

## Crisis Pregnancy Information

Crisis Pregnancy affects women of all childbearing ages. Women who live in challenging circumstances are known to turn to abortion, abandonment or abuse of their children due to the pressure that a child puts on their already difficult life circumstances. In South Africa, one in eight pregnancies ends in abortion and according to reports, more than 1 million abortions have been reported since its legalisation in South Africa in 1997.

Connect Network Crisis Pregnancy Centres adopt the pro-woman approach, which recognises that it is only the mother of the unborn child who can make a decision about her pregnancy. "The role of the counsellor is to care for and support the pregnant woman, to create a safe space for her to think clearly about her situation. Even though we might believe that abortion is never God's best for a woman, a pro-woman approach includes allowing her space to consider her options. If we are focused on saving babies alone, we may be tempted to disregard the real issues a mother faces.

Cyndi Phikill is an author and trainer of Equipped to Serve, a course that provides training in basic crisis intervention counseling skills to enable participants to effectively minister to people in crisis (link to Parnter page). At ETS, she teaches that, "a pro-woman approach focuses on the woman, addressing her unique situation and the fears and pressures she faces, as well as exploring her strengths and the support systems that might assist her. This approach demonstrates to her our high regard for her as a person. We believe that the more a woman is able to recognise the value of her own life, the more she will be able to recognise and affirm the life of her unborn child. Each woman will have to bear the responsibility for the choice she makes. We believe that a pro-woman approach is more likely to enable a woman to make a good choice for herself and her child. In the event that a woman chooses to go ahead with an abortion, our non-judgmental, caring attitude will enable her to feel free to come back for further counselling, should she experience post-abortion stress. We know that God is never finished with the woman and we want to be there to walk a road of recovery with her."

Those working with women and teenagers in crisis pregnancies are discovering an increased number of men (husbands, partners, fathers) coming through their doors. We must acknowledge that they are an important factor in an unplanned pregnancy situation, and also subsequent to a woman having made an abortion choice. Legally she is the only one given the right to make a decision for her pregnancy, but it is becoming evident that the significant male partner or parent has up to now been neglected in the way of counselling, care and support offered when the pregnant woman is considering her choices in the crisis and afterwards.

### **Crisis pregnancy counselling in Connect Network is available at:**

- [The Baby Safe](#)
- [Choices Centre](#)
- [Jubilee Health Centre](#)
- [Living Hope](#)
- [Procare](#)
- [Rape Crisis, Helderberg](#)
- [Seasons Pregnancy Centre](#)
- [Rock Crisis Centre](#)
- [The Phoebe Care Centre](#)
- [Wandisa Adoption Agency](#)

### **Shelters for pregnant women:**

- [Sisters Incorporated](#)
- [St Anne's Homes](#)

### **Adoption:**

[Adoption brochure](#)

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