

P R O W O M A N



Susan B. Anthony

In her publication, *The Revolution*, was written:

"Guilty? Yes. No matter what the motive, love of ease, or a desire to save from suffering the unborn innocent, the woman is awfully guilty who commits the deed. It will burden her conscience in life, it will burden her soul in death; but oh, thrice guilty is he who...drove her to the desperation which impelled her to the crime!"

Abortion was referred to as **"child-murder."**
The Revolution 4(1):4 July 8, 1869

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

She classified abortion as a form of **"infanticide."**
The Revolution 1(5):1 February 5, 1868.

"When we consider that women are treated as property, it is degrading to women

Emma Goldman

"The custom of procuring abortions has reached such appalling proportions in America as to be beyond belief...So great is the misery of the working classes that seventeen abortions are committed in every one hundred pregnancies."
Mother Earth, 1911

Mary Wollstonecraft

As early as 1792, Mary Wollstonecraft wrote *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, which Susan B. Anthony admired enough to serialize in *The Revolution*. After decrying, in scathing 18th century terms, the sexual exploitation of women, she said:

"Women becoming, consequently, weaker...than they ought to be...have not sufficient strength to discharge the first duty of a mother; and sacrificing to lasciviousness the parental affection...either destroy the embryo in the womb, or cast it off when born. Nature in everything demands respect, and those who violate her laws seldom violate them with impunity."

Matilda Gage

"[This] subject lies deeper down in woman's wrongs than any other...I hesitate not to assert that most of [the responsibility for] this crime lies at the door of the male sex."

The Revolution 1(14):215-6 April 9, 1868



that we should treat our children as property to be disposed of as we see fit."

Letter to Julia Ward Howe, October 16, 1873, recorded in Howe's diary at Harvard University Library

Stanton and Anthony's newspaper, The Revolution, and most other feminist publications of the last century refused to join in the common practice of printing advertisements for thinly-disguised patent medicine abortifacients.

Mattie Drinkerhoff

"When a man steals to satisfy hunger, we may safely conclude that there is something wrong in society—so when a woman destroys the life of her unborn child, it is an evidence that either by education or circumstances she has been greatly wronged."

The Revolution 4(9):138-9 September 2, 1869

Victoria Woodhull

The first female presidential candidate was a strong opponent of abortion.

"The rights of children as individuals begin while yet they remain the foetus."

Woodhull's and Claflin's Weekly 2(6):4 December 24, 1870

Susan B. Anthony



Elizabeth Cady Stanton

of our Feminist Foremothers

Alice Paul

The author of the original Equal Rights Amendment (1923) opposed the later trend of linking the E.R.A. with abortion. A colleague recalls her saying

"Abortion is the ultimate exploitation of women."

Feminists for Life

Feminists for Life was founded in 1972 by two women, one who was expelled from the National Organization for Women's meeting in Ohio for distributing antiabortion literature.

We proudly continue the feminist tradition of working for a society in which women can make life-affirming choices for themselves and their children.



FEMINISTS FOR LIFE
OF AMERICA

WOMEN DESERVE BETTERSM

"Child murderers practice their profession without let or hindrance, and open infant butcheries unquestioned...Is there no remedy for all this ante-natal child murder? ...Perhaps there will come a time when...an unmarried mother will not be despised because of her motherhood...and when the right of the unborn to be born will not be denied or interfered with."

*Woodhull's and Claflin's Weekly
November 19, 1870*

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