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A New Reminder That 'Pro-Choice' Is Not 'Anti-Baby'

Jennifer O'Neill

Writer , Yahoo Parenting • June 17, 2015



Mothers, including Diane Horvath-Cosper (above), are posting intimate photos and messages on a new tumblr to show the world that pro-choice is pro-family. (Photo: Tumblr/Pregnant, Parenting, and Pro-Choice)

Following the controversial debate centering on abortion-rights advocate [Ilyse Hogue](#), who is pregnant with twins, pro-choice group [RH Reality Check](#) has published a compelling collage of photos featuring

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The Tumblr, [Pregnant, Parenting, and Pro-Choice](#) was Fatherly

created to “offer concrete evidence of the extent to which parenthood and abortion rights are tied together,” Jodi Jacobson, RH Reality Check editor-in-chief [writes](#) introducing the photo series that kicked off June 11. “We are pro-choice and pregnant, pro-choice and parents, pro-choice and grandparents, aunts, uncles, adoptive, step-, and foster parents. We are pro human rights for all people, and by default, pro-child, and pro-family.”



(Photo: Tumblr/[Pregnant, Parenting, and Pro-Choice](#))

STORY: [Abortion-Rights Leader Is Pregnant — and Her Critics Are Appalled](#)

Jacobson, who contributed a shot from her son's 1999 baby shower, tells Yahoo Parenting that presenting their supporters visually has two important benefits. “I know, and share, all the data and statistics — including the fact that 61 percent of American women who get abortions have children — but while we know that, someone can still say to Illyse, ‘Are you kidding? Is that

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pro-choice majority, she says. "With this tumblr we give statistics a face and offer people an ability to communicate their own support as mothers, adoptive parents, and fathers. It also shows that people have a right to make their own decisions about reproductive health."

STORY: [Why More Women Are Choosing Not to Have Children](#)

Featuring moving stories as well as stand-alone photos, the contributions reflect the diversity of supporters' backgrounds and family status. "I've had people ask me if having a child changed my feelings about abortion, or if I would no longer be an abortion provider," writes Diane Horvath-Cosper with the photo she submitted. "If anything, the incredible responsibility of caring for my amazing daughter has made me realize that parenting should be something that is entered into willingly and (ideally) joyfully. I will continue to provide abortions for my patients because a world of wanted children is the kind of world I want my daughter to grow up in."



Avital Norman Natham (Photo: Tumblr/Pregnant, Parenting, and Pro-Choice)

"Being pregnant and becoming a mother only solidified my passion for fighting for reproductive health and abortion access for all those who need it," posted writer Avital Norman Nathman with the photo she submitted. "Parenting should be a choice made willingly, and not something that should be forced

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choice somebody is allowed to make, for the betterment of the parent, the baby, and the family.”



Maureen Shaw
@MaureenShaw

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1:18 PM - 14 Jun 2015

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Maureen Shaw (Photo: Tumblr/Pregnant, Parenting, and Pro-Choice)

[She Rights](#) founder Maureen Shaw notes simply, “THIS is a heavily #prochoice #pregnant bump,” in her caption. “Motherhood strengthens my prochoice resolve!”

With Mara Klein Clarke’s photo, the [Abortion Support Network](#) founder adds, “...Being a parent has strengthened my belief that anyone who wants an abortion should be able to have an abortion. My daughter, when she was five, said it best. ‘Being a mommy or a daddy is a really big job. Only people who want to be mommies and daddies should be parents.’”

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Mara Klein Clarke (Photo: Tumblr/Pregnant, Parenting, and Pro-Choice)

"We're constantly engaged with folks in the reproductive justice community and we know that it's extremely diverse, age-wise, economically and racially and we wanted to show that," Jacobson explains. So she reached out to groups she'd worked with asking women to share their personal photos. "It grew from that," she says. "This clearly hit a cord."

And all this sharing can only help the cause, she adds. "I know that people want to be able to express their opinions and too many feel silent. This gives them the ability to say, 'Here I am. I believe in this movement.'"



(Photo: Tumblr/Pregnant, Parenting, and Pro-Choice)

The tumblr will now permanently live on RH Reality Check's website. "We hope that it will continue to help raise consciousness," says Jacobson. "I don't think that one tumblr is going to change the world," she continues, "but I do think that the aggregate of the evidenced-based information, great work of our

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down the stigma and barriers to abortion and reproductive health care.”

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