

2022

A Sampling of Religious Statements Addressing the June 24, 2022, United States Supreme Court Ruling overturning Roe vs. Wade – The Right to Privacy and a Right to Abortion

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THIS IS ANOTHER WORK IN PROGRESS – PLEASE SUBMIT
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**ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN RESPONSES
(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)**

American Baptist Church

“As American Baptists we oppose abortion, as a means of avoiding responsibility for conception, as a primary means of birth control, without regard for the far-reaching consequences of the act. We denounce irresponsible sexual behavior and acts of violence that contribute to the large number of abortions each year. We grieve with all who struggle with the difficult circumstances that lead them to consider abortion. Recognizing that each person is ultimately responsible to God, we encourage men and women in these circumstances to seek spiritual counsel as they prayerfully and conscientiously consider their decision. We condemn violence and harassment directed against abortion clinics, their staff and clients, as well as sanctions and discrimination against medical professionals whose consciences prevent them from being involved in abortions.

“We also recognize that we are divided as to the proper witness of the church to the state regarding abortion. Many of our membership seek legal safeguards to protect unborn life. Many others advocate for and support family planning legislation, including legalized abortion as in the best interest of women in particular and society in general. Again, we have many points of view between these two positions. Consequently, we acknowledge the freedom of each individual to advocate for a public policy on abortion that reflects his or her beliefs.”

[Abortion-CURRENT \(abc-usa.org\)](http://abc-usa.org)

Episcopal Church of America:

Since 1976, The Episcopal Church has maintained its “unequivocal opposition to any legislation on the part of the national or state governments which would abridge or deny the right of individuals to reach informed decisions [about the termination of pregnancy] and to act upon them.” We uphold the conscience rights of pregnant women and other pregnant persons to determine whether they want to

**MULTI-FAITH
RESPONSES**

June 24, 2022

ISLAM

Hamza Yusuf is a leading proponent of classical learning in Islam and president of Zaytuna College, a Muslim liberal arts college in Berkeley, California. Professor Yusuf quotes the Qu’ ran in an extensive article “When Does a Human Fetus Become Human?” From the Quaran

Do not sever the bonds of the womb.

– Qur’an 4:1

Do not kill your children from fear of poverty. – Qur’an 17:31

Source:

<https://renovatio.zaytuna.edu/article/when-does-a-human-fetus-become-human>

SIKHISM

From Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia, a member of the SIKH community, and the Executive Director of Religions for Peace USA. Here Dr. Butalia is writing on his own behalf and not as a representative of the Religions for Peace USA constituents.

“I am deeply disappointed with the US Supreme Court's ruling about mandating reproductive decisions for women. This decision will negatively impact all women,

JEWISH RESPONSES

June 24, 2022

Summary: All branches of Judaism attest that the life and health of a mother is paramount in regard to any pregnancy. Abortion is seen as a necessity whenever a pregnant woman’s life is in danger. Beyond that, there is no other universal Jewish statement that I could find. Here are a variety of statements from various Jewish Organizations:

From: [Abortion and Judaism | My Jewish Learning](#)

The most common situation, explicitly described in the Mishnah, is where the mother’s life is imperiled by her pregnancy. Some consider such an abortion not merely permissible, but mandatory. However, once the baby’s head has emerged from the mother (some authorities say the majority of its body, some say merely any limb), termination is no longer allowed, since Jewish law does not permit sacrificing one life to save another.

Short of clear threats to a mother’s life, the permissibility of abortion is controversial in Jewish texts. There are Orthodox rabbinic sources that support abortion when a mother’s health is in danger even if her life is not at risk; when a fetus is conclusively determined to suffer from severe abnormalities; when a mother’s mental health is in danger; or when the pregnancy is the result of a forbidden sexual union. However, these rulings are not universally accepted, and many Orthodox rabbis are cautious about laying down firm standards, insisting instead that cases be judged individually.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs: “Prohibiting abortion access is contrary to Jewish law, traditions, and our principal value of saving a life; it enshrines specific religious imperatives in American law. Judaism compels us to stand for all life, and we prioritize the life and health of a pregnant person.”

continue a pregnancy. The Episcopal Church views reproductive rights as “an integral part of a woman’s struggle to assert her dignity and worth as a human being.” <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ogr/summary-of-general-convention-resolutions-on-abortion-and-womens-reproductive-health/>

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America:

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“This church's 1991 social statement *Abortion* argues that "the number of induced abortions is a source of deep concern" but teaches that the practice should be legal (pp. 3, 9-10). In other words, "Laws should be enacted and enforced justly for the preservation and enhancement of life, and should avoid unduly encumbering or endangering the lives of women" (p. 9).

