

# GLOBAL LIFE CAMPAIGN™

## 2020 is 100<sup>th</sup> Year Since First Abortion Decree

*Thomas W. Jacobson, Executive Director, Global Life Campaign (2020-03-25)*

This year, 2020, is the 100<sup>th</sup> year since the first civil government decree authorizing abortion. After the Marxists took over Russia, the new atheist Communist government enacted the first policy authorizing abortion on 18 November 1920 – supposedly to protect women, but more likely to keep more women in the workforce. By contrast, for the past 15 years there has been a movement in Russia to encourage childbearing, likely because of the demographic crisis, and in more recent years to restrict or end abortion and protect marriage.

Here we stand, 100 years later, and the blood of more than 1 billion innocent babies has been shed in 137 nations that presently permit abortion on demand or for limited reasons. Abortion has become the Greatest Genocide in history, the number 1 cause of death worldwide, and more and more people are rightfully calling for an end to the slaughter of the innocents.

This month's *Truth About Abortion* (of GLC Series) focuses on that 1920 government policy that changed the course of human history, what followed, and the emerging movement to end abortion. Because you might have extra time at home due to the Coronavirus pandemic, I am sending the full text to everyone on the GLC email lists.

**Worldwide Historical Background:** Throughout history, abortion was rare because it was either unthinkable or the death risk to women was too high (50 percent or higher); that is, until the 1800s, when scientific and medical knowledge, discovery of conception, and anesthesia lowered the death risk to mothers. When abortions began to increase, the response of nations worldwide was to prohibit abortion, including Russia in 1849. Unlike today, this was predominantly due to the influence of Christianity (see attached 1919 world map).

**First Abortion Decree in History:** Here is an introduction to and excerpt from the first abortion decree, quoted in the *Abortion Worldwide Report: 1 Century, 100 Nations, 1 Billion Babies*, by Thomas W. Jacobson and Wm. Robert Johnston (GLC Publications, 2018, p. 46):

“By its Decree of 18 November 1920, the Russian S.F.S.R. . . . became the first nation to authorize abortion on demand and free of charge in hospitals. . . . The decree stated:

‘During the past decades the number of women resorting to artificial discontinuation of pregnancy [a.k.a., aborting their baby] has grown both in the West and in this country. The legislation of all countries combats this evil by punishing the woman who chooses to have an abortion and the doctor who makes it. . . . (T)he People’s Commissariats of Health and of Justice, anxious to protect the health of the women and considering that the method of repressions in this field fails entirely to achieve this aim, have decided: 1. To permit such operations to be made freely and without any charge in Soviet hospitals,

where conditions are assured of minimizing the harm of the operation. . . . (Decree on Abortion, People's Commissariat of Health, on the Protection of Women's Health. November 18, 1920)."

The Russia policy became the Soviet policy when the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was formed, and that policy was imposed upon the other 14 republics as they were incorporated.

**What Followed:** Since that Decree, the blood of **219 million** innocent babies has been shed in Russia. From 1921 through 2018, a combined total of **348 million** babies have been murdered in Russia and the 14 other former Soviet republics (including the years they were a part of the U.S.S.R. and afterwards).

From the 1920s through the 1940s, a total of 14 other independent nations authorized limited or on demand abortion, but from the 1950s through the 1980s there was a great upsurge in nations authorizing abortion, dropping to 6 to 10 per decade since the 1990s. **Currently 137 nations permit abortion** for limited reasons or on demand, **but 49 nations still prohibit abortion** (see 2019 world policy map attached).

We have systematically tracked more than **1.07 billion** reported abortions, from 1921 through 2018, in 110 nations (see AWR above). Human fatalities from abortion far exceed total fatalities during all wars, genocides, and plagues of the same period of time – combined. About 40,000 babies are exterminated every day by abortion.

**Movement Among the Nations to End Abortion:** Poland highly restricted abortion in 1990, and abortions dropped low. Many other nations have enacted restrictions. In Russia, where this greatest of all human tragedies began, there is a resurgence of the church, pro-life groups, medical professionals, academics and scientists, and the government encouraging couples to have children, protecting children, and calling for an end to abortion.

- In 2006, the Russian government offered cash incentives to couples to have more children (Russians have aborted the equivalent of 154 percent – highest in world – of their current population, causing a demographic crisis, putting the viability of the nation in danger).
- In 2013, the Russian legislature, the Duma, prohibited advertising of abortion services.
- In 2015, a bill was introduced in the Duma to ban almost all abortions (not approved).
- In 2015, Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, spoke before the Duma, urging them to prohibit or highly restrict abortion, and support adoption.
- In 2015, the first ever pro-life conference of scientists from Russia and 11 other nations was held in Moscow, and evidence of the humanity of the child in the womb and that human life begins at conception was submitted to the Duma, asking them to prohibit abortion.
- In 2016, the Russian Patriarch and 300,000 other citizens signed a petition appealing to the government to “end legal murder of children before birth.”
- In 2017, the Orthodox Church told the Duma, “Abortion must be made equal to murder” (sources for each of the above available).

Russians are seeking to regain their former Christian identity as a nation. The Russian Orthodox Church, which has been the leading Christian denomination in Russia for over one thousand

years and part of its identity, has regained a place of honor and influence with the government. Also, Russians from other churches, organizations, and institutions have been vocal about protecting human life, marriage, family, and religious freedom. In March 2020, President Vladimir Putin and the Duma approved a constitutional amendment affirming Russia's "thousand-year history" of "belief in God," and declaring "the priority of family upbringing," children, and "marriage as a union between a man and a woman" (Tass Russian News Agency).

**Solemn Remembrance Events in Moscow:** The Global Life Campaign is in the process of seeking partners in Russia who would lead and organize solemn events on 18 November 2020, the day marking 100 years, in the city of Moscow where abortion was first authorized. We want these events to be humble, honest and defining moments that will, if God is pleased, propel good changes in Russia and the other former Soviet republics, and result in a decisive end to abortion in each of these nations and eventually nations worldwide.

What else are we hoping for? We hope to see believers in Christ who are clergy or members of churches, and in pro-life/family organizations, education, government and media, gathered together in humility and unity before the Lord. We hope these solemn events – and all the meetings and conversations leading up to, during and after the events – will bring openness for dialogue and relationships. While Russians remember God and humble themselves before Him, may it be in a new way with respect and unity among all Christian denominations: Orthodox, Evangelical, Catholic, and Protestant. For the Body of Christ is comprised of all those who are true believers in Jesus, and may this Body in unity be restored as "the pillar and support of the truth," and be a prophetic voice to the nation and government (1 Timothy 3:15). "The LORD commands the blessing" where "brothers dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1-3).

"Just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, so death spread to all men, because all sinned . . . much more did the grace of God and gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many" (Romans 5:12, 15). Through one event, government sanctioned abortion came into the world. What if through one event, a new course was set changing the history of the world to cherishing human life and ending abortion?

This is the top priority of the GLC for 2020, and if you can help in any way, please contact us. Also, become a GLC Member and support this mission and ministry (see GLC website).

SDG and for the sanctity of human life,  
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"When you come to appear before Me, who requires of you this trampling of My courts? . . . Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, reprove the ruthless, defend the orphan [including children in the womb], plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together,' says the LORD, 'though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool'" (Isaiah 1:12-18).