

Compassion International

Stance on Abortion and Contraception

<https://blog.compassion.com/she-chose-life/>

Compassion International shows their “pro-life” stance in this blog post by discussing how one of Compassion’s church partners in Indonesia helped a woman keep her child and save him from abortion.

<https://blog.compassion.com/family-planning-in-the-developing-world/>

While Compassion International is anti-abortion, they are not against contraception. More on this can be seen in the links and write-ups below.

In this blog post from 2012, Compassion International discusses the importance of their Family Planning program: “Lack of access to family planning leaves mothers in developing countries with no easy way to control the size of their families, and in the end, robs both the mother and her children of a better life, one that enables each to eat enough nourishing food and pursue the education that lifts communities out of poverty.”

In response to their vague definition of what they mean by “Family Planning,” two Compassion International employees provide responses in this post’s comment section as to what they mean by this:

Jacquie Parella July 25, 2012-The term family planning means different things to different people. As the author of the blog post works for another organization and doesn’t explicitly define what she means by family planning, I’m not able to say what she means precisely. However, I can help clarify Compassion’s position. **We do not provide money to purchase any form of temporary or permanent birth control, though our church partners may decide to obtain these resources from their governments or other organizations in their communities.** To clarify our use of the term “family planning,” what we teach to the moms in our Child Survival Program is adequate child spacing. Child spacing permits children to receive enough interaction with their mothers and not be weaned off of breastfeeding too quickly. We desire that mothers in our Child Survival

Program to have at least a two-year gap in between child births. This is to ensure that the child does not go undernourished, and that the woman has enough time to recover before a new pregnancy. However, we do permit our church partners to teach as they believe. Some of our church partners do teach natural forms of family planning, which includes basic education on human reproduction. Our Child Survival Program beneficiaries are not forced nor required to practice family planning methods. We strongly believe in the sanctity of life. A core part of our mission is to protect and preserve children's lives at all stages of development. Therefore, implementing church partners do not condone or facilitate abortions.

Amy Metzger August 2, 2012-Compassion's approach to this is great and is just what we want for all women... healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies. **This is about family planning, not abortion. These two terms are not equal. Family 'planning' allows women to have children at the rate that they desire and gives them the chance to bring children into the world with a fighting chance, rather than bringing a child into the world without having the proper resources for survival.** Family planning also saves women's lives. Worldwide, over 215 million women want access to family planning supplies but do not have access and we want to change this alarming statistic. Male involvement in family planning is important, as is integration into other health services, including HIV/AIDS, nutrition, and immunization. Compassion International is a member of Christian Connections for International Health. Learn more about CCIH's work, including family planning, on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and through our website: <http://www.ccih.org>. Thanks again for all the comments; rest assured that Compassion and CCIH are working for good to preserve life in all that we do.

<https://www.ccih.org/fbos-strengthen-health-systems-in-bangladesh/>
<https://www.ccih.org/faith-based-organizations-providing-health-care-in-nigeria/>
<https://www.ccih.org/world-vision-helps-families-space-pregnancies-for-child-survival/>

After looking at Compassion's membership with CCIH, we can look just at the three links above to see that CCIH promotes contraception as a method of their Family Planning. However, it appears that as of 2023, Compassion International is no longer a member of CCIH.

In an email response to ALL on 10/3/2023, Compassion International clarified what their current stance on family planning is:

Compassion does not provide birth control to youth in our program. We do, however emphasize abstinence and that God has reserved sexual intimacy for marriage. Compassion encourages staff at our child development centers to provide age-appropriate instruction consistent with Christian moral values. Compassion teaches abstinence as God's design for unmarried people. **In our Survival Program, the local church teaches mothers about family planning that includes basic education on reproductive health, natural contraception,** and family spacing. Instruction stresses sexual abstinence outside of marriage and a faithful relationship within marriage.

Stance on LGBTQ+

<https://www.compassion.com/letter-writing/letter-writing-topics-faq.htm>

Compassion International has a list of topics that donors cannot write about to the child they are sponsoring, one of which includes same-sex unions or partnerships and unmarried cohabitation:

References to sexuality, living in an unmarried cohabitation or same-sex partnership. Compassion does not believe it is the sponsor's role to discuss issues of sexuality with their sponsored child. That is the role and responsibility of the child's parent, caregiver, or guardian.



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