Source: [Bishop Eaton issues pastoral message on SCOTUS ruling regarding Roe v. Wade - ELCA](#)

Orthodox Christianity

**+Tikhon, Orthodox Archbishop of Washington Metropolitan of All America and Canada
Monday, June 27,200**

“this should be a cause for rejoicing for all Orthodox Christians. As I affirmed in my [recent archpastoral message for the feast of the Annunciation](#), “The Orthodox Church in America has always believed, upheld, preached, and defended the sanctity of human life from the time of conception in the womb.” From the earliest times, the shepherds of the Church have taught that abortion and the exposure of infants, even when accepted by the wider culture, are violations of the sanctity of human life and an offense against God and man. The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* is the first step

especially women of color and those from marginalized communities.

If this ruling stands and US Congress does not enshrine the right to abortion in the law, state legislatures may further penalize women for their reproductive decisions – which are best made by a woman in consultation with her physician, family and friends, in line with her own religious and moral values – and not pre-determined by law. The state should not be mandating how to govern the bodies of women. Such patriarchal systems of governance have no place in modern society.

As a multi-religious society, it is important that no religious tradition impose its moral or ethical values on those of other religious beliefs but are free to practice the values of their own faith without mandating it for others.

I call upon the US Congress to work expeditiously to enshrine in the law the right of a women to make her own reproductive decisions based on medical advice, input from her own family and friends, as well as her religious and moral values.”

From the Religious Coalition on Reproductive Rights:

Source: ['Abortion access is a Jewish value': Reaction to Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade – The Forward](#)

Today, the Supreme Court of the United States overruled *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 decision establishing a woman’s constitutional right to abortion. Agudath Israel of America welcomes this historic development.

Agudath Israel has long been on record as opposing *Roe v. Wade*’s legalization of abortion on demand. Informed by the teaching of Jewish law that fetal life is entitled to significant protection, with termination of pregnancy authorized only under certain extraordinary circumstances, we are deeply troubled by the staggering number of pregnancies in the United States that end in abortion.

We do not seek to impose our religious beliefs on the broader American society. We are of the view, however, that society, through its laws, should promote a social ethic that affirms the supreme value of life. Allowing abortion on demand, in contrast, promotes a social ethic that devalues life.

To be sure, there are certain extraordinary circumstances where our faith teaches that a woman should terminate her pregnancy. Agudath Israel fully supports her right to abortion in such situations, both as a matter of constitutional free exercise and moral principle. However, it must be reiterated that these cases are indeed extraordinary, rare exceptions to the rule that fetal life is entitled to protection.

We pray that today’s ruling will inspire all Americans to appreciate the moral magnitude of the abortion issue, and to embrace a culture that celebrates life.

[Agudath Israel of America Welcomes Supreme Court Overruling Roe v. Wade - Agudath Israel of America \(agudah.org\)](#)

towards a society and culture that recognizes the value of all human life and every human being made in the image of the Creator.”

Full Response here:

[Holy Synod - Encyclicals - Statement on the overturning of Roe v. Wade - Orthodox Church in America \(oca.org\)](#)

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). June 24, 2022

The decision came down as the denomination hosts the 225th General Assembly in Louisville.

The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(USA):

“For men and women today, they have lost from this Supreme Court decision an opportunity to have a choice around their bodies -- a choice of what it really means to be responsible when you are not able to be responsible – the guilt that comes from that.”

From Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, President and executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency:

“I am deeply saddened. I believe God gives us a choice. We cannot legislate morality. Each person has to pray and decide what is best for their situation and move forward.”

[PC\(USA\) church leaders react to decision to overturn Roe v. Wade - The Presbyterian Outlook \(pres-outlook.org\)](#)

A PUBLIC PRAYER offered by The Rev. Michelle J. Bartel, Ph.D., a theology professor and teaching elder in the

Make no mistake: denying someone the inherent right to exercise their divinely-given moral agency and bodily autonomy, and to make decisions about their family and future is a violation of both human rights and religious freedom.

This ruling and these state-level laws don't stand alone—they are entrenched in a white Christian nationalist, patriarchal political agenda that has targeted voting rights, trans rights, immigration, education, and more. It's never just been about abortion; it's about the control of our bodies. Everyone's bodily autonomy and freedom are at risk. And, as always, marginalized and low-income people are the most harmed.

