



MPs vote to keep dangerous DIY abortion

MPS HAVE VOTED TO MAKE DANGEROUS DIY ABORTION a permanent policy, by 215 votes to 188. A government healthcare bill was hijacked to push through the measure which SPUC said, “is not healthcare by any definition.”

SPUC condemned the vote, saying that MPs had ignored the evidence of the dangers of DIY abortion and ignored women.

Dark day for Parliament

“March 30 2022 was a dark day for Parliament”, said John Deighan, CEO of SPUC. “How can anyone think it’s a good idea to post abortion pills to women and then leave them alone to carry out their own abortion?”

A baby boy with a heartbeat

During the debate in Parliament, pro-life MP Carla Lockhart referred to a BBC story about sixteen-year-old Savannah, not her real name, who was given abortion pills by BPAS, Britain’s biggest abortion provider.

BPAS told Savannah over the phone that she was less than eight weeks’ pregnant. Savannah went to the clinic to collect her pills but was not examined. She took both pills at home and later gave birth in hospital to a baby boy with a heartbeat, who was between 20 and 21 weeks’ gestation.

“massive betrayal of women”

Antonia Tully, SPUC Executive Director of Research and Education, said: “Savannah says she has been traumatised by this experience. She also told the BBC that she would have kept her baby if she had known how far into the pregnancy she was.

“MPs have voted to put women at risk. To pretend that taking abortion pills is safe and simple is a massive betrayal of women. SPUC will never stop campaigning to protect women and young girls like Savannah.”

A voice for the unborn in Parliament

CARLA LOCKHART MP (DUP) is a voice for the unborn in the House of Commons.

Ms Lockhart was a guest speaker at SPUC’s recent youth conference, where she told a packed audience of young pro-lifers from around the UK to get involved in politics and pro-life issues in any way they can.

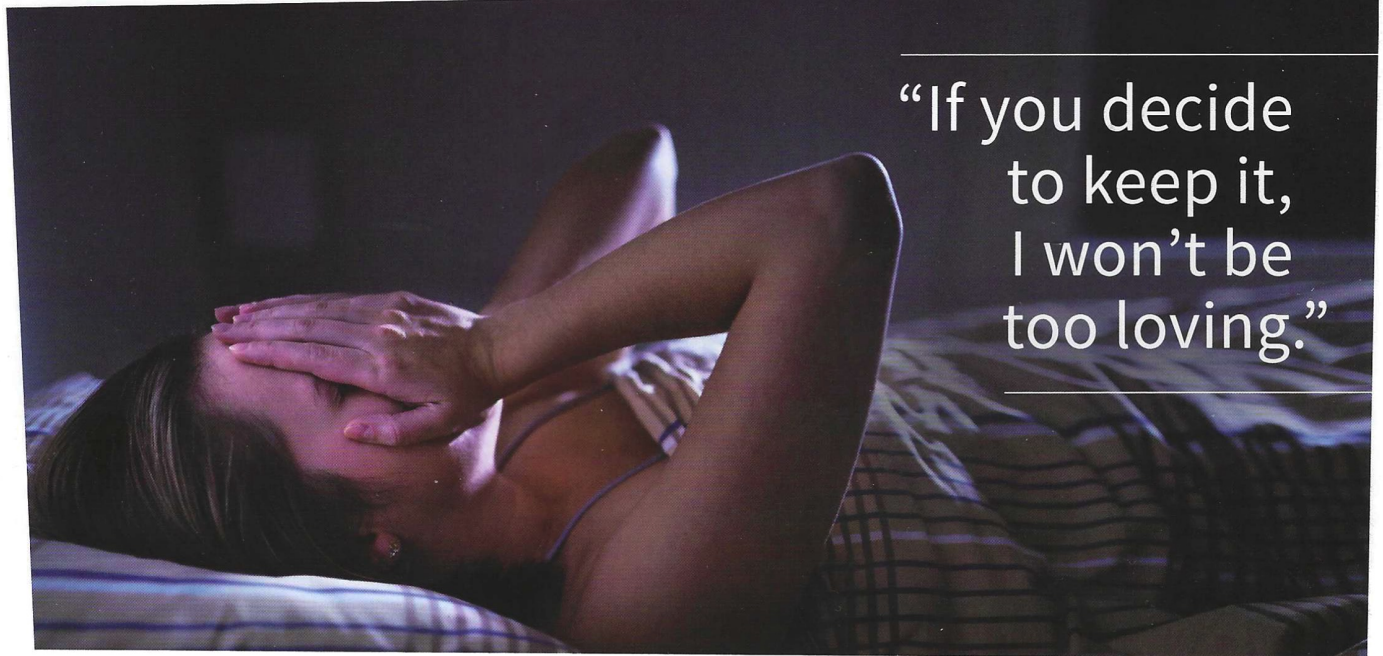
Ms Lockhart said: “Always a pleasure to support the efforts of SPUC as they seek to help restore life-affirming laws and create a society that chooses life.

