

## Tekst 10

debate@thetimes.co.uk

Debate the issues of the day, and join in the discussion with other Times readers

### ARE PREGNANT WOMEN AND WORKING MOTHERS GETTING A RAW DEAL FROM EMPLOYERS?

**1**

IF WOMEN choose to become pregnant, why should others – taxpayers or employers – have to finance them? If they do not have a relationship where a partner can support them during pregnancy and beyond they should not choose to become pregnant.

There is no such thing as a right to have children. Learn to pay for what you want.

*Bob Finbow,  
Haverhill, Suffolk*

**2**

SOME OF my colleagues have come back from maternity leave and have been demoted after their employers had found someone else to fill their shoes. Another was offered voluntary redundancy because her employer did not like her working part-time. These are educated women with MBAs; they are often more qualified than their male counterparts.

Something needs to be done. Women are being treated like second-class citizens.

Employers who support working mothers find that they have a very loyal employee; women tend to stay with those employers longer. Sadly, few of these exist.

*Sarah Milligan,  
sarah.milligan@ntlworld.com*

**3**

EMPLOYERS naturally seek people who are capable of doing the job. If, for whatever reason, the employee can no longer carry out that job, it is reasonable for the employer to prefer someone who can.

Generally, staff absences are short term and usually can be covered by others. In the case of a pregnancy and children, you are talking about months, if not years, of absence. Being asked to move to a less taxing job then is not an act of discrimination.

Being a parent requires sacrifice. It is unrealistic to opt into and out of work when it suits you and still expect to maintain the same income.

*Ann Trim,  
anntrim@atrim.freeseerve.co.uk*

**4**

I AM getting a little sick and tired of whingeing women who seem to want it both ways. When are women going to accept that we have choices when it comes to becoming mothers?

Having children and holding down a job rarely works successfully.

*Sarah Marshman,  
London ■*

### **Tekst 10 Are pregnant women...**

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- 2p 43 “Are pregnant women and working mothers getting a raw deal from employers?”  
(titel)
- Geef voor elk van de brieven aan of de inzender ervan de vraag in de titel met ja of met nee zou beantwoorden.  
Schrijf het nummer van elke brief op, gevolgd door “ja” of “nee”.