicide offenses. Those kinds of bills won’t pass and they can’t be enforced. It would also make it much more difficult to enact anti-abortion legislation.

On the other hand, pro-aborts would LOVE it if pro-life people became known as advocates of criminal penalties for women who abort. This sort of philosophy would only make pro-lifers seem like heartless fools. Nearly one-quarter of American women have had abortions, (<https://bit.ly/3gAB5BJ>) yet huge numbers of them are coerced into doing so by boyfriends and husbands and other family members. Attempting to assign degrees of culpability would be impossibly complex and would lead to virtually no convictions. Nor would any of this have any deterrent effect.



Society criminalizes countless categories of anti-social behavior, but such behaviors are never fully eradicated. That is not an argument in favor of surrender to anarchy, but no criminal prohibition can reduce anti-social behavior's frequency of occurrence to zero. The best we can hope to realistically achieve in outlawing violence of any sort is a reduction to its irreducible minimum. This is true of abortion.

It is ironic that so many churches refuse to teach the congregation abortion facts which only pictures can communicate, and then other Christians demand the prosecution of women who fall for Planned Parenthood's lies.

A big question that is not raised by people who call for criminal penalties for women is what about the men who got them pregnant? This is pure hypocrisy.

Finally, and most importantly, how would Jesus respond to women who are living in the aftermath of their abortions? John 8:3-12 records the incident where a woman caught in adultery was brought to Jesus by the scribes and Pharisees. They challenged Him with the Mosaic Law and reminded the Son of God that such acts should result in stoning her. These hypocrites asked our Lord, "What do you say?" Jesus responded by stooping down to write on the ground. When they persisted in asking him, Jesus rose up and said, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." Once again, Jesus stooped down and wrote. The religious rulers began to leave one by one, beginning with the older ones. When only the woman was left, Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" She responded, "No one, Lord," And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

Women (and men) condemn themselves after having abortions, and it is only the love and forgiveness of Christ which can set them on the path to healing. At CBR, we seek to educate and minister to these people so they will not decide to have repeat abortions. There are many people in the pro-life movement who have abortion testimonies, and they are an important part of the movement. They can often reach women who are contemplating abortion, saying, "I've been in your shoes."

**RIGHT: Our team of CBR interns and staff displayed ABLM signs right near the entrance to the National Museum of African American History and Culture.**

## **We are grateful that you care about the "fatherless" in the womb and for your continued support.**

*"Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him—his name is the Lord. A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling."*

*PSALM 68:4-5*

### **Prayer Requests**

- CBR summer interns consider joining our full-time staff
- For pastors to lead their flocks to stand for the sanctity of human life
- For healing through Christ for post-abortive people

### **Events**

#### **CBR Summer Intern Program**

May 17 to August 6

#### **"Choice" Signs**

June 26      Intersection Glendale, AZ

#### **Outreach at Abortion Mills**

June 2 & 12      Planned Parenthood Mission Viejo, CA

June 17      Planned Parenthood, Asheville, NC

June 18-19      Abortion clinic, Charlotte, NC

#### **ALL Black Lives Matter Project**

June 2-4      NMAAHC, Wash., D.C.

#### **Urban Genocide Awareness Project (GAP)**

June 5      Virginia Beach, VA

June 11, 23,

25, & 30      Knoxville, TN

June 18      Charlotte, NC

#### **Post-carding / Brochure distribution**

June 10 & 24      Knoxville, TN



“ *‘At what moment did you decide to choose life for your baby?’  
The number one answer has always been ‘the [CBR abortion] video.’* ”

**LAPS Director**

*CBR-Northern Ireland conducted this photo display in Bangor, Northern Ireland outside a leading pro-abortion politician's office. On June 9, a CBR-NI volunteer and a pastor were offering help to women outside an abortion clinic in Coleraine. A pro-abort man assaulted them, ripped up their living baby photo sign and threw it in the trash. CBR-NI reported the incident to the police as a hate crime. Thankfully, there were no injuries, but “it was nasty and violent,” reported CBR-NI Director Wesley Mitchell. Pray for our international affiliates and for that lost soul.*



**Address corrections**

[addresschanges@cbrinfo.org](mailto:addresschanges@cbrinfo.org)

**Electronic funds donations**

[ACH@cbrinfo.org](mailto:ACH@cbrinfo.org)

**Credit card donations**

[creditcards@cbrinfo.org](mailto:creditcards@cbrinfo.org)

**Product order inquiries**

[productorders@cbrinfo.org](mailto:productorders@cbrinfo.org)

**Estate donations**

[plannedgiving@cbrinfo.org](mailto:plannedgiving@cbrinfo.org)

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- Abortion disproportionately affects Black Americans**