“Wonderful to speak to so many young people about life issues and to try and inspire them to get involved in politics. We must continue to be a voice for the voiceless.”

See page three for more on SPUC’s youth conference.



Abortion coercion: Is it really a woman's choice?



“If you decide to keep it, I won't be too loving.”

ONE OF THE SADDEST THINGS a woman can say after her abortion is: “I didn't have a choice.” The empty slogan “A woman's right to choose” does not reflect the experience of many women.

Abortion coercion is a serious issue and is more widespread than many people realise. In a 2017 study of 987 women who contacted a post-abortion service, researchers found that:

- 58% reported “aborting to make others happy”.
- 74% did not feel that their decision to have an abortion “was entirely free from even subtle pressure”.
- 28% “aborted out of fear of losing their partner if they did not abort.”¹

Women who are forced to abort their babies can suffer greatly afterwards. In fact, pressure to abort has been identified as a factor associated with “more negative psychological reactions” following an abortion.²

“... a knife through my heart”

Many women have shared their abortion experiences online. In 2020 a researcher analysed abortion testimonies from 98 women and found that “53% reported that the father to their child or other family members (e.g. parents) negated ... [their] own desires to keep the baby.”³

In another study, one woman wrote:

“I remember my husband telling me, ‘Well, don't expect me to be too happy with the idea of having it. If you decide to keep it, I won't be too loving.’ That was a knife through my heart and I made the tough decision to go through with the abortion.”⁴

SPUC is committed to exposing abortion coercion and raising public awareness of this hidden aspect of the tragedy of abortion.

SPUC's latest publication

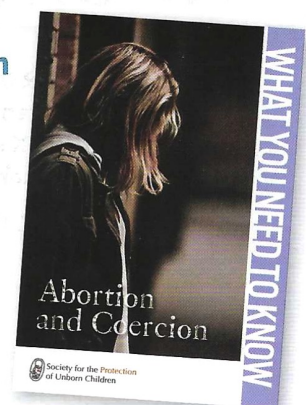
“What you need to know – Abortion and Coercion”

SPUC's latest information booklet includes:

- Reasons women have abortions
- Effect on women
- Pressure from abortion providers
- Medical coercion

Order your copy free of charge

Please order a copy of SPUC's information booklet. You can ask for a copy by emailing information@spuc.org.uk or calling 020 7091 7091 or you can use the reply form on the back of this newsletter.

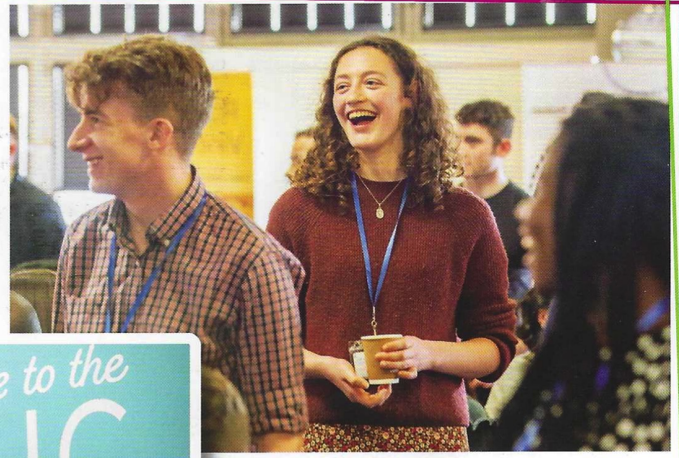


¹ Coleman PK *et al.* (2017) Women Who Suffered Emotionally from Abortion: A Qualitative Synthesis of Their Experiences. *J Am Phys & Surg* 22(4):113-118.

