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Center for Bio-Ethical Reform

August 2018

Victory in Ireland

A few months ago, the Director of CBR's office in Ireland (ICBR), Dr. Jean Engela, was forced to defend himself against an attempt to suspend his license to practice medicine for the supposed offense of displaying CBR abortion photo signs in public. We are frequently threatened with arrest for displaying such signs, but we have won a declaration from the Director of Public Prosecutions for Ireland that our activism does not constitute a prosecutable offense.

So now the pro-abortion Parliament is taking matters into their own hands and trying to outlaw our signs. We will fight any such ban in the courts and by God's grace, we will prevail as we did in defending Dr. Engela's medical license.

I wrote the first draft of this letter and Dr. Engela's legal counsel edited the final draft in the third person for filing with the Medical Board. This letter is a revealing illustration of the lengths to which pro-aborts will go to hide the horror of abortion. Since they have no pity on preborn children, why would abortion-activists care about robbing a doctor of his license to practice medicine?

Here is part of the letter that was sent to the Medical Board on the legal counsel's letterhead:

Dear Ms. Anne Marie Keaveny:

My name is Jean Simonis Engela, and I direct the Irish Center for Bio-Ethical Reform (ICBR). I am in receipt of a Medical Council letter dated 9 May 2018, notifying me of a complaint referred to you by one Laura McNamee. Ms. McNamee demands that the Medical Council's Preliminary Proceedings Committee (PPC) open an investigation into my supposed failure "to act in the best interests of ... [my] patients" by "displaying ... [aborted baby photo] images in public."

This is a bizarre contention, not least, because Ms. McNamee herself admits that "it is not his [my] own patients that his behavior affected" as a consequence of my supposedly "forcing his [my] ideals on the public."

The "Mediation" section of the Medical Council guide for doctors titled "What To Do If A Complaint Is Made About You," explains that a goal of the Council's dispute resolution



Irish Police took our large living embryo signs right out of our team's hands during a display in the town of Middleton on June 28. The incident occurred at about 3.45pm on the public sidewalk across from the Courthouse in Middleton. Eight Gardaí officers arrived and forcibly pried the sign from CBR staff member, Joanna Keilson's fingers. Garda officers also seized three text only signs stating "Access to truth denied," "Hate the truth, hide the proof" and "Concealers at work," in addition to two rolled-up banners in the vicinity that were not on display. The explanation provided by the Garda officers at the time was that "people find them offensive." We have retained legal counsel and intend to sue.

process is "to restore the doctor-patient relationship." Ms. McNamee's complaint acknowledges, however, that ICBR's projects involve no doctor-patient relationships whatsoever. Perhaps Ms. McNamee misunderstands the proper role of the Medical Council?

The Medical Practitioners' Act 2007, paragraph 7, titled "Functions of Council" states at section (2)(e) that the Council is to "specify the standard required for the purposes of the maintenance of the professional competence of registered medical practitioners." The Act does not say that the Council has any power to function as an arbiter of sign content. Additionally, there is no legal authority for the illogical contention that the doctors who display advocacy signs are thereby practicing medicine. Nor does the relevant statutory law empower the Council to function as a speech censorship board. It has no jurisdiction over the public expression of policy views merely because the person expressing those views happens to be a physician. The Board, for instance, cannot properly investigate tax

(Continued on page 2)

VICTORY IN IRELAND (continued from page 1)



Irish pro-abortion cover-up activists persisted in following ICBR and holding their flags and signs in front of our photos signs. This display was at the Christ Church Intersection on May 15. When they do this, they are actually drawing more attention to our signs and this can result in more media coverage for our campaigns.

compliance allegations simply because the taxpayer at issue is also a doctor. The content of my signs cannot be “unprofessional” in any manner cognizable by the Council, because I do not display them in the capacity of a “medical professional.”

The Medical Practitioners’ Act of 2007, paragraph 57, titled “Complaints Concerning Registered Medical Practitioners,” states at section (1) the “grounds” on which a “complaint” may be made “concerning a registered medical practitioner.”

Provision 57(1)(a) is “professional misconduct.” This ground fails in the current case because the public display of advocacy signs is not professional conduct (much less misconduct) in any sense relevant to medical practice that imposes obligations inherent in the doctor-patient relationship.

This same analysis invalidates 57(1)(b) “poor professional performance,” and sections (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) refer to grounds not relevant to this complaint.

That leaves Ms. McNamee without an actionable dispute, and Ms. Keaveny without jurisdiction to adjudicate that dispute. Under these circumstances, the Medical Practitioners’ Act 2007, paragraph 14(a) (ii) directs a finding that “the complaint is trivial, or vexatious, or without substance, or made in bad faith.” In a case such as this, paragraph 15(a)(i) suggests that there is not sufficient cause to warrant further action being taken in relation to the complaint” It also means that the Council has no authority to sanction me for publicly displaying abortion photo signs, even at the level of admonishing or censuring, etc.

As noted above, Ms. McNamee also complains that I provide abortion information to “women who have asked him to stop displaying these images in public.” This reluctance to view abortion imagery compounds the already serious problem of physicians in Ireland and the UK (where thousands of abortions are performed annually on Irish women) failing to provide abortion information that is adequate to obtain informed consent. If unprofessional medical personnel will not disclose the truth about abortion, they are behaving disgracefully and dishonorably, and that responsibility then falls to lay campaigners – and a person’s resistance to information regarding a clinical procedure does not relieve the health care professional (or any person of conscience) of their obligation to provide that information, even over the objection of that person.

