

September 12, 2018

Open Letter to the Dallas Community:

We as religious and community leaders felt called to speak up about the dangerous propaganda erected over the streets of Oak Cliff in Dallas. This sign claiming that “ABORTION IS SELF-CARE” is not only misleading, it is irresponsible.



First – abortion is not about a woman “caring” for herself. Instead, it is often those around her (partners, family, school, job) pushing her to abort to meet their own needs and agenda (study reveals 64% of women feel pressured to abort, which may escalate to violence; 79% are not told of available resources). Second – abortion brings with it a multitude of health risks, mental and physical (study shows 65% of women suffered symptoms of post-traumatic stress after abortion, 32% suffer health complications, 65% are at a higher risk for clinical depression, suicide rates are 6 times higher). See *Forced Abortion in America: A Special Report*, [theunchoice.org](http://theunchoice.org).

These statistics are further supported by our personal experiences ministering to women who come to us overwhelmed by grief and often traumatized by their abortion. They feel alone, finding little comfort in a culture that tells them they have no reason to be upset. This billboard sells abortion as a solution with hashtag simplicity and no account for the complexity of the questions and risks involved.

Even more disconcerting is the absurd implication in the billboard’s message that women can best care for their families by killing their children. This is a tragic cheat. We owe the women and families in our community, particularly those who are struggling to make ends meet, more than “death is the best option.” The blatant racial targeting of this message raises further concerns about the effects of this fatalistic agenda on our minority communities.

We owe real solutions, real care, that include practical resources, emotional support, and avenues for personal development. The good news is that help already exists! There are countless agencies and charities in Dallas and across the U.S. that CARE about families – providing free or low-cost help. These organizations stand in stark contrast to the multi-million-dollar-abortion industry in Dallas alone.

We invite the author of this billboard, the Afeya Center, to enter into a real dialogue about the challenges that face our community and a partnership to spread the word about the crucial resources that exist and need to be developed to meet the needs of our families. Women deserve better, and we can do better.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Community

[Signatures listed on the next page]

*/s/ Marianne Allen*  
Sr. Co-Pastor, Christ for the Nations Church

*/s/ Don Anderson*  
The Village Church

*Fr. Thomas More Barba, O.P.*  
Chaplain, University of Dallas and  
Rector of the Church of the Incarnation

*/s/ Carmen Beale*  
Valley Bible Church

*/s/ Sabrina L. Bolton*  
*/s/ Delerna V. Edwards*  
*/s/ Jean James*  
*/s/ Deborah Perrin*  
*/s/ Marion Washington*  
*/s/ Marjorie Williams*  
*/s/ Semmie Williams Sr*  
Full Gospel Holy Temple

*/s/ Marthalicia Burkle*  
Director, Mater Filius Dallas

*/s/ Shawn Carney*  
President/CEO, 40 Days for Life

*/s/ Tom Clark*  
State Culture of Life Chairman  
Texas State Council, Knights of Columbus

*/s/ Carolyn Cline, President/CEO*  
Involved for Life, Inc.  
Downtown Pregnancy Center  
Uptown Women's Center  
Sonograms On Site

*/s/ Andrew Collart*  
University of Dallas Crusaders for Life

*/s/ Nydia P. Correa*  
Executive Director, Guiding Star El Paso

*/s/ Sean Doyle*  
Southern Methodist University Mustangs for Life

*/s/ Maria Eichhold, MSW*  
Executive Director, In My Shoes

*/s/ Aine Fitzgerald*  
Director, 40 Days for Life Waco

*/s/ Heather Gardner, Executive Director*  
Central Texas Coalition for Life

*/s/ Karen Garnett*  
Vice President of Community Relations  
and National Expansion, Heroic Media

*/s/ Walter Haskins*  
Southgate Fellowship

*/s/ Roy Heyne, M.D.*  
*/s/ Cesar Termulo, M.D.*  
*/s/ Mayra J. Thompson, M.D.*  
*/s/ Jeffrey R. Thompson, M.D.*  
Catholic Physicians Guild of Dallas

*/s/ Laura Ibarrola*  
Texas Christian University Students for Life

*/s/ Abby Johnson*  
CEO, And Then There Were None

*/s/ Jettie Johnson*  
Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship

*/s/ April J. Keese*  
Founder, African Americans for Life

*/s/ Eileen Kuhlmann*  
Director, Project Rachel Dallas

*/s/ Bishop John Lawson*  
Children of God's Ministry

[signatures continue on next page]

*/s/ Susan McKinney*, Vice President  
*/s/ Mary Reddan*  
Bella House

*/s/ Christine Melchor*, Executive Director  
*/s/ Theresa Camara*  
Houston Coalition for Life

*/s/ Ingrid Meyer*  
Director, Project Gabriel Dallas

*/s/ Ronda Kay Moreland*  
Board Member, Birth Choice of Dallas

*/s/ Lauren Muzyka*  
Executive Director, Sidewalk Advocates for Life

*/s/ John Pisciotta*, Director  
*/s/ Robert Lehman*, Clergy Outreach  
Pro-Life Waco

*/s/ Susan Platt*  
Director, 40 Days for Life Dallas

*/s/ Reg Platt*  
Facilitator, Project Joseph Dallas

*/s/ Joe Pojman, Ph.D.*, Executive Director  
*/s/ Deirdre Cooper*, Public Policy Analyst  
Texas Alliance for Life

*/s/ Raymond J. Reeves*  
Chairman, Corpus Christi Hope House, Inc.

*/s/ Marty Reid*, Pastor  
*/s/ Melia Reid*  
Trinity Family Church

*/s/ Aurora Tinajero*  
Radio Host, Celebrando la Vida

*/s/ Becky Visosky*, Executive Director  
Catholic Pro-Life Committee

*/s/ Kyleen Wright*  
President, Texans for Life Coalition

*/s/ Sarah Zarr*, TX Regional Coordinator  
Students for Life of America