

Later, Late-Term, and No Limit National Abortion Policies

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Nations that have authorized abortion generally set pregnancy term limits for abortions based on the gestational age of the baby. A few deliberately set no limits for abortions, and many fail to specify limits for certain reasons even though late term abortions are highly unlikely, such as in almost all of the nations in Africa, Latin America and Oceania. In this working paper, later abortions are second-trimester abortions, beginning at 14 weeks; and late term abortions are 20 weeks gestation or later. The majority of nations, including most nations with second or third trimester limits, may permit later abortions for specified reasons.

Table 1 lists nations that permit abortions during or later than the second trimester of pregnancy. In Australia, policies vary by province or territory. In the United States, policies for second and third trimester abortions vary by state. A total of 52 nations permit second trimester abortions; 8 permit third trimester abortions; and 6 permit abortions with no limits. The 8 include 3 duplicate nations that allow abortion up to the point of viability, which some abortionists construe as second or third trimester.

Table 1: National Policies for 2nd or 3rd Trimester Abortions or No Limits

| Region & Nation | 2 nd Trimester | 3 rd Trimester | NO LIMIT |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| AFRICA | | | |
| Botswana | 16 weeks | | |
| Ethiopia | | < 28 weeks | |
| Liberia | 24 weeks | | |
| Mauritius | 14 weeks | | |
| Mozambique | 16 weeks | | |
| South Africa | 20 weeks | | |
| 6 nations | 5 nations | 1 nation | |

| AMERICAS & THE CARIBBEAN | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbados | 20 weeks | | |
| Canada | | | NO LIMIT |
| Guyana | 16 weeks | | |
| Peru | 22 weeks (PH) | | |
| United States | | | NO LIMIT (some states) |
| 5 nations | 3 nations | | 2 nations |
| ASIA | | | |
| Armenia | 22 weeks | | |
| Azerbaijan | 21 weeks | | |
| China, PR of | | | NO LIMIT; forced abortion |
| China, Rep. of (Taiwan) | 24 weeks | | |
| Georgia | 22 weeks | | |
| India | 20 weeks | | |
| Iran | < 4 months | | |
| Kazakhstan | 22 weeks | | |
| Korea, DPR (North) | | | Forced abortion |
| Kuwait | < 4 months | | |
| Kyrgyzstan | 22 weeks | | |
| Maldives | "within 120 days" | | |
| Nepal | 18 weeks | | |
| Qatar | < 4 months | | |
| Saudi Arabia | < 4 months | | |
| Singapore | 24 weeks | | |
| Tajikistan | | 28 weeks | |
| Turkey | 20 weeks | | |
| Turkmenistan | 22 weeks | | |
| Uzbekistan | | 28 weeks | |
| Viet Nam | 22 weeks | | |
| 21 nations | 17 nations | 2 nations | 2 nations |
| EUROPE | | | |
| Albania | 22 weeks | | |
| Belarus | 22 weeks | | |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | 20 weeks | | |
| Bulgaria | 20 weeks | | |
| Czech Republic | 24 weeks | | |
| Denmark | Viability | Viability | |
| Estonia | 21 weeks | | |
| Finland | 24 weeks | | |
| Germany | 22 weeks | | |
| Greece | 24 weeks | | |

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Hungary | 24 weeks | | |
| Iceland | 16 weeks | | |
| Italy | Viability | Viability | |
| Kosovo | 22 weeks | | |
| Latvia | 22 weeks | | |
| Montenegro | | 32 weeks | |
| Netherlands | | | NO LIMIT |
| Norway | 18 weeks | | |
| Portugal | 24 weeks | | |
| Romania | 24 weeks | | |
| Russian Federation | 22 weeks | | |
| Serbia | 20 weeks | | |
| Slovakia | 6 months | | |
| Spain | 22 weeks | | |
| Sweden | Viability | Viability | |
| Ukraine | | 28 weeks | |
| United Kingdom (but not Northern Ireland) | 24 weeks | | |
| 27 nations | 24 nations | 5 nations | 1 nation |
| OCEANIA | | | |
| Australia | 20 weeks (WA); 23 weeks (NT) | | NO LIMIT (CT): NO LIMIT w-approval (SA, VIC) |
| Fiji | 20 weeks | | |
| New Zealand | 20 weeks | | |
| 3 nations | 3 nations | | 1 nation |
| TOTALS: | | | |
| 62 nations | 52 nations | 8 nations | 6 nations |

Specified Reasons But No Abortion Limits for Some Reasons

In national policies, the specified reasons that abortions are permitted include: physical health (PH) or mental health (MH) of the mother; rape or incest (R/I); fetal impairment or disability (FI); economic or social reasons (ESR); or age limits. In some nations, those who perform abortions only loosely comply with the gestational limits linked to these policies. Further, the policies of most nations authorizing abortion permit some abortions without any specified gestational age limit for one or more specific reasons with approval, which can result in abortions beyond the limits in Table 1. When researching the policies with information available to me, I found a total of 102 nations with one or more of these exceptions that specified no time limit (see Table 2).

Table 2: Total Number of Nations with No Specified Limits for Specific Reasons

| Region | Number of Nations |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Africa | 26 nations |
| Americas & The Caribbean | 15 nations (1 some states) |
| Asia | 27 nations |
| Europe | 31 nations |
| Oceania | 3 nations (1 some regions) |
| Total | 102 nations |

The actual national policies from which this information is derived are posted on the “Laws” page of the Global Life Campaign website (<https://www.globallifecampaign.com/wwwgloballifecampaigncom-cfvq>). This research was done with meticulous attention to specific provisions in actual national policies. If you think there is an error in the policy information for your nation, please let me know and provide a document with the published correct policy and reference in English, and preferably in your national language also.

Part III of the *Abortion Worldwide Report* (AWR) [Informe Mundial del Aborto (IMA)] contains a table of the specific policies of 196 nations, though it does not include the week, trimester, and other information contained in Tables 1 and 2 above. The AWR/IMA is available through GLC Publications: www.GLCPublications.com.

The AWR Working Papers are available at the Global Life Campaign website, www.globallifecampaign.com or on the “Abortion Worldwide Report” page at Dr. Johnston’s website, <http://www.johnstonsarchive.net/policy/abortion/awr.html>.

“Woe to those who enact evil statutes and to those who constantly record unjust decisions, so as to deprive the needy of justice and rob the poor of My people of their rights, so that widows may be their spoil and that they may plunder the orphans (fatherless). Now what will you do in the day of punishment, and in the devastation which will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help? And where will you leave your wealth? Nothing remains but to crouch among the captives or fall among the slain. In spite of all this, His anger does not turn away and His hand is still stretched out” (Isaiah 10:1-4).