

## TRUMP'S GAFFE BARES THE TRUTH ABOUT CRIMINALIZING ABORTION

Michael Kinsley defines a gaffe as a truth that a politician tells accidentally-- "some obvious truth he isn't supposed to say."

Donald Trump has freshly rattled conservatives by telling just such a truth about their longstanding effort to re-criminalize abortion.

In saying—at a town hall MSNBC forum-- not only that abortion should be banned but also that women who have an abortion should be made to suffer “some form of punishment,” Trump crossed the Maginot line that anti-abortionists have been manning--and womanning-- for years.

Knowing that punishing women for abortion is about as popular as banning all guns, booze, and sex, conservatives are shocked to hear Trump say that choosing abortion—as distinct from providing it—should be criminalized. “No pro-lifer would ever want to punish a woman who has chosen abortion,” says Jeanne Mancini, President of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund. “Of course we shouldn’t be talking about punishing women,” says Ted Cruz. “We should affirm their dignity and the incredible gift they have to bring life into the world.”

Duly chastised by such comments, Trump has issued something very rare: a retraction. A woman who has an abortion, he now says, “is a victim in this case, as is the life in her womb.”

Yes indeed, a victim. Ever since *Roe v. Wade*, millions of pregnant women in this country have been kidnapped, dragged into abortion clinics, and robbed at gunpoint of the lives within their wombs. Strangely enough, not one of them has ever brought charges against her kidnappers. Obviously they are silent victims of a vast left-wing conspiracy.

This conspiracy is so insidious that it makes women believe they are actually *choosing* abortion. But we all know they are *seduced* by abortion providers, which is what makes them innocent victims. Right?

Wrong. They are neither criminals nor innocent victims. They are women exercising their constitutional rights.

But *if* you want to argue that abortion should be re-criminalized, how can you logically claim that a woman who *procures* and *pays* for an abortion has committed no crime and deserves no punishment?

There's only one reason why "pro-life" conservatives strive to maintain this logical absurdity: as they know very well, it would be politically disastrous for them to say what Trump just did.

It's bad enough that he was once pro-choice, as Ted Cruz endlessly reminds us. But now, by his truth-telling gaffe, Trump has crossed the line protecting "innocent" women who choose abortion from the victimizing abortionists who prey on them. It turns out to be no more effective than the Maginot line was against Nazi troops in the spring of 1940.

Right on, Donald!