



# **STOP** turning schools into abortion referral centres

When a girl under 16 is sent for an abortion without telling her parents, it means that the baby is killed and the teenage mother has to cope with the physical and emotional aftermath without parental support.

Many schoolgirls now have access to confidential or secret abortions by a referral from a sex clinic on their school premises.

## **Please sign our petition now**

**If you would like a copy of the petition to sign yourself and/or help collect other names, please complete the form below:**

Name: ..... Mr/Mrs/Miss other: .....  
(PLEASE PRINT)

Address: .....  
.....

Postcode: .....

Telephone: .....

Email: .....



**Please return to:**  
The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.  
3 Whitacre Mews, Stannary Street, London SE11 4AB.  
**Tel:** 020 7091 7091 **Email:** [political@spuc.org.uk](mailto:political@spuc.org.uk)  
[www.spuc.org.uk](http://www.spuc.org.uk)

# How the government is turning schools into abortion referral centres:

## 1. Establishing school-based sexual health clinics in secondary schools, and sixth form colleges.

About a third of secondary schools in England already have an on-site sex clinic, and government advisers, the Sex Education Forum, are urging ministers to establish a clinic in every school and sixth form college.

Although people think that giving contraceptives to teenagers should stop them getting pregnant, this is not the case. Recent research found that areas which provided greater access to contraceptive services tended to have bigger increases in teenage pregnancies.”<sup>1</sup> Figures for 2007, the latest available, show the highest rate ever of under-18 abortions.<sup>2</sup>

## 2. Giving school nurses and advisers a clear remit to refer for abortions without informing parents.

School nurses “support young women to access services to make timely choices about emergency contraception, pregnancy or abortion.”<sup>3</sup> School nurses keep all their dealings with school children secret because “young people have the same right to confidentiality as adults.”<sup>4</sup>

## 3. Insisting that information on how to get an abortion is included in sex education lessons

The Teenage Pregnancy Unit, which is part of the Department for Children Families and Schools, issued a report in 2008 saying that sex and relationships education should: “Make explicit links to young people’s advisory services and provision of ... sexual health services and demonstrate this by teaching young people how to access services.”<sup>5</sup> Sexual health services means abortion and contraceptive services.

The government’s principal young people’s advisory service, *Connexions*, already promotes helplines and organizations offering children under 16 contraception and abortion. *Connexions* staff are guided to work within a “confidentiality framework”<sup>6</sup> so that no information has to be given to parents and staff are advised that they “need to be independent of teachers”.

**This could affect your family.  
Sign our petition – NOW.**

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1 England’s National Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, The Lancet, volume 368, Issue 955, November 2006.

2 Abortion Statistics, England and Wales, 2007. Department of Health.

3 “The School Nurse: Practice Development Resource Pack”, 23 March 2006. Department of Health.

4 “Best practice guidance for doctors and other health professionals on the provision of advice and treatment to young people under 16 on contraception, sex and reproductive health.” July 2004. Department of Health

5 TPIAG annual report 2007/2008, Department for Children, Schools & Families, 2008

6 “Young People and Sexual Health: A reader for those participating in the Connexions training programme.” 2003. Department for Education and Skills.