

2195 Norwich Stands Against 40 Days for Life

Proposers:

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Union Notes:

1. Union Policy 2066 'Reproductive Justice for All' states that we have a 'firm pro-choice stance' and 'support pro-choice activists' when it comes to legal and safe access to abortion services.
2. Between the 14th February and 25th March the anti-choice group, 40 Days for Life, are planning to conduct a series of vigils internationally outside of abortion clinics.
3. 40 Days for life is a religiously-based, anti-abortion group which has origins in Texas, USA.
4. One of the locations for these 40 day vigils is the Norwich BPAS clinic.
5. Abortion, if carried out by a registered medical practioners subject to certain conditions, is legal under the 1967 Abortion Act.
6. It is estimated that 1 in 3 women will have an abortion before the age of 45 years old¹.
7. The abortion rate is highest for women aged 22.²
8. Pro-Choice activists are planning to organise counter protests and a 'buffer zone' to shield women visit the clinic.

Union Believes:

1. As the abortion rate is highest for women aged 22, our students could be significantly affected by these protests.
2. No woman should face abuse while seeking out an abortion.
3. Women having agency over their own circumstances and reproduction is one of the cornerstones of women's rights.

Union Resolves:

1. To mandate the Student Officer Committee to delegate financial and staff resource to support students who wish to attend the counter protests.
2. This will include helping pay for transport to the clinic and organising a rota to cover the 40 days of protest.
3. To release a statement in solidarity with women who us the BPAS clinic, and information about where students can go for support if affected.

¹ <https://www.bpas.org/abortion-care/considering-abortion/>

²

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/433437/2014_Commentary__5_.pdf