Michelle Buenrostro's Personal Experience

Michelle Buenrostro · Maria Ault · Robert N. Rust

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Robert N. Rust
Michelle, you describe becoming pro-life after experiencing pressure to have an abortion. Just take a brief moment. What happened, and how did you respond?

Michelle Buenrostro
Um, yeah, so I was brought up in a pro-choice family. So once I found out I was pregnant, I knew that my parents were going to want me to get an abortion, so I actually hid my pregnancy for as long as I could. I didn't tell my parents until I was roughly 18 weeks along.

Michelle Buenrostro
The first response, aside from the initial anger, my mom sat me down in the living room. She didn't know how far along I was. She maybe thought that I was earlier, but she said, she essentially said, "Look, I can take you to the doctor's. They can give you a pill, and then we can leave this behind us, pretend it didn't happen, and I forgive you."

Michelle Buenrostro
My dad was a lot more authoritarian, and he said, "No, you're getting an abortion no matter what. What are people going to think about us, and what about your education?" So I was definitely facing a lot of pressure. This was also over summer vacation, so I was isolated. I didn't have anyone to talk to, and that was extremely difficult.

Michelle Buenrostro
It was extremely difficult to go through that. But my daughter essentially gave me courage that I didn't have before. It was hard for me to stand up for myself, but it's easy for me to stand up for my children. So I did refuse, despite that pressure, and I am thankful that this was during the time where, in order to obtain an abortion, you had to go to an abortion clinic.

Multiple speakers
And I really feel for the young women today who, with the availability of mail order abortion pills, might be feeling a stronger pressure with the abortion pills right there under their roof. Now, that's quite a testimony for anyone who's listening to this who might be facing the same question that you faced.

Source: Descript’s 13-clip transcript document. Speaker attributions are editorial matches to the original interview transcript; “Multiple speakers” identifies text combining different voices. This PDF does not contain independently verified clip-relative timestamps. Interview statements reflect the speakers’ views and are not independently fact-checked.