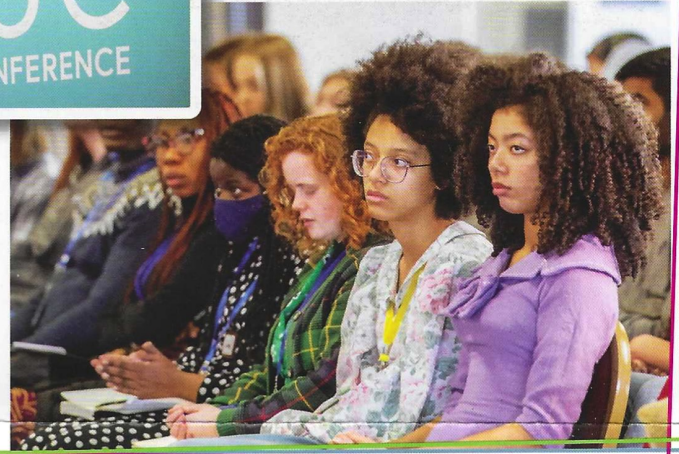
² American Psychological Association, Task Force on Mental Health and Abortion. Report of the Task Force on Mental Health and Abortion. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association; 2008. <http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo/mentalhealth-abortion-report.pdf> Accessed Dec. 3, 2011. 16. Davis NJ.

³ Rafferty KA & Longbons T (2020) #AbortionChangesYou: A Case Study to Understand the Communicative Tensions in Women's Medication Abortion Narratives. *Health Communication*, DOI: 10.1080/10410236.2020.1770507.

⁴ Hathaway JE *et al.* (2005) Impact of partner abuse on women's reproductive lives. *J Am Med Womens Assoc* (1972) 60(1):42-45.



Welcome to the
SPUC
YOUTH CONFERENCE



SPUC inspiring young people to change the culture

A RECORD NUMBER OF YOUNG ADULTS came to SPUC's 2022 Youth Conference. Over 200 young pro-lifers from around the UK spent a weekend listening to inspirational speakers and taking part in workshops.

Grace Browne, SPUC Communications Manager, said: "The SPUC Youth Conference is the largest of its kind in the UK. The conference aims to educate, motivate and empower young people and equip them with the tools they need to present and promote the pro-life message."

KEVIN DUFFY



Keynote speaker Kevin Duffy, a former employee of abortion giant Marie Stopes International (MSI) Reproductive Choices, shared his insights into the murky practices of his former

employer and his journey to turning his back on the anti-life organisation.

LISA CAMERON MP



Pro-life MPs Dr Lisa Cameron (SNP) and Carla Lockhart (DUP) spoke passionately about their pro-life convictions, which are central to their politics.

JOHN DEIGHAN



John Deighan, SPUC CEO, said: "It's an uphill battle, but the culture can be changed. The young people at our Youth Conference will be the impetus behind that change."



SPUC helps pro-life healthcare professionals celebrate the true meaning of their work



SPUC IS SUPPORTING PRO-LIFE HEALTHCARE, workers at a series of conferences that celebrate the true meaning of their work.

The conferences, titled “Catholics in Health and Social Care: Ethics and Practice”, are being organised jointly by St Mary’s University, the Anscombe Bioethics Centre and SPUC’s research department, the Bios Centre.

The alarming spread of euthanasia and assisted suicide around the world are among the topics addressed by the conference, which has been held in Edinburgh and London, and is due to be held online in May 2022.

Margaret Doherty, the Director of the Centre of the Art of Dying Well, spoke about hope-filled accompaniment at the end of life.

Bios Senior Research Fellow, Dr Helen Watt, focussed on conscientious objection and looked at how pro-life

healthcare workers can steer a course between acceptable and unacceptable levels of “closeness” or “connection” to actions going on around them which are morally wrong.

No apology for offering good care

Mary Doogan, a retired midwife from Glasgow, spoke at the Edinburgh conference. Mary and her colleague, Connie Wood, were supported by SPUC in taking a court case to defend their right not to supervise abortions, which they sadly lost.

Speaking to the conference, Mary said that health care professionals who respect life should not feel they need to apologise. She was clear that no apology is needed for offering good care.

The online conference takes place on Saturday 14 May, 11.30 – 16.45. To book a place, email: marianne.rozario@stmarys.ac.uk

Keep up to date on vital pro-life issues

I would like to receive regular emails from SPUC about urgent campaign issues.

Please send me SPUC’s latest information booklet “Abortion and Coercion – What you need to know”:

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