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[In times of crisis, faith leaders must ensure people receive care \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

BUDDHISM

Bishop Marvin Harada of the Buddhist Churches of America

The issue of abortion, of course, should not be taken lightly. I would hope that any young woman or couple faced with the choice of having a child or having an abortion would not

Hadassah: “Hadassah, The Women’s Zionist Organization of America, reaffirms its unwavering support for full and complete access to reproductive health services and the right to make decisions based on each woman’s religious, moral and ethical values. Hadassah will continue to fight for federal and state legislation affirming and protecting reproductive rights.”

U.S. Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY): “Today is a victory for life, for family, for the constitution, and for federalism. When my daughters, Mikayla and Arianna, were born 14.5 weeks early, I had the opportunity to witness life in the second trimester and it was absolutely beautiful. In a state that has legalized late term partial birth abortion and non-doctors performing abortion, in a state that refuses to advance informed consent and parental consent, and where not enough is being done to promote adoption and support mothers, today is yet another reminder that New York clearly needs to do a much better job to promote, respect and defend life.”

Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater

Washington: “Even under its strictest, most traditional interpretation, Jewish law mandates the termination of a pregnancy in certain circumstances involving the life or health of the mother. While we respect other religions’ belief that life begins at conception, Jewish law has no such dictate. Accordingly, a ruling holding that a fetus is a person effectively elevates one religious viewpoint over others and infringes upon Jewish pregnant individuals’ right to follow the tenets of their faith.”

Source: ['Abortion access is a Jewish value': Reaction to Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade – The Forward](#)

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is the Coordinator for theological education for the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

“And Lord, so many of us anticipate incredible suffering. We anticipate that people are going to become even poorer. We anticipate that this will certainly hurt Black people, Indigenous people, people of color more than it will those of us who are White. Lord each one of these people is somebody that you hold deep inside your heart and we marvel that you do love each one of us and that each one of us has created in your image.

So what we want to offer you first, O Lord, is our laments — our sorrow, the loss and the grief that comes with such a change in our country’s way of doing things. For all the states right now that are being automatically kicked into prohibiting abortion in their states, for all the women suffering from medical conditions, from life situations.

Lord, the fact that rape can go unchecked to some degree and the women who suffer from it are controlled.

To read the entire prayer, go to [Health, Safety, and Benefits Committee reacts to Supreme Court’s ruling overturning Roe v. Wade - The Presbyterian Outlook \(pres-outlook.org\)](https://www.presbyterianmissionagency.org/health-safety-and-benefits-committee-reacts-to-supreme-court-s-ruling-overturning-roe-v-wade-the-presbyterian-outlook-pres-outlook.org)

Roman Catholic

A statement from Pope Francis: “I ask: ‘Is it licit, is it right, to eliminate a human life to resolve a problem?’ It’s a human life, that’s science,” the pope said. “The moral question is whether it is right to take a human life to solve a problem.” Source: <https://thetablet.org/in-new-interview-pope-francis-talks-about-roe-v-wade-resignation-rumors/>

Roman Catholic Bishops

take the matter lightly, as if having a child would be an “inconvenience.”

But every person’s karma is unique and it is not for me to say how a person should live their life. We all have to face moral and ethical choices in our life. Buddhism is unique in that it does not categorically say what we should or shouldn’t do, in black and white terms. The strength of Buddhism lies in the gray area in between. The teachings give us the foundation to make some of life’s most difficult decisions, and then to live with that decision.

<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/post/roe-v-wade-a-personal-experience-with-abortion>

HINDUISM

Hindu American Foundation (HAF) unwaveringly supports a woman’s right to choose and control what happens to her own body and choice to have an abortion if she believes that is the correct decision to make. As a community, we must respect this right, as well as provide guidance and assistance when it is asked for. Rather than delegitimizing or legally restricting a woman’s right to choose, we should direct our efforts towards solutions that have proven to be successful time and time again: education, access to

Religion Action Center of Judaism

<https://rac.org/press-room/reform-movement-leaders-denounce-supreme-courts-decision-dobbs-v-jackson-womens-health-0>

From the Statement of The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

““Now is the time to begin the work of building a post-*Roe* America. It is a time for healing wounds and repairing social divisions; it is a time for reasoned reflection and civil dialogue, and for coming together to build a society and economy that supports marriages and families, and where [every woman has the support](#) and resources she needs to bring her child into this world in love.

“As religious leaders, we pledge ourselves to continue our service to God’s great plan of love for the human person, and to work with our fellow citizens to fulfill America’s promise to guarantee the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all people.”

