

Her Choice, Not Mine

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I am not a woman.

I will never have to risk my life for nine months caring a foetus.

I will never have to irreversibly alter my body to carry a child.

My body will never have to sacrifice its own nutrition and will never have to leach calcium from my own bones and risk osteoporosis.

My skin will never have to stretch beyond the breaking point of elastin and collagen fibres and be permanently scared.

My spine will never have to carry 20 pounds of weight day and night without rest and my bladder and other internal organs will never have to be squeezed by the weight and the bulk of a child.

My pelvis will never have to flex and separate at the symphysis pubis just to allow the passage of an entire child during birth.

I will never have to endure 57 del units of pain—the equivalent of 20 bones being fractured at the same time and 12 del units more than the human threshold for pain—during delivery.

I will never experience memory loss and permanent changes to my brain from both hormones and anaesthetics. My brain will never be wracked by hunger pangs, cravings, and mood swings brought on by hormonal changes.

I will never have the same commitment in sacrificing the rest of my own life to raise a child that was literally taken from my own flesh and blood.

And I will never have to fight for my right to determine what I do with my own body or my own life.

And I will never have men and women, especially supposedly celibate religious leaders and supposedly family-oriented politicians, trying to tell me what I can and cannot do with my own uterus.

And I will never experience being denied the reproductive health choices made possible by medical science—the same science that affords men condoms, erectile dysfunction pills, hair transplant surgery, and prostate cancer treatment—all for the ridiculous reason that “it’s god’s will.”

And I will never experience having my own life deemed secondary in importance to the survival of a foetus.

Men have no right imposing their beliefs on women. And not even other women have a right to impose their beliefs on another woman. An individual’s choice is hers and hers alone.