

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on your journal which I receive and read regularly. However, I would like to comment on something I read in the latest issue. Several of its pieces mention the fact that the future of children with Down syndrome (DS) was uncertain and bleak twenty to twenty-five years ago, but now, thanks to medical progress, life expectancy stands at about 60 years. I would like to know how such statements might be taken by all those children whose future was cut short in an operating room by health care workers, with their parents' connivance and in total impunity, just because they had three chromosomes in the 21 pair.

Never have I read a critical stance or condemnation of this barbarian act of induced abortion in your journal. Doesn't Mrs Trias say the Foundation "seeks to promote the individual while protecting their dignity"? So does the Foundation not consider children with DS people in the antenatal stage? Or do they lack dignity? I feel that you have a major task to undertake in this area if you truly seek to care for children with DS: help them be born.

Thank you. Best regards,

Jacinto Guillén Regodón
Pediatrician and childcare specialist

REPLY

Dear Mr Guillén,

As you rightly point out, life expectancy and quality of life have gradually improved for people with Down syndrome over the years. The purpose of SD-DS is to spread knowledge of the medical developments contributing to this improvement. However, its status as a scientific and medical journal currently precludes taking a stance on the matter you raised.

Spain, like some Western countries and unlike some others, has made an antenatal diagnosis of DS a potential indication for legal termination of pregnancy among the grounds specified in Organic Act 9/1985, dated 5 July 1985. Leaving aside the opinion of this journal's associates who may share your concern, our journal abides by the legal provisions decided by the rule of law. Controversies on this matter are more appropriately addressed in other contexts.

The Editors of SD-DS