

In the wake of the current news cycles, Sikh Family Center conducted a brief inquiry on abortion and the Sikh Women's experience.

From the responses, we gathered that **59% of those surveyed either had an abortion themselves or knew another Sikh woman who had an abortion.** *We don't share this for shock or awe but rather to acknowledge that abortion rights matter—to those we live with, live for, and live around.*

Restricting abortion access poses intersectional harms to our community. Sikh Family Center will continue advocating for gender justice and the sovereignty of everybody.



Some themes identified by the three dozen survey participants:

- The decision to have an abortion is a deeply personal decision, and although the story about seeking and/or obtaining an abortion is not publically shared, it is widely known privately between friends/sisters/families/mothers & daughters.
- The abortion conversation is misunderstood and misused because of a patriarchal structure that contradicts Sikh values and principles.
- We all need to expand our perspective to acknowledge both the personal and medical reasons someone may engage in seeking an abortion.
- Contrary to the myth that only certain “kinds” of girls/women seek an abortion or that it is a decision that is hastily made, many women with deep Sikh values have made this medical decision.



Participants shared some reasons for why they or a Sikh woman they knew terminated a pregnancy:

“We were not prepared to have another child.”

“Deteriorating health due to unhealthy fetal growth; unhealthy marriage, so didn't want to bring a child into the mix.”

“She already had daughters and wanted a boy only.”

“My understanding was that it was a young couple who already has two young kids and little support in this country. The husband vehemently felt overwhelmed at the thought of a third child and drove the decision.”



Participants responded to “What comes to your mind when you hear about the current Supreme Court’s proposal to make abortion illegal?”:

“Patriarchy and control. Rage and sadness. A bit of exhaustion.”

“Inequities on who can access abortion, medical necessity for abortion, emotional suffering of women who won't be able to have abortion.”

“Rage. A need for Kaurs to stand up and fight for our daughters.”

“I think it’s absurd. Women have a variety of reasons for choosing not to have a child - from lack of resources, lack of support, not wanting a child, health reasons, and so many more. It is unfair to force a woman to carry a child if she is unable, unwilling, or it is simply an unwanted pregnancy.”

