

# TEACHER GUIDE

# PRE-BORN VICTIMS OF CRIME



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### **SUMMARY**

A violent crime against a pregnant woman needs to be treated as the serious crime it is. Women are especially vulnerable to intimate partner violence, and their risk of such violence increases during pregnancy. These crimes can harm or even end the life of the growing baby in her womb. While abortion politics have prevented Parliament from addressing this concern in the past, a Pre-born Victims of Crime Law would require a judge to take into consideration the vulnerability of the mother and the harm done to her pre-born child as victims of violent crime.

### RESEARCH

Read and/or view the following in order to answer the discussion questions that follow:

- https://www.thereweretwo.ca/
- https://weneedalaw.ca/initiatives/pre-born-victims-of-crime/
- <a href="https://weneedalaw.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Pre-born-victims-of-crime-One-Pager.pdf">https://weneedalaw.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Pre-born-victims-of-crime-One-Pager.pdf</a>
- https://weneedalaw.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Model-Pre-born-Victims-of-Crime-Law.pdf
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYQLqxxnxN8&t=1s

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. Joyce Arthur, executive director of the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada, said she opposed a pre-born victims of crime law because: "If the fetuses are recognized in [law], ... it could bleed into people's consciousness and make people change their minds about abortion." Discuss.
- 2. A principle in our criminal justice is that the sentence should match the crime. In what way is our law failing to do this in relation to pregnant women and pre-born children?
- 3. Read Exodus 21:22-25. Why does God show concern for pregnant women and for their pre-born children being victims of crime?

### **ACTION INSPIRES ACTION!**

### **Baby Booties**

Knit or crochet a pair of baby booties and send to your MP with the note: "These booties represent the life of a pre-born victim who lost their life during a violent crime. Canada needs a pre-born victims of crime law so that criminals who attack a pregnant woman can be sentenced appropriately."

Click here to find your MP and their contact information: https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en.



## PRE-BORN VICTIMS OF CRIME

### **Shoebox Memorial Display**

Organize a memorial display for the pre-born victims who never received justice for their death. Contact We Need A Law at <a href="mailto:info@weneedalaw.ca">info@weneedalaw.ca</a> for instructions and to book the memorial display kit.

### Write Postcards

Send a postcard to your MP asking them to put forward a pre-born victims of crime law. Contact We Need A Law at <a href="mailto:info@weneedalaw.ca">info@weneedalaw.ca</a> for postcards.

### Flyer Distribution

Distribute *There Were Two* flyers in your neighborhood or with your friends. Contact We Need A Law at <a href="mailto:info@weneedalaw.ca">info@weneedalaw.ca</a> to order flyers free of charge.