

# Life and Liberty for Women

abortion safe and legal

today - tomorrow - forever

## Condoms-Men-Abortion

Reducing the number of abortions in this country is that simple!

**We at Life and Liberty  
for Women are livid!!**

**Enough is enough!**

"Just don't ever say that the reproductive rights of a woman were violated by the lack of an opportunity for abortion. That woman still has the right of choice. She can say 'no' and really mean it. She can demand sex with protection, which in this day and age is only sensible to start with."

Who expressed that bit of "wisdom"? A man of course. He expressed that opinion in the Loveland Colorado Newspaper, The Reporter Herald, on January 26, 2001. [Life and Liberty for Women](#) responded to that fool.

"What audacity he showed in his January 26 letter in which he admonished women about their responsibility in the sex act instead of showing the courage of his convictions and admonishing those of his own sex.

How many young boys weekly does he teach about controlling their raging male hormones and that respecting the word no, the first time it is uttered by a girl is an absolute must?

How many young men have seen him demonstrate how to put on a condom? How many have heard him say that withdrawing right after intercourse is the best protection from leakage? How many young men have heard him insist they take their partner to a clinic right away to get the morning after pill if there was leakage or if the condom breaks, and be prepared to pay half of the cost?

Does he understand that condoms are a male contraceptive that presents no side effects and can be bought over the counter? Does he understand that if used consistently and correctly by men, condoms are 98% effective in preventing pregnancy and therefore men could, apart from their female partner, prevent thousands upon thousands of abortions? Why should any woman have to demand sex with protection, every man should be offering nothing less than sex with protection, which, as he said, "in this day and age is only sensible to start with."

Here's his response to that challenge which appeared in the same newspaper on February 6, 2001.

"Do I teach young men how to use condoms? Contrary to the preaching of some, I most definitely try to get young people, of both genders, to practice abstinence until they are old enough to know, understand and practice their responsibilities. Why should any woman have to demand sex with protection? If I was a single woman, no male would get anywhere near me without protection. Yes, for the sake of the young lady, I recommend demand. The young male should find another time and place to practice his sport, if he isn't ready to be a man and respect the word 'no,' or the wishes for protection."

**WHAT???**  
**SAY WHAT???!**

He never answered my challenge! That's a man for you! That's macho for you! Phil Donohue, former TV talk show host and recent supporter and spokesperson for Ralph Nader in his 2000 Presidential bid, described men like this best when he bemoaned the fact that it's men - white men - who are on TV, radio, newspapers, etc., pontificating - oh how I like the sound of that word - pontificating about women's reproductive rights and abortion. It sounds like a man thing - a man's word, doesn't it?

That word is defined as: To speak or act in a pompous or dogmatic way. That is expressing an opinion in an arrogant manner. Oh boy does that ever fit here!!

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## Here's my final response to this arrogant pompous fool:

In his two recent letters, Jerry defines reproductive choice as a choice to have protected sex or not, excluding abortion as a reproductive choice, saying that's the way his generation understood its meaning, but that's not true. Reproductive choice always has and always will include but go beyond the moment of having sex for women for obvious reasons. A man, who doesn't correctly use a condom and impregnates a woman, can just walk away and often does. But a woman still has choices to make about whether she'll continue her pregnancy and parent or whether she'll continue her pregnancy and give up her child, or whether she'll not reproduce at that time in her life and terminate her pregnancy. Consequently, the right of women to reproduce or not is indeed violated by a lack or denial of an opportunity to access legal and safe abortion services.

In Jerry's February 6 letter he continued his end run around a male's responsibility to know how and use every time he chooses to have sex, a condom, without being demanded to do so by a partner. Jerry's continual evasion of his own responsibility in making that the rule and not the exception is typical but unconscionable.

Jerry and I need not spar any further. It's clear from this exchange that he's not being intellectually honest about the very intimate and inseparable bond between reproductive choice and abortion that exists and always has. Nor, sadly, is he being intellectually honest about his own gender's responsibility, totally apart from a woman's, for pregnancy prevention. Real men will admit that abortion must exist as a safe and legal reproductive choice for women because men continue to choose to have sex without correctly using a condom.

Sincerely,  
Peggy Loonan,  
Founder, Executive Director,  
[Life and Liberty for Women](#)

This exchange is very telling.

