

## COMMENT

### FIGHT FOR THE TRUTH

Is it important to know the truth about the past or is it better to forget it?

Is it possible, once you know it, to forgive those who committed crimes against women, men and children?

These are some of the questions being asked in the debate about whether we should have a Truth Commission.

When Justice Minister Dullah Omar announced the setting up of a Truth Commission, many people cheered — at last we would get to know who exactly was responsible for destroying the lives of many *under apartheid*.

Others were not so happy. They are worried that a Truth Commission will open up old wounds. This, they say, will break down the spirit of reconciliation.

Others debate how far a Truth Commission should go. Should it publicly release the names of those people responsible for murder?

It seems as if the debate remains with politicians. The views of the mothers, partners, wives, sisters and daughters of people who have disappeared are not asked.

Can they forget? SPEAK thinks it is important that the new government listens to those affected. They need to know what happened to the people they love. You cannot forgive people whose faces you *do not know*. And the new government should not judge those who might never be able to forgive. As women, we must fight for the truth to be known.

# Talk Back

## Not so privileged

I wish to comment on the views of Privileged Progressive in the June issue of SPEAK. I assume that she thinks of herself as progressive because she supports abortion and privileged because she could afford to go to England to have one.

But why does a woman decide to end the life of her child?

If a woman claims that it is her right to do what she wants, what about the rights of the unborn child?

Don't the majority of people agree that the basic human right is the right to life and that a progressive society is to care for its weakest citizens.

Of course, there is a question of when exactly does life start.

But what do other readers think? What do all mothers out there say? Do mothers really have the right to decide whether to have an abortion or not? Are they now, the new Gods?

*A lover of life  
Malelane*

**Speak believes that every woman has a right over her own body and life. It is difficult enough for a woman to**

**Thanks to all our readers who have written in. Please keep your letters flowing. We are often forced to shorten letters because of space. Send your letters to: SPEAK  
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**reach such a decision without people playing God themselves. If a woman chooses to have an abortion or not, it is her right and it should be respected.— Editor**

## Abortion should not be legalised

I enjoyed your July issue of SPEAK very much. I also liked the poem by Boitumelo Mofokeng.

I agree with Faith Neta that it is wrong to legalise abortion. I hope the government will ignore calls to legalise abortion. Our society is in such a bad state that boys and girls lose their virginity as early as 13-15 years of age. We have to teach our