



**NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
LAW CENTER**

Justice for Her. Justice for All.

JANUARY 2026

Values Primer

Values shape how people view abortion. With abortion access in crisis, people want their leaders to reflect their own values when they speak and take action on abortion. When they do, it not only allows lawmakers and advocates to connect with their constituents, but also to shift the narrative, and strengthen support for abortion access in their communities.

Value	Guidepost
Compassion and Dignity	Let's treat everyone with dignity and respect, even if we don't agree with someone's decisions. We don't know everyone's circumstances, and every pregnancy is unique. It's better when we lead with compassion and let each person, not politicians, decide whether to have an abortion.
Health and Well-Being	Everyone should have the opportunity to live a safe and healthy life. That means being able to get the full range of reproductive care, including abortion. Abortion bans take that away and put people's health and well-being at serious risk.
Safety	Laws that limit or ban abortion make any pregnancy less safe. When doctors are forced to deny care, it puts people's lives and safety at risk. No one should be forced to risk their life or health to continue a pregnancy.
Faith	Each person should be able to follow their own beliefs, faith, and conscience when they make decisions about pregnancy, abortion, and parenting.
Autonomy/Agency	The decision about whether or when to become a parent is one of the most important life decisions we make. Every person should be able to make decisions about pregnancy, including abortion, without barriers, shame, or political interference.
Equity	Abortion care should be available, accessible, and affordable, without barriers based on who you are, how much money you have, or where you are from. Everyone should have the ability to make reproductive healthcare decisions that are best for them.
Freedom	We aren't truly free until everyone can make decisions about their own bodies, lives, and futures. Denying abortion care and forcing someone to continue a pregnancy against their will takes away their freedom.
Control	Abortion bans are about politicians trying to control people. People, not politicians, should have the power to make decisions about their lives, bodies, and futures.
Rights	Our basic rights are being taken away, including the right of people to make their own decisions about their bodies and what's best for them. Everyone should be able to get an abortion, no matter what state they live in.
Gender Equality	Women cannot be truly equal if they don't have control over their own bodies and lives. Banning abortion is about controlling women and returning to a time when women could not make decisions about their bodies and futures.