Ireland’s HSE National Consent Policy document states at page 12 that “the fact that somebody might be upset or refuse treatment or services as a result of receiving information as part of the consent process is not a valid reason for withholding information that they need or are entitled to know.”

The UK General Medical Council guidelines on “Informed Consent” requires at page 11 that “if after discussion, a patient still does not want to know in detail about their . . . treatment . . . you must still give them the information they need in order to give their consent” Page 12 mandates that “you should not withhold information necessary for making decisions merely because the patient might become upset or decide to refuse treatment.”

Many people over many years have reported anecdotally that they rejected abortions they would otherwise have elected had they not viewed disturbing abortion imagery. Many others report that they would have rejected abortions had they seen what it looks like before blindly choosing it. The experience of these people should be respected and not invalidated.



Activists rushed to cover up our signs when Irish CBR held a sign display in front of The George - a “gay” bar in Dublin on April 17. CBR-UK’s Christian Hacking was display leader that day. The caption across the two sign panels read “Pro-equality = pro- abortion?”



This ICBR display took place at Christ Church intersection in Dublin on April 11. At this busy intersection, we set up signs on two opposite corners. The woman holding her black umbrella in front of our sign was a passerby who simply couldn't stand our presence.

These same UK informed consent guidelines note at page 39 that "A patient's consent to a particular treatment may not be valid if it is given under pressure of duress exerted by another person."

The Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons (JAPS), Volume 22, Winter 2017, cautions that "risk factors for negative post-abortion psychological adjustment" cited in the National Abortion Federation Textbook For Abortion Providers include "perceived coercion to have the abortion." The article further refers to "The American Psychological Association ... Task Force Report on Mental Health and Abortion ... August 2008, which also addresses the issue of "perceived pressure from others to abort."

The aforementioned JAPS study adds that despite 66% of study respondents reporting "they knew in their hearts that they were making a mistake," 58% reported "aborting to make others happy, 73% disagreed that their decision to abort was entirely free from even subtle pressure from others to abort," and "28.4% aborted out of fear of losing their partner."

Unless people being pressured to abort are shown the full horror of abortion, their consent can not be truly informed. Knowing all the facts can better enable them to resist coercion. ...

By God's grace -- we won! Only a short while after our letter was sent, Dr. Engela's lawyer received a May 31 letter which indicated the case against him had been dismissed. The Medical Counsel's decision included verbatim our arguments advocating dismissal.

ICBR and our gifted director are a threat to the lies being told by anti-abortion forces in the government, the news media and in the medical establishment. We know the lies will never stop, but neither will our rebuttals.

God bless you for helping CBR bring truth to lost people.

*"And you shall know **the truth**, and **the truth** shall make you free."*

JOHN 8:32

Prayer Requests

- God's provision for the needs of our staff and volunteers and their families
- Boldness for pastors to preach against abortion
- Volunteer truck drivers

Events

ALL Black Lives Matter Project

August 1-3 Black History Museum (NMAAHC)
& 28-31 Washington, D.C.

Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) /

Christian College Project

Sept 15-21 Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA
Sept 24-25 Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA
Sept 26-27 Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

"Choice" Sign Outreaches

Aug. 24 Phoenix, AZ
Sept. 5 Alamance Community College, Graham, NC

Church Project

Aug. 17-19 Harvest Crusade, Anaheim, CA

Pro-Life Training Academy

Aug. 11 Christ Bible Church, Peoria, AZ
Sept. 15 & 22 Mesa Church of Christ, Mesa, AZ

Volunteer truck drivers wanted now

Help us reach voters in swing states from September 1 through Election Day. We need volunteer truck drivers to drive routes in California in San Diego and Orange Counties, and also drivers in Indiana and Missouri. No special license is necessary, but we request a minimum commitment of two weeks if you live outside of those states. Ride-along navigators are also needed. Our abortion photos make a difference in voter decisions. Contact Kevin Olivier at CBR (949) 206-0600 or KOLivier@CBRinfo.org.

“ *Pro-equality = pro-abortion?* ”
Phrase across ICBR sign display in Ireland



CBR's All Black Lives Matter project continues to reach tourists at the Black History Museum (NMAAHC) in Washington, D.C., this summer. Surprisingly, some visitors actually think the signs are part of the museum! One family of 15 confused the message of the sign at the left; they fawned over the Obama image and took photos of it one by one. Perhaps when they arrive home they will look more carefully at the message of the sign as it exposes the reality of abortion and Obama's guilt for its proportionately high destruction of African-American babies. Pray for eyes to be opened! Holding our signs are CBR staff member Mik'aela Raymond and volunteer Fredy Burgos.

- Address corrections**
addresschanges@cbrinfo.org
- Electronic funds donations**
ACH@cbrinfo.org
- Credit card donations**
creditcards@cbrinfo.org
- Product order inquiries**
productorders@cbrinfo.org
- Estate donations**
plannedgiving@cbrinfo.org

INSIDE THIS EDITION...

- ▶ **Access to truth denied**
- ▶ **66% "knew in their hearts that they were making a mistake"**
- ▶ **Blankets and umbrellas used to cover up our abortion photos**