

PROLIFE FACTS

A group of NZ parents whose children have Down syndrome have taken a case to the International Criminal Court.

The parents being supported by the anti-abortion groups Voice for Life Inc and Right to Life.

The basis of the parents' complaint is that the Government's antenatal screening programme specifically targets foetuses with Down syndrome and other rare genetic conditions, so that they can be aborted.

90% of such children are aborted as noted in a 2007 Cabinet briefing paper.

The persecution of an identifiable group of the civilian population through the prevention of births is specifically prohibited under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, to which NZ is signatory.

The parents group recognises genetic testing may help some parents prepare for the birth of a child with Down syndrome. Any testing must respect the life and integrity of the unborn child, cause no harm and be presented in such a way that does not discriminate against people with Down syndrome or any disability.

As one of the mothers said on the recent TV3 documentary of her beloved son: "He's human like us, but just a little different."

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Eighth page
47.5 x 128.5

Quarter page
95 x 64

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