



SPUC Youth & Student Newsletter

In its history, SPUC has consistently sought to support people just like you – pro-life young adults and students. This has included support for pro-life societies, speakers, conferences, public acts of witness, and campaign materials. In the last few years we've seen a resurgence of pro-life youth societies in the UK. Our international youth conference has gone from strength to strength, making it the largest pro-life youth event in the UK.



Pro-life youth in action

We felt that it was a good time to re-launch a straightforward, action-focused newsletter, about how we can work together for the culture of life. This newsletter wants to 1) stay action and campaign-focused, 2) and it wants to suggest and motivate pro-life youth & students all over the UK to *act together* on a common set of goals.

Action Point: forward this newsletter to a friend.

9 Million Children campaign

In September 2011 John Smeaton, SPUC's national director, launched the 9 Million Children campaign. 2018 will mark the 50th anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act. If trends continue, 9 million innocent unborn children will have been killed by abortion by 2018. We aim to find 900 pro-life leaders in the UK. These leaders will act as local community organisers by 2018, working with an army of volunteers, to conduct a massive leaflet drop – nine million pro-life leaflets through nine million letterboxes – the biggest the UK pro-life movement has ever attempted.

In order to achieve this objective, we need to start small, with pro-life leaders leading groups who will distribute 500, 1,000 or 2000 flyers door-to-door. **Will you be such a leader?**

Action Point: Order the current campaign leaflet free, and distribute it around local streets and halls of residence. E-mail: orders@spuc.org.uk or phone: 020 7091 7091.

Pro-life speaker training taster day

On 8 September SPUC held a pro-life speaker training day in central London. 30 people attended. Eileen Brydon, SPUC's education officer, gave the Society's schools' talk, and she spoke about the ill-effects of abortion on mothers. Anthony McCarthy, SPUC's education and research manager, explained the scientific evidence that human life begins at conception/fertilisation. Katherine Hampton, one of the Society's most experienced speakers in schools, gave a talk on presenting to groups of people and public speaking, and Daniel Blackman, an SPUC research officer, spoke about abortion and disability.

We speak in schools, colleges, and universities every year. Around 10,000 school pupils received the Society's pro-life presentation last year. We want to train more young adults to speak in schools. Several of the attendees at September's training session will now be going on to the final stage of training, which we are delighted about.

Action point: contact Eileen Brydon to train as a schools' speaker: eileenbrydon@spuc.org.uk



Pro-life speaker training day

'Why I am Pro-Life' blog

Earlier this year several younger SPUC staff launched a blog called, "[Why I am Pro-Life](#)", which is aimed at providing you with informative articles about current pro-life issues. The content is a mixture of commentary, unique news, upcoming events, and action alerts. The number of contributors has increased, as we hoped. We're always on the lookout for budding journalists and writers to contribute on a one-off or regular basis. Writing helps form opinion, educates, motivates, gets people active, and sharpens the writer's communication skills.

Action Point: e-mail us a pitch for an article, a news story, an update about what you've been doing. P.S Read the blog!

Interns

For the last few years SPUC has run a very successful [internship programme](#). It runs for 6 weeks during the summer, is based in London, you get paid, and you get to work on a variety of projects. Last year the interns worked on an [investigative project](#) about a new abortion facility in East London, together with lots of public awareness campaigning. This year our interns have carried out extensive leafleting, done some excellent research on the history of student movements, attended interesting events, and carried out an important project aiming at reaching hundreds of students' societies all over the UK. The next internship will be June 2013,

and is likely to include one week at the United Nations in Geneva.

Action Point: start filling your CV with solid pro-life experience – we want campaigners! You don't need to apply until April/May next year.



Interns outside SPUC HQ

Brand new contraceptives campaign

In July 2012 we launched a brand new [brochure](#) on contraceptives that act abortifaciently (can cause an abortion). Together with the brochure there is an in-depth [background paper](#). We want to 1) educate you about what these contraceptives are and how they work, and 2) put this important information into the hands of fellow pro-lifers, pharmacists, and doctors. 1.3 million people went to an NHS contraceptive clinic in 2010/11, with 1.1 million being women, and the highest percentage was girls aged 16-19.

Oral hormonal contraceptives remain the most used amongst women. There were 393,000 prescriptions for the morning-after pill, not including women who paid for it without a prescription. Girls under the age of sexual consent can obtain it from a GP or sexual health centre. Millions of young

women aren't hearing the pro-life message about abortifacient contraceptives: that can change but it will take **you** to go out there and put leaflets into people's hands. This campaign has global significance as the British government is one of the biggest funders of abortion and abortifacient contraceptives in the world, and recently supported the Melinda Gates "family planning" summit in London.

