

The Salvation Army

Stance on Abortion and Contraception

<https://www.salvationarmy.org/ihq/ipsabortion>

The Salvation Army continues to keep this statement on their website regarding abortion. They make exceptions for abortion within the cases of incest, rape, and the life of the mother:

The Salvation Army believes all people are created in the image of God and therefore have unique and intrinsic value. Human life is sacred and all people should be treated with dignity and respect. The Salvation Army accepts the moment of fertilization as the start of human life. We believe that society has a responsibility to care for others, and especially to protect and promote the welfare of vulnerable people, including unborn children. The Salvation Army believes that life is a gift from God and we are answerable to God for the taking of life. As such, The Salvation Army is concerned about the growing ready acceptance of abortion, which reflects insufficient concern for vulnerable persons including the unborn. We do not believe that genetic abnormalities that are identified in an unborn child who is likely to live longer than a brief period after birth are sufficient to warrant a termination of pregnancy. The Salvation Army recognizes tragic and perplexing circumstances that require difficult decisions regarding a pregnancy. **Decisions should be made only after prayerful and thoughtful consideration, acknowledging the tremendous pressures that occur during an unexpected pregnancy. There is a responsibility on all involved to give the parents of the unborn child, particularly the woman, appropriate pastoral, medical and other counsel. The Salvation Army believes that termination can occur only when: Carrying the pregnancy further seriously threatens the life of the mother; or Reliable diagnostic procedures have identified a fetal abnormality considered incompatible with survival for more than a very brief post-natal period. In addition, rape and incest are brutal acts of dominance violating women physically**



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and emotionally. This situation represents a special case for the consideration of termination as the violation may be compounded by the continuation of the pregnancy. The Salvation Army affirms and supports professional people engaged in the care of pregnant women who feel on religious, moral or ethical grounds, that they cannot be involved in any way with the procuring or undertaking of an abortion.

The Salvation Army immediately follows-up with a list of their justifications for abortion in certain circumstances under their “Principles” section:

Abortion is not a new social phenomenon: Induced abortion – the deliberate action of terminating a pregnancy – is not a new procedure. It has been recorded in history including ancient Chinese and Egyptian societies and Roman and Greek civilizations. The patterns of abortion employed around the world and throughout the ages are remarkably similar. When women have been faced with unwanted pregnancies some have turned to abortion – regardless of religious or legal sanction and often at considerable risk. Women seek abortions for complex reasons: Abortion should not be seen as a quick response to an inconvenient or unplanned pregnancy. The many and complex reasons women seek abortion cannot simply be dismissed as frivolous or unconsidered. The individual context demonstrates many of the difficulties that women face globally in all walks of life. Some reasons for unplanned pregnancies are more predominant in context of poverty, war or commonly occurring violence against women. Many of the reasons that women do not, or are unable to, protect themselves against unplanned pregnancy are influenced by cultural, social or economic factors. Rape as a weapon of war: Rape, forced prostitution, and other forms of sexual violence occur in time of war not only as the choice of individual soldiers but also as a military tactic to humiliate and demoralize the enemy. The documented incidents number in the multiple thousands. Those who become pregnant as a result bear the burden of



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being continuing reminders of the military impotence of their whole community.

For their “Practical Responses” section, they state: “A serious commitment to the protection and care of the unborn calls us to a commitment to the prevention of unwanted pregnancy through means such as access to reliable birth control, safety in relationships, and societal respect of women.”

<https://www.advancingpartners.org/about-us/success-stories/salvation-army-integration-family-planning-project-addressing>

In a past collaborative project from 2019 with The Salvation Army and APC (Advancing Partners and Communities), the groups worked in Uganda and educated and provided women with opportunities to family plan with contraceptives. They boasted over the fact that “approximately 200 clients were reached, and 2,047 male condoms, 45 female condoms, 11 implants, 15 Depo-Provera injections and 9 combined oral contraceptive pills were provided.”

<https://www.lepanto.org/wp/the-salvation-army/>

The Lepanto Institute provides an article on The Salvation Army’s past involvement in abortion, contraception, and anti-Church teaching as well. (Published: 12/31/2021)

Stance on LGBTQ+

<https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/the-lgbtq-community-and-the-salvation-army/>

While taking care of anyone in the community, The Salvation Army now dedicates an entire section of their work to the LGBTQ+ community and emphasize the work they do for the LGBTQ+ community, particularly for transgenders. They do not have a special page dedicated to any other group of people on their website and offer special housing to transgenders.



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