

Stopping the Clock on Time Limits

Ann Furedi





The reasons

- Clinical safety
- Public opinion
- Legal boundary



The Consequences

- Political barriers to clinical practice
- Women denied services
- Public opinion reinforced

But ... when does
the clock start?

Fertilisation?

Implantation?

Confirmation of pregnancy?


Dates/Scan

“the first day of the last menstrual period”




The ULTIMATE absurdity!!!





The start of Pregnancy in Abortion Law is a “legal fiction”

“**Legal fiction** refers to a fictitious fact that is treated as true under the law for purposes of legal, administrative or other expediency.”



An upper time limit in Abortion
Law is a “legal fiction”

**But with severe practical consequences for a
women in need of treatment**

? “the pregnancy
has not exceeded
its twenty-fourth
week” ?

In the UK, “all elements of abortion
treatment must be completed
by....”

22 July 2018 = 24 weeks + 0 days

23 July 2018 = 23 weeks + 6 days



What a difference a day makes!

For bpas 13 procedures a year

In the UK

22 July 2018 = 24 weeks + 0 days

23 July 2018 = 23 weeks + 6 days



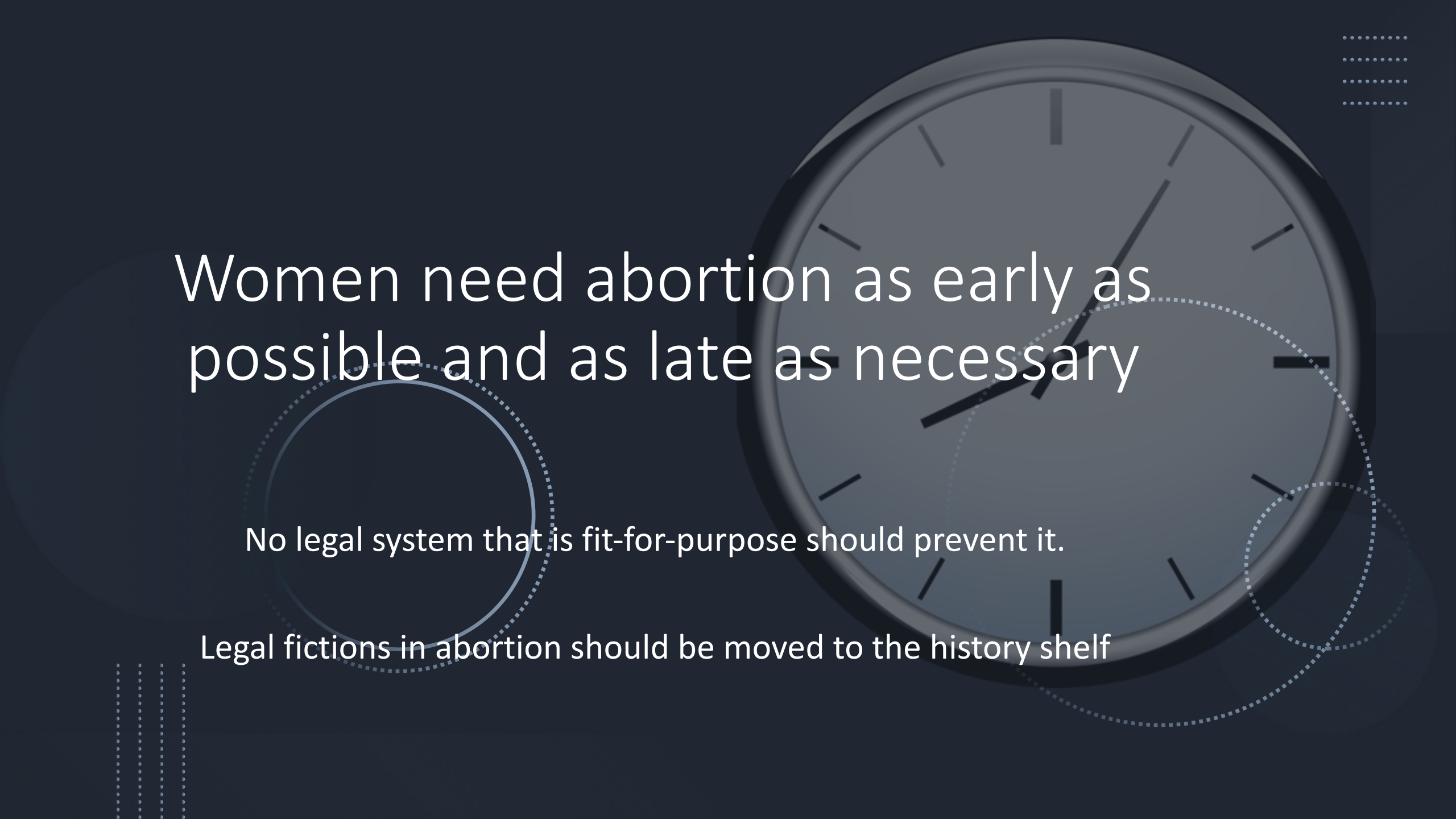
Abortion time limits are built on legal fiction

Unnecessary and unhelpful

In existing the act as a barrier to
understanding

We may have to obey the law but
we do not have to endorse it





Women need abortion as early as possible and as late as necessary

No legal system that is fit-for-purpose should prevent it.

Legal fictions in abortion should be moved to the history shelf

ANN FUREDI

THE MORAL CASE FOR ABORTION

A Defence of Reproductive Choice

Foreword by
Dr. Willie Parker



SECOND EDITION



"Under Furedi's leadership, the British Pregnancy Advisory Service pledged never to turn away a request for abortion that we could safely and legally provide. This is the theory behind that practice. Moral decisions should be made by those who will live with them. This is a crucial read for anyone who wants to understand what it means to defend a woman's reproductive autonomy."
—Claire Murphy, Chief Executive, British Pregnancy Advisory Service

This vibrant and updated edition of the 2016 bestselling work sets out the moral arguments for a woman's right to decide the future of her pregnancy. Drawing on a mixture of philosophical and sociological thinking, it presents the case for recognising autonomy in personal, private decision-making about reproductive intentions. Further, it argues that to prevent a woman making this decision according to her own values is to undermine the evidence of her humanity. The author explains how this respect for human life and regard for individual conscience demands that we support a woman's reproductive choice, and that support for her right to terminate her pregnancy has moral

Ann.Furedi@gmail.com
[@AnnFuredi](https://twitter.com/AnnFuredi)

Ann Furedi has been a leading global pro-choice advocate for almost 40 years, 20 years as CEO of British Pregnancy Advisory Service. She has written extensively on the ethics of abortion and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Social Sciences by the University of Kent in recognition of her contribution.

palgrave
macmillan



www.palgrave.com

