Abortion on grounds of gender is the same as a crime of child destruction

SIR - On your front page (February 23) you report that women are being granted illegal abortions based on the sex of the unborn baby. For each of these, doctors receive between £700 and £800. In the same issue you report that a former nightclub bouncer has been jailed for killing a pregnant teenager and in the process killing her unborn baby daughter, a crime described as "child destruction".

Kevin Heneghan
St Helens, Lancashire

SIR - Your commendable investigative reporting gives proof of what many have suspected: that some clinics are happy to carry out abortions for reasons of parental preference as to gender.

The Sixties eugenics movement succeeded in legalising abortion when it stopped talking about "the unfit mother" and started talking about "the mother who couldn't cope". Once abortion was legalised, they championed "a woman's right to choose", explaining that this could encompass abortion for any reason. Believing there were simply too many people, some approved of the abortion of females because of its effects on population: put bluntly, it is women who have babies. Bizarrely, some even claimed that sex-selective abortions would lead to women becoming more highly prized in proportion to their scarcity. It may seem odd that a "woman's right to choose" should encourage her to choose to abort a child because it is female, but pro-choice feminists have been conspicuous by their silence on such issues, warning that to criticise gendercide in China and India might damage abortion rights in this country. Now gendercide has come home.

Ann Farmer
Woodford Green, Essex

SIR - This country is turning a blind eye to the 200,000 abortions performed each year. Serious questions are not being asked as to the details of abortion requests. Many doctors and nurses leave aside any decision as to whether it is right or wrong. As a trained nurse I had the opportunity to work in an abortion clinic. I am sure that if liberal-minded folk witnessed an abortion they would be horrified. A baby of just 12 weeks' gestation is a miracle to' behold. I moved from a position of ignorance to being strongly against abortion on demand.

Susan Smith
Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire

SIR -I was very much opposed to the introduction of the 1967 Abortion Act, but took a bit of comfort from assurances that the legislation would only be used in a very few difficult, agonising situations. I have been very much opposed to the introduction of assisted suicide legislation, but found my attitude mellowing with the reassurances that this would only be used in a very few difficult, agonising situations. A pause for thought now, I think.

Janet Kay
Acomb, North Yorkshire