

Do we really know?

Ideas and draft for an information and discussion event (ca. 100-120 minutes)

or

two 45-minute school lessons on the subject of the right to life (PPT 1)

Ressources : 1 moderator **M**, Homepage www.dowereallyknow.ch , Screen, Flipchart, Tablets or smartphones, PPT, wi-fi.

Part 1:

1. Opener (10 minutes) PPT 2

M Abortion is an big issue and raises a lot of émotions. What is your personal opinion?

For older students and adults maybe:

M Lets make two groups and discuss the pros and cons. One Group is pro, one in contra.
Important : You can defend arguments of a group without sharing these arguments personally.

2. Facts (10 minutes) PPT3:

M Unplanned pregnancy: a finding that leads to around 11,000 abortions in Switzerland around 100,000 in Germany, around 45,000 in Austria, around 207,000 in France, around 170,000 in Italy, around 215,000 in UK/Wales, around 93,000 in Australia, and around 900,00 in USA every year. If we add these numbers, we come to a figure of 1'741,000. **PPT 4** This comparable with a a city like Montreal, Budapest or Hamburg .

3. Discussion: (5 minutes) PPT5

Question : Lets turn to the statistics. The reasons for abortions varay. What do you think are the possible reasons? (Flipchart/Whiteboard/Screenboard)

4. Facts : (5 minutes) PPT6

M There are four reasons, why women have abortions in descending order :

1. biographical reasons or time of pregnancy !
2. partnership problems and relationship status
3. overstrain
4. medical reasons

Questions : **PPT7** The smallest part is therefore based on medical reasons. What do you think about it? What does that mean ?

5. watch short film together and gather first impressions PPT8

(15 minutes)

Possibly watch the movie a second time (6 minutes) **PPT 9** The class/group ask questions by writing them on Flipchart/Whiteboard/Screenboard.

BREAK

PART 2 :

1. Collecting the impressions and questions (5-10 minutes) PPT9

M What did we understand from the film, and what is hard to understand? (if time was too short in part one to watch it twice, watch it now again)

2. Group work (15 minutes) – with homepage PPT10

M: In small groups, go through a background story of each of the protagonists on the homepage and then present it to the other groups of participants. **PPT 11 – 17** What stands out? What impresses you about the story of this mother who gave birth to her child despite difficult circumstances?

M Facts: PPT18 All of them had probably options to abort. Abortion is not a modern phenomenon. Already in ancient times abortion was quite often practiced. In our days probably most of these people were aborted. Also due to prenatal diagnostics. Approximately 90 percent of all Down syndrome diagnoses lead to abortion. But the six mothers decided otherwise .

3. How to change things (10 min)

M We have established that millions of people are aborted every year. For various reasons. But in the countries I have described, the reasons are mainly personal and not medical. We remember:

1. biographical reasons or time of pregnancy !
2. partnership problems and relationship status
3. overstrain
4. medical reasons

Question/Exchange/Group work:

List on a flipchart or Screenboard : 1=unnegotiable, 2=possibly negotiable 3=negotiable

M What conditions should be met for a woman to look forward to the arrival of her child ? Weight the listed conditions with the numbers 1-3 Which conditions could be negotiable?

(the group goes to the flipchart and marks the corresponding number individually – maybe with a discussion in the group – then they go back to their seats)

M Do you know people for whom these conditions were not met at the time of the decision?

4. Moral Issues (15 min) – with the homepage PPPT 21

M We find five moral issues on the homepage (shown on monitor)

- 1) Do we really know?
- 2) Change of plans?
- 3) Alternatives?
- 4) A disabled child?
- 5) A personal word of the producer

M For each question, there is an explanatory text on the homepage that leads deeper into the topic. So we form five groups Each group discusses one question and then presents a short summary of the discussion to the other groups.

Summary : **PPT 22-26**

5. watch the movie again (6 minutes) PPT 27

M PPT28 Thank you for your personal engagement in this interview. To finish it off two questions for the way home: 1. what helps women who are affected by this issue? 2. what can those present do to sensitize those around them to the topic?

To be considered :

Special guests: Ideally, 2 to 3 guests are also invited for the panel. For example, a physically impaired adult, the parents of a disabled child, a doctor, the head of a pregnancy counseling center...

Important: The moderator of the discussion is determined in advance of the event and has already noted down questions on moderation cards before the event. He adds to these questions during the event and sorts them according to relevance.

If you think, there is too much material and not time enough: feel free and use what seems useful to you!

Let us know, how it worked out and what could be improved. Thank you!