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# Abortion on demand gets mixed feelings

**T**HE Catholic Church strongly opposes the proposed new laws for abortion on demand.

But two woman leaders welcome the relaxing of the existing abortion laws and have suggested that counselling should be given before and after the abortion.

They were commenting on a report that Government is now in the process of drafting laws to permit women to have abortion on demand.

A working party set for this purpose is said to have recommended extending laws on abortion.

It is said to have suggested that unmarried mothers at the age of 16 should be encouraged to have abortions.

Commenting on these reports, Vicar-General for the Catholic Church in Hongkong, Rev Father Secundo Einaudi said he was disappointed.

"Anything can happen when there is no respect for life."

He said the Church will defend and maintain its stand against abortion.

Acting Director of the Family Planning Association, Mrs Peggy Lam said the Association has always suggested 'liberalising' abortion laws.

But she reiterated that having an abortion should be the last resort for those who do not have any children.

She said there are all kinds of contraceptives for prevention.

Vice-president of the Federation of International Women Lawyers, Miss Maria Tam agrees that a woman should be the sole decision-maker when it comes to having an abortion or not.

She said if abortion on demand is granted, counselling should be provided to help a woman to make a correct decision.

Mrs Lam also agrees that the counselling before and after an abortion is most necessary.