

**United for Life**

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**From:** Helpdesk [helpdesk@unicef.org.uk]  
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**To:** info@unitedforlife.com  
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Good Afternoon Chris

Thank you for your recent letter in respect of your campaign "Make Abortion History".

We would like to clarify that UNICEF does not promote or support abortion as a method of family planning, and never has. However, UNICEF believes that responsible family planning involving both men and women is an important factor in the general health and well-being of children, women and families. We support the provision of information, education on the benefits of child spacing and responsible planning of family size, as we believe this can bring enormous benefits to both mother and child.

At the same time, UNICEF is aware that 20 million unsafe abortions occur every year – an incredible 55,000 each day. As a result of these unsafe procedures, some 80,000 women lose their lives every year, with hundreds suffering serious disabilities. As part of its long-standing commitment to preventing maternal mortality, UNICEF supports swift, effective medical interventions to treat the complications of unsafe abortions.

Responsible family planning can also play a role in reducing the demand for abortion, and can greatly reduce the losses associated with the 20 million unsafe abortions that are performed each year.

UNICEF's work is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which repeatedly emphasises the authority, primacy and importance of the family in a child's life.

I hope that this helps to answer some of your questions.

**Peggy Carter**  
Help Desk Assistant

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Health, Education, Equality, Protection

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