

Letter: Children have rights

July 13, 2023



I write to express my firm belief that children, including LGBTQI+ youth and transgender youths, have the inherent right to privacy and bodily autonomy. Additionally, I strongly advocate for the necessary access to abortion for child rape victims or survivors of incest. In matters of a child's bodily autonomy and reproductive health, parental consent should not be imposed, especially in cases involving sexual or reproductive violence.

While I acknowledge the importance of parental involvement and guidance in a child's life, it is my opinion that certain decisions should be deferred until the child reaches an age of maturity, ideally 18 or 21. This includes elective cosmetic or modification surgeries, even for gender-affirming care. The developing nature of a child's brain calls for careful consideration and the ability to make informed choices later in life.

However, I firmly believe that family planning services should be easily accessible to all individuals, regardless of age. Adolescents and young adults should have equitable access to contraception and reproductive healthcare services. By making these services readily available, we promote responsible decision-making and ensure that young people can exercise control over their own bodies.

We must also acknowledge the existence and unique needs of transgender youths. Their experiences of body dysphoria and gender dysphoria require compassion and understanding. It is the responsibility of the parent-child relationship to have open and honest discussions about these issues, without fear of intervention from

religious or governmental entities. Respecting the autonomy of children and adolescents is crucial to fostering a supportive and inclusive society.

In conclusion, children are deserving of privacy, bodily autonomy, and reproductive healthcare rights. While certain decisions may need to wait until a later stage in life; it is key to have understanding discussions and dialogue.

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