Because abortion is never directly mentioned in the Qur'an, scholars and laypeople must utilize Quranic principles, the Hadith, the maqasid al-Shariah, and historical records to determine the permissibility of abortion in Islam. As we analyze these sources, we must also seek to understand what is meant by personhood in Islam, what it means to be “alive”, and what is meant by “ensoulment”.

Islamic theology is not monolithic and across the various schools, sects, and countries that identify as "Islamic", there are numerous reasons for permitting abortion. Some of these reasons include:

- Danger to the life of the mother
- Foetal Impairment
- Preserve a woman's physical or mental health
- Protect the health of a breastfeeding child
- Pregnancy as a result of rape or incest
- Social reasons

Regardless of how you understand the permissibility of abortion according to Islamic theology, it's important to remember that "There is no compulsion in religion" (Qur'an 2:256). This means that you as a Muslim do not have the right to force another Muslim or a non-Muslim to respond to a pregnancy in accordance with your beliefs. They, like you, are free to make decisions about their bodily autonomy in accordance with their own understanding of their faith traditions.