

BEFORE THE SILENCE

Thank you for coming here today. We are about to have six minutes of silence. I will speak briefly after that but for now let me simply remind you what we are here to do. This is a time to **remember** lives lost through abortion in these six counties in the past three years since abortion was decriminalised. No one knows exactly how many lives that is because our legal framework does not even count them worthy of being recorded. But we know it is **more than 4000**. Each one was a unique individual. Each one was indisputably human. Each one deserved to live. Each one should have been protected in law. Each one should have had the chance to develop, to be born, to be held, loved and nurtured, to contribute to society with their unique gifts. Each one precious beyond value. Those lives mattered and we will mourn their loss and raise our lights in the air to shine a light for life. Please join me now in turning on your phone light. As the whistle blows let us raise them in the air and start our silence.

AFTER THE SILENCE

These have been solemn moments. Heavy moments. We have stood for life. We have stood for all lives. We must continue to **stand** for life. One way to do that is to visit our website – nivoiceless.com – and click the link on the homepage to post a pin on our map with your personal message. Please also encourage others to do so if they weren't able to be here. And consider how you can support the organisations that exist to campaign for a change to the law and to raise awareness of the great evil that abortion is. Donate to them and consider volunteering with them. Abortion is wrong because it kills innocent human individuals. Every abortion is a tragedy. We must not simply accept abortion. Abortion affects us all. It undermines the principle that parental love is unconditional. That love is the foundation of a stable sense of self-worth. A society that accepts abortion says to every person that he or she matters not because he or she simply exists, but only if he or she is wanted. **Please keep standing for life.**

We must also **speak for life**. We need to rehumanise the conversation about abortion. We cannot leave the lies that pregnant women are told unchallenged. The lie that an unborn child is not truly human. It is fully human and a unique individual. The lie that abortion is a simple and safe procedure. It is never safe for the unborn child. The lie that an embryo is just a clump of cells. From day one, is a living, growing individual fighting for life, developing along its unique course which, if not interrupted by disease or trauma, will lead to birth and on to childhood and adulthood. The facts are with us, so don't be afraid to speak the truth. Do it with gentleness, but with clarity. **Please keep speaking for life.**

Finally, we must **serve for life**. If we truly value every life, we must care for every person. That means coming alongside women to support them to continue with pregnancy, especially if it is unwanted, and after the birth. We must show that this alternative is possible. It also means caring for women who have chosen to have their baby aborted, supporting them through their grief and recovery. NIvoiceless does not provide services to support women in these ways, but our website – nivoiceless.com – links to organisations that do under the 'Services' tab. Please consider them and whether you can donate to them and volunteer with them. Or perhaps just support someone you know and walk with her as a friend. Open your hearts and your homes. **Please keep serving for life.**

Stand, speak and serve for life. That is our simple message. Once again, thank you. And once again let me urge you never to stop standing, speaking and serving for the sake of NI's voiceless unborn children