And it's about time we turned up the heat on men - particularly men who have such arrogance as to pontificate about abortion when the entire power to reduce the million plus abortions a year lies within their own hands.

## There's no argument to be made with these facts:

Condoms are only effective when used consistently and correctly. (U.S. Centers for Disease Control, CDC 1997)

Condoms are 98% effective in preventing pregnancy when used correctly. (J. Trussell "Contraceptive Failure in the United States: An Update," Studies in Family Planning, Jan/Feb, 1990)

Condoms are up to 99.9% effective in reducing the risk of STD transmission when combined with spermicidal. (P.Kestelman and J.Trussell "Efficacy of the Simultaneous Use of Condoms and Spermicides," Family Planning Perspectives, Sept/Oct., 1991)

Studies of hundreds of couples show that consistent condom use is possible when sexual partners have the skills and motivation. (CDC, April 1997)

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## Correct Use of Condoms

1. Store condoms in a cool place out of direct sunlight (not in wallets or glove compartments). Latex will become brittle from changes in temperature, rough handling or age. Don't use damaged, discolored, brittle, or sticky condoms.
2. Check the expiration date.
3. Carefully open the condom package - teeth or fingernails can tear the condom.
4. Use a new condom every time a person has sexual intercourse.
5. Put on the condom after the penis is erect and before it touches ANY part of a partner's body. If a penis is uncircumcised, the person must pull back the foreskin before putting on the condom.
6. Put on the condom by pinching the reservoir tip and unrolling it all the way down the shaft of the penis from head to base. If the condom does not have a reservoir tip, pinch it to leave a half-inch space at the head of the penis for semen to collect after ejaculation.
7. Withdraw the penis immediately if the condom break during sexual intercourse and put on a new condom before resuming intercourse. When a condom breaks, use spermicidal foam or jelly and speak to a health-care provider about emergency contraception or the "morning after pill."
8. Use only water-based lubrication. Do not use oil-based lubricants such as cooking/vegetable oil, baby oil, hand lotion or petroleum jelly - these will cause the condom to deteriorate and break.
9. Withdraw the penis immediately after ejaculation, while the penis is still erect, grasp the rim of the condom between the fingers and slowly withdraw the penis (with the condom still on) so that no semen is spilled.

## Now I ask you, What is so difficult about explaining that?

What's so hard about men demonstrating that for their sons or young men whose fathers aren't around or refuse to teach them this crucial information?

You know - women teach their daughters and other young girls about their bodies and we often must demonstrate the use of tampons. We are expected to do so because we are their mothers or because we are women and it's a woman's thing.

Well - condoms are a man thing and men need to be learning how to use them and teaching young men how to use them.

About 3 years ago I was debating an anti-abortion extremist, a young man with four children. I said that, "When used consistently and correctly, condoms are 98% effective in preventing pregnancy - so if every man wore a condom every time they had sex - married or not - guess how many "babies" (and abortions) we would not be talking about."

He laughed and said that all four of his children were conceived as a result of condom failure. I have no idea if that was true or not, but I said, "Well you'll have to come to one of our clinics so we can teach you how to use a condom correctly and we can start with a banana."

His face turned red and he had little to say after that on the subject.

My husband and I have used a condom since our, now 10 year old daughter was born. I have not become pregnant.

Men - it's time you shut up or put up!

Totally separate from a female partner, you have a responsibility to prevent pregnancy every time you have sex and fatherhood is not the ultimate desired outcome.

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Stop laying this entire responsibility onto your female partner.

She shouldn't have to demand sex with protection, you should be offering nothing less than sex with protection!!!

The number of abortions in this country would decrease by hundreds of thousands if men consistently and correctly used a condom themselves and if they taught every young man, not just about abstinence and respecting the word "no" the moment it is uttered by a woman - but if men would demonstrate to these young men how to correctly use a condom. That's the test of a real man, isn't it? A real man would put fetal life above all else - including his own sexual pleasure - Now wouldn't he? Well - he would wouldn't he? For all the blubbering, finger waving and preaching anti-abortion men do, they don't seem to be able to face the truth - that is that they - apart from a partner - could stop nearly all abortions in this country - that is if fetal life is as precious as they claim it is.

Men

It's that simple!

Peggy Loonan,  
Founder, Executive Director  
[Life and Liberty for Women](#)

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