

Responsive: Examples of inconsistencies with international norms:

- **Freedom of expression:** Article 13 of the Convention explicitly forbids prior censorship. However, other important international human rights can only be protected through prior censorship. For example, in fulfilment of other international obligations, Canada has passed legislation fulfilling its obligations to suppress **hate propaganda and child pornography**.
- **Equality:** Article 24 of the Convention guarantees equality before the law but does not provide for **affirmative action**. However, other international instruments as well as our *Charter* contemplate affirmative action. We would need to protect our ability to affirmative action programs.
- **Right to life:** Article 4 of the Convention guarantees the right to life "**in general from the moment of conception**". Strong concerns have been raised that this may be inconsistent with international trends affirming the **right of women** to control all aspects of their health, and in particular their own fertility. It may also be inconsistent with the *Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms* and the right of women to security of the person. Given the ambiguity of the phrase "in general", the question has been raised whether it is in the best interest of Canadians to risk relinquishing decision-making in this sensitive area.