

Moral dilemma 7
THE NOISY CHILD

During World war II, a group of people were trying to run away from the German Gestapo that were trailing them. One of the women in the group had an infant who was ill. It was not known what was wrong with the child, but it cried continuously. All of the people were hiding together in a small attic of a large house. One of the men in the group suggested that they kill the infant because it made a great deal of noise. If the Germans discovered the group they might all be killed

- What should the mother of the infant do and why?
- Is it justified to kill one person if it will increase the chance of saving a lot of people?
- Suppose they killed the baby, and the Germans never came into the house. Are they guilty of murder?
- Do you consider this kind of killing murder, or self-defense: Why?