

COUR EUROPÉENNE
DES
DROITS DE L'HOMME

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
STRASBOURG

EUROPEAN COURT
OF
HUMAN RIGHTS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
STRASBOURG

Mr Bill Saunders
Family Research Council
801 G Street NW
Washington DC 20001
UNITED STATES

Mr Roger Kiska
Legal Counsel
European Centre for Law and Justice
4, quai Koch
67000 STRASBOURG
FRANCE

Society for the Protection
of Unborn Children
c/o Child & Child Solicitors
79 Knightsbridge
LONDON SW1X 7RB
UNITED KINGDOM

THIRD SECTION

ECHR-LE14.8bP3
CO/CO/rgo

10 September 2008

Application no. 25579/05
A. B. and C. v. Ireland

Dear Sirs,

I acknowledge receipt of your letters of 7 and 15 August 2008, respectively, in which you seek leave for your organisations to intervene as third parties in the Court's proceedings in the above case (Article 36 § 2 of the Convention).

Rule 44 § 2 (b) of the Rules of Court states:

"Requests for leave for this purpose must be duly reasoned and submitted in writing in one of the official languages as provided in Rule 34 § 4 not later than twelve weeks after notice of the application has been given to the respondent Contracting Party. Another time limit may be fixed by the President of the Chamber for exceptional reasons."

The twelve-week time-limit referred to in the Rule expired on 29 July 2008, and your requests were therefore received out of time. Nonetheless, in view of the importance and sensitivity of the issues in the case and the need to maintain balance before the Court between

the various conflicting views on abortion, the President of the Chamber, Judge Casadevall, has decided, exceptionally, to accept your applications out-of-time.

Therefore, on 5 September 2008 he granted leave, under Rule 44 § 2 of the Rules of Court, for your organisations to submit joint written observations.

In accordance with Rule 44 § 4, the President has directed that your joint submissions, which must not exceed fifteen pages of typescript, should reach the Court by **31 October 2008**. Furthermore, having regard to the nature of a third-party intervention, these submissions should not include any comments on the facts or merits of the particular case. For your assistance I am, however, enclosing the Statement of Facts prepared by the Registry and the questions to the parties. The President requests that your observations should not overlap too greatly with the observations already submitted by Pro-Life Campaign and I therefore enclose their observations for your information.

I should also inform you that the following organisations have also been granted leave to submit third party comments: the Center for Reproductive Rights, jointly with the International Reproductive and Sexual Health Law Programme; Doctors for Choice in Ireland, jointly with the British Pregnancy Advisory Service; Pro-Life Campaign.

In accordance with Rule 44 § 5, your submissions will be forwarded to the parties, who will be given an opportunity to file written observations in reply.

Yours faithfully,



Santiago Quesada
Section Registrar

Encs: Statement of facts and questions
Observations submitted by the Pro-Life Campaign