

Final speech at the demonstration EVERY LIFE MATTERS 2014

Benigno Blanco Rodríguez

Madrid, 22nd November 2014

Thanks to your presence today on the streets of Madrid, our country can see that there are many, many of us here in Spain who are prepared to defend life.

Thank you for your generous effort in coming here today to give your active support to life, women and maternity.

The meaning of this demonstration

Thanks to all of you here, it is possible that some sociologist who is incapable of finding those who defend life in his surveys will discover that we exist and that there are many of us.

Thanks to all of you here, it is possible that the President of the government will reconsider his decision to back down on repealing the “law of abortion”.

Thanks to you, many women in Spain will realize that they are not alone, that there are many people who are willing to help them to face the temptation of an abortion.

Thanks to you, the right to life will not disappear from the collective conscience of the Spanish people.

Thanks to you, millions of people throughout the world will know that there is hope in the pro-life struggle and that we cannot be discouraged.

Thanks to you, Spanish society will not become accustomed to the immense drama of abortion and a veil of guilty silence will not be thrown over the tens of thousands of abortion which are carried out every year.

Thanks to you, - perhaps, let us hope so! – the defense of life and women in pregnancy will again make themselves felt in political debate to the point of reaching the necessary support to approve laws and policies which are committed to the defense of the right to life of the unborn and to that of pregnant women to become mothers.

Why we are demonstrating here today

We are here today to tell the whole of Spanish society that “EVERY LIFE MATTERS”; that we have no wish to become accustomed to abortion; that every pregnant woman is entitled to receive the support she needs to guarantee her right to maternity.

We are here to say a massive, monumental and absolute NO to abortion. And to make that clamor reach the whole of society, the 48 million Spanish people, we wish for and request the complicity and collaboration of all, to eradicate abortion and the laws which allow and encourage it.

We ask Spanish society not to become accustomed to the word “abortion”, because behind that word, there is a child who does not come to birth, a child who is destroyed by cold technological efficiency in exchange for money in those places where, with the collusion of the authorities, suffering and death have become a lucrative business. Behind that word is hidden the immense drama of a woman who destroys her life along with that of her child because she is frequently the harassed victim of social and emotional abandonment.

We refuse to let those destroyed lives be cleared from our conscience because they are hidden behind euphemisms such as “voluntary termination of pregnancy”.

We have come here today to make the whole of society – and particularly our government and legislators – think again about what abortion really means and about the need to eradicate it. Abortion is one of the dramas of our time which will scandalize and horrify future generations when it has become a memory in humanity's chamber of horrors. Our responsibility is to accelerate the change and prevent society from becoming inured to abortion.

We are demonstrating today, this 22nd of November, also and in particular, because we demand that the President of the government, Mariano Rajoy, and his party keep their electoral promise and repeal the current law of abortion. But above and beyond that reason, we are here today so that voices in favor of LIFE be heard permanently, with this government or any other, with the present law or any other. Those of us who defend life are nobody's hostage. Our loyalty is toward the ideal for which we stand – the defense of life. And we will continue to make our presence felt and our voice heard until our ideal becomes a reality.

A message to the President of the Government

President Rajoy:

Your party holds an absolute majority in the Parliament. You are therefore in a position to repeal the current law and put in its place a law which protects life and supports maternity. You promised us that you would take an important step in that direction and we are here to remind you of that promise. You still have time to keep your word. The changes you bring in may appear to be insufficient to us, but they will be a beginning, a step in the right direction. Heed our voice, which is also the voice of hundreds of thousands of unborn children and their mothers.

In your hands rests an enormous political and moral responsibility: we truly hope that you will make the right decision and carry out what you promised when you canvassed your voters.

Remember that the evil caused by an unjust law is not only the responsibility of the person who passes the law, but also of the person who fails to repeal it when he is in a position to do so.

If you do your duty, Spanish society will thank you for it; if you do not, it will hold you responsible.

You have a unique opportunity to lead an historical change in defense of life, which will have repercussions beyond our frontiers: witness to this are the adhesions to this demonstration we have received from scores of associations from the five continents.

Message to politicians

To all politicians, parliamentarians and those in positions of authority, to those who govern us and those of the Opposition, to those who are with us here today, and to those who are not, we say: the right to life is too important to ignore. You must protect it.

A healthy society cannot live with laws which allow abortion, either with the current law or any other. A healthy society cannot accept homicidal violence – that is what abortion is – as a legitimate means of solving problems.

We ask you to make a commitment, a commitment to protect the life of the defenseless and a commitment to support women who see abortion as their only escape route.

We ask you to heed the clamor in the streets and to defend life and women without wavering and without fear. Society will reward you, also with their votes, in the measure of your loyalty to these values.

Message to all those who defend life

To all those who share our ideal, we say:

- The politicians have their responsibility, and we, each and every one of us, have ours.
- Our obligation is to show the unborn child as the human being that he really is, until this scientific evidence becomes part of the vision of life of all our fellow-citizens.
- Our obligation is to speak clearly at all times about LIFE, MATERNITY and pregnant WOMEN.
- It is our responsibility to support any pregnant women whom we know to be going through difficulties or situations of conflict, so that NO WOMAN IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD FEEL SOLITUDE OR ABANDONMENT, AND CONTEMPLATE ABORTION AS THE ONLY WAY OUT.
- It is our responsibility to exercise our civic rights (freedom of expression, freedom to demonstrate, to vote – YES, ALSO TO VOTE) in order to protect life.

Message to women

We especially want all women to know that all of us who are here today are ready to help them. We will not abandon them, as they are abandoned by the makers of unjust laws which allow abortion and make it easily available, the law in force today in Spain, and which our government is afraid to repeal.

Call for new demonstrations

Finally, I want to declare – in your name – to Spanish society that we will continue to mobilize as many times as it takes and using all the necessary means so that we continue to be seen and heard, as the overwhelming majority of people committed to overcoming the great drama of our time – the social and public acceptance of abortion.

This demonstration will not end when we return home. We will continue to be active in our own environments, to manifest of support of life and pregnant women, and we will demonstrate again, massively, as many times as we have to.

To be specific: if our demand for the repeal of the law of abortion goes unheard in the coming months, I call on you here and now to be present at another demonstration to say EVERY LIFE MATTERS, in Madrid, on next 14th March – International Life Day – so that those who are in a position to make decisions understand that this demonstration is not a passing phenomenon. So that they understand that they either heed us, or we will make ourselves seen and heard again and again.

Governments will disappear, and parliamentary majorities, and laws But we will still be here ... because EVERY LIFE MATTERS, all lives are important to us.

We are the hostage of no one: the only lock on our thought, our voice, our vote is that of our ideal. We are not moved by fear, or by desire to dominate. We are united by life, every life because every life matters to us.

I am counting on all of you.

Unborn children and their mothers need you and are counting on you.

I know that we will not let them down.

Thank you again for you presence here today!

Translated by Philip Muller

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