Complete Document may be accessed at:

[USCCB Statement on U.S. Supreme Court Ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson | USCCB](#)

Roman Catholic Bishops

New York Catholic Conference on Commitment to Resources for Women:

“The Bishops address head-on the false notion that the Church is more concerned with the baby in the womb than with the mother and child once he or she is born, and announce a renewed pastoral effort . . .

“Over the coming days, the New York State Catholic Conference’s social media platforms will highlight each of the

contraception, and open and honest discussions amongst families.

In Hinduism, *samsara* (the cycle of birth and rebirth) dictates that every *atman* (divine self) has potentially lived multiple lifetimes before and continues to experience this cycle until it has fulfilled all of its karmic burden. While there are debates as to when *atman* becomes individually present within a body — some believe from the time of conception; others believe much later — it is ultimately the mother who has the right and the privilege, as well as the heavy duty of responsibility, over her unborn child.

<https://www.hinduamerican.org/press/hindu-american-foundation-on-abortion-rights>

ISLAM

Do not sever the bonds of the womb.

– Qur’an 4:1

Do not kill your children from fear of poverty.

– Qur’an 17:31

Read the article/[when-does-a-human-fetus-become-human](#) by Hamza Yusuf is a leading proponent of classical learning in Islam and president of Zaytuna College, a Muslim liberal arts college in Berkeley, California.

<https://renovatio.zaytuna.edu/>

aspirational statements, with the hashtags #WeEnvision and #HelpForMoms.

“Let us work toward making New York a state where even if abortion is not illegal, it will one day be unthinkable.,” the Bishops conclude. [BishopsStatement-Dobbs2022.pdf \(archny.org\)](#)
And [Help for Moms | New York State Catholic Conference \(nyscatholic.org\)](#)

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And. [Help for Moms | New York State Catholic Conference \(nyscatholic.org\)](#)

Roman Catholic
A Summary of Catholic Beliefs that Support Legislation Against Abortion from Catholic Apologist Trent Horn may be found here: [Catholics Can't Be Pro-Choice | Catholic Answers](#)

**An EXTENSIVE LISTING
RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONAL
STATEMENTS may be found
via the
San Francisco Interfaith Council
<https://www.interfaithccc.org/sfic-statements-articles-released-by-religious-leaders-concerning-abortion-the-us-supreme-courts-decision-in-dobbs-v-jackson-womens-health-organization/>**

Southern Baptist Convention :

June 21, 2021

RESOLVED, that the messengers of the SBC meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15-16, 2021, do state unequivocally that abortion is murder, and we reject any position that allows for any exceptions to the legal protection of our preborn neighbors, compromises God's holy standard of justice, or promotes any God-hating partiality (Psa 94:6; Isa 10:1-2; Prov 24:11; Psa 82:1-4), and be it further

RESOLVED, that we will not embrace an incremental approach alone to ending abortion because it challenges God's Lordship over the heart and the conscience, and rejects His call to repent of sin completely and immediately (Gen 3:1; John 8:44; Rom 2:14-15; 2 Corinthians 11:3), and be it further

RESOLVED, that we affirm that the murder of preborn children is a crime against humanity that must be punished equally under the law and be it further. <https://www.sbc.net/resource-library/resolutions/on-abolishing-abortion/>

For an article summarizing the Southern Baptist evolution on its stance against abortion, see. [The Southern Baptists' Changing Positions on Abortion - CounterPunch.org](#)

Other Protestant Perspectives thus far:

[Black Churches Have Mixed Reactions As The US Supreme Court Overturns Roe V. Wade \(religionunplugged.com\)](#)

[After Roe's fall, Black churches support some or all reproductive health options \(religionnews.com\)](#)

[Evangelical Leaders React to the Overturning of Roe v. Wade - Christian News Headlines \(christianheadlines.com\)](#)

An EXTENSIVE LISTING RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONAL STATEMENTS may be found via the

San Francisco Interfaith Council

<https://www.interfaithccc.org/sfic-statements-articles-released-by-religious-leaders-concerning-abortion-the-us-supreme-courts-decision-in-dobbs-v-jackson-womens-health-organization/>

Additional Resources

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More on Catholic Responses

Jesuit Perspectives. From Georgetown University President John J. DeGioia:

[Statement of President John J. DeGioia on Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization - Georgetown University](#)

Jesuit Perspectives. From Jesuit journalist Fr. Sam Sawyer

[I support overturning Roe. But pro-lifers need to understand why so many Americans fear this decision. | America Magazine](#)

By progressive Catholic Writer Peter Steinfels

<https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2022/07/11/abortion-dobbs-bishops-243326>