



# Jewish Life League Letter

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## Progressivism vs. Progress

In 1970 when abortion was legalized in New York State, a New York Post Louis Harris poll showed that 71% of Jews were in favor of abortion. A recent Pew Research poll found that 83% of American Jews want abortion to remain legal while a recent Gallup poll showed that 76% of American Jews found abortion morally acceptable.

So what has changed since 1970? If anything, among American secular Jews, abortion support has not diminished but has grown more pronounced and stronger. These same polls show similar shifts of abortion support among other religious groups as well. However, by and large abortion receives wide support in the secular Jewish community in numbers and percentages above that of other religious groups.

Dr. Eli Schusheim, eminent Israeli surgeon and director of EFRAT-C.R.I.B. in Israel expressed his views on the New York abortion law, known as the RHA Act, passed earlier this year. The RHA codifies Roe v. Wade into state law for all nine months of pregnancy. Dr. Schusheim [commented](#):

*"This law in New York State is the same as the law we have in Israel. The Jews received the Torah from G-d and were commanded to teach it to the nations. Israeli law supports this. Many of the leaders in this horrible push to legalize the murder of babies are Jewish. If this is what we do how can we expect the nations to do any better?"*

Indeed. But progressivism is not about doing better, it's about doing whatever their adherents want however immoral their acts may be, and forcing their views on the rest of us. In fact, what makes progressivism so ironic is that as a movement it has not kept up with progress. Over the past nearly five decades we have seen amazing advancements in fetal medicine and scientific research that prove the [humanity of the unborn child](#), from the moment of conception. The unborn child has his or her own DNA, and the baby's heart starts beating at 18 days after conception with her own blood! Facts like these were not known in 1973 when Roe v. Wade was decided by the Supreme Court. The themes of the 2019 March For Life was "Unique from Day One," and at JLL we are keeping up with the trends.

Fetal medicine has made outstanding progress, treating conditions prenatally that could not be treated in the past, such as spina bifida. Read this [mother's beautiful account](#) of her son little Kai, who was diagnosed prenatally with a rare genetic disorder, Amniotic Band Syndrome. Rather than pressure her into an abortion, her doctor gave her hope and performed experimental miracle surgery on her unborn son. From her story on [Save the 1](#):

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*"The next morning, Dr. Belfort explained that no one had ever performed surgery on an unborn child this young, but that same day, when I was at 19 weeks gestationally, we were blessed to have this record-breaking experimental fetal surgery which saved our child's life!"*

This is progress, not progressivism. The pro-abortion radicals on the left who support killing babies at any time for any reason remain mired in the 1900s. We've moved on to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and so has medicine. This is one reason people's hearts and minds are changing from a pro-abortion viewpoint to a pro-life viewpoint. The facts and evidence are there. The problem is, the Courts and our Legislative branch are run by socialists with a dangerous agenda. We will not win the abortion war through civil laws, but by raising consciousness and awareness in our communities with accurate pro-life information, education and resources.

## Rabbis Speak Out for Life



*"Until now, it was unthinkable to kill a baby in the womb. It was simply too horrifying, an act of inhuman cruelty. Suddenly, this very act is held up as some great good, an act of kindness."*

- Rabbi Yosef Berger, the rabbi of King David's Tomb on Mount Zion. In "New York Abortion Law Worse Than Pharaoh," by Adam Elyahu Berkowitz. [Breaking Israel News](#), January 24, 2019.

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## Israel's Abortion Numbers Are Dropping.



For those who have not read my recent article, ["Abortion by the Numbers,"](#) I discuss how abortion statistics in the United States have dropped due to the efforts of pro-life workers. Pro-aborts deny our efforts making the difference and attribute the changes to increased use of birth control, but they are wrong.

As it goes in the United States, so it goes in Israel! According to data from the Central Bureau of Statistics and as reported in [Arutz Sheva](#), fewer Israeli women are having abortions, and Israel's abortion rate is half of what it was 30 years ago.

"In 1988, 18.6 out of every 1,000 women ages 15 to 49 requested an abortion that year. The abortion rate fell to less than half that by 2015, with 9.4 out of every 1,000 women in the 15 to 49 age group requesting abortions, amounting to roughly 18,400 abortions performed, and 18,510 requests for abortions." – From Arutz Sheva, [IsraelNationalNews.com](http://IsraelNationalNews.com). A recent article in [Breaking Israel News](#) reports: "The number of Jewish women who get abortions every year decreases slightly, and in the past 25 years has gone down from 14,700 per year to 13,700 in 2015. Given the dramatic Jewish population boom, this means that the rate per thousand has gone down from 13.7 to 9.7."

This is good news. However, Jewish women had a higher rate of abortion than women of other religious groups, with 9.4 Jewish women per 1,000 women between 59 and 49 requesting an abortion. In Israel, abortion termination committees have five criteria under which abortions may be allowed and under what circumstances, but the guidelines are not followed. Almost all abortions are allowed and 99.3% of abortion requests are granted.

## Is Pro-Life Citizen Journalism Dead?

Pro-life citizen journalist David Daleiden of the [Center for Medical Progress](#) was found guilty of multiple crimes including illegal taping, fraud and violation of federal racketeering laws. On the videos, Planned Parenthood workers admit that they murder babies to obtain baby body parts for sale and profit. Judge William Orrick III has strong ties to Planned Parenthood and should have recused himself from this case. Judge Orrick instructed the jury to find against Mr. Daleiden and other pro-life defendants. The jury handed down their unjust verdict last Friday. We have been following this case closely and have updated our [JLL Pro-Life Resources page](#) with the latest stories. The [Thomas More Society](#) will be appealing the verdict. Life Site News reports [details of this terrible injustice](#):

*"David's findings revealed practices so abhorrent that the United States Congress issued criminal referrals for Planned Parenthood, and numerous states and elected officials have moved to strip it of funding," continued Breen. "Rather than face up to its heinous doings, Planned Parenthood chose to persecute the person who exposed it. I am fully confident that when this case has run its course, justice will prevail, and David will be vindicated."*

This is an outrageous verdict and a violation of freedom of speech. We will continue to follow this important case and pray that justice will prevail for David Daleiden, Sandra Merritt and the many pro-life activists who have dedicated their time and efforts to stopping Planned Parenthood's crimes against humanity.

## Contact us with feedback and article submissions:

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