Action Point: order copies of the abortifacient contraceptives brochure and offer them to your student health centre or student NHS centre. Make them available to take to your events. Send one to your political representative and local councillor. E-mail: orders@spuc.org.uk

Marriage: being open to bonding and babies

At the end of 2011 SPUC took a [policy on marriage](#) in the wake of government proposals to redefine marriage. Based on the best evidence, SPUC agrees that marriage is the best environment to conceive and raise children, that's why it's important to protect it and support it.

Human sexuality, procreative sexual intercourse, and marriage are very closely and intimately related to our desire for a culture of life. Babies conceived outside of marriage are four to five times more likely to be aborted. IVF, surrogacy, abortion, and contraceptive sex in different ways radically separate the procreation of children from the context of loving unity within marriage and parenthood.

We've been vocal in the media, held talks and conferences, signed petitions, lobbied our politicians, [leafleted](#) letterboxes, [produced a lobby guide](#) and [lobby notes](#) but it's not enough – *you need to do your bit.*



There has been some hesitancy amongst pro-life youth to take on this fight, possibly for three reasons: students & youth are themselves not married yet and marriage seems far off; students are generally not in jobs where [conscientious objection](#) to such things is an issue (teachers, civil servants, relationship therapists etc); most youth & students don't have children of their own at school so issues of [sex education and protecting childhood innocence](#) aren't on the radar that much.

Some also think the campaign is about being “anti-gay” – but that's not the case. Our focus is on upholding natural traditional marriage as best for children and society.

Action Point: write to you local parliamentary representative or go and see them. Tell them to oppose redefining marriage, and ask where they stand on the issue. Order SPUC marriage leaflets

and distribute them – we need as many people as possible to be confident and motivated campaigners.

Universities' speaker tour

From 15-28 October this year SPUC will be touring universities in England, Scotland, and Wales giving a series of talks to various student societies. We have a possible four speakers – Joseph Meaney from Human Life international, Fiorella Nash, Anthony McCarthy, and Anthony Ozimic, all from SPUC. They'll be talking about the global pro-life battle, maternal health, and the philosophical and historical foundations of the culture of death. SPUC will be speaking and debating at student societies throughout the coming year.

Action Point:

E-mail: danielblackman@spuc.org.uk to find out if the tour is coming to your university. If it isn't, we can arrange something at a later date.



The speakers on the universities' speaker tour

SPUC Scotland Pro-Life Chain

On October 19-20, the International Federation of Professional Abortion and Contraception Associates (FIAPAC) are hosting their annual, international conference in Edinburgh. This conference

is entitled 'Unwanted Pregnancy: A Fact of Life' and its purpose is (in their own words) to "provide a forum where all issues related to Reproductive Health can openly be discussed with like-minded colleagues, including topics such as varied administrative, social, medical, legal and political issues." In response to this event, SPUC is organising a pro-life presence close to the venue. The event will be very peaceful.

If you can come or you would like more information, then please e-mail:
rachel@spucscotland.org

International Youth Conference

Every year SPUC holds an international youth conference. Our [2012 conference](#) attracted 180 young people from England, Scotland, Wales, Malta, Spain, and Faroe Islands. We had a wide range of presentations from: Dr. Anne Carus, Dr. John Fleming, Dr. Andrew Pinsent, Professor David Paton, Mrs Fiorella Nash, and Mrs Lynette Burrowes. The date for next year's conference is 22-24 March 2013, at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. The programme is being put together now. Booking isn't open yet, but start saving!



Students at a previous international youth conference

40 Days for Life

[40 Days for Life](#) has started again in the UK. 40 Days for Life consists of 40 days of prayer, fasting, public vigil, and community outreach, with the aim of hastening the end of abortion. Campaigns will take place in: [Birmingham](#), [Brighton](#), [Brixton](#) (London), [Bedford Sq](#) (London), [Whitfield Street](#) (London), [Manchester](#), [Milton Keynes](#), [Oxford](#), and [Southampton](#).

Fundraising Ball Extravaganza

You are cordially invited to the [Good Counsel Network Ball](#) on Saturday 10 November. If you would like a free ticket, become a table host and fill your table with nine other guests. Tickets are £70, and include a three course dinner and half a bottle of wine, silent auction, and dancing after dinner with a live band. 6.30 p.m. – midnight. Dress: evening/black tie. Venue: Ognisko, 55 Exhibition Road, South Kensington. **To reserve phone:** 0207 723 1740.

Reading List

The new academic term has just started, and part of that includes starting new courses for your degree. With that comes recommended books, reading lists, course packs, and essential books you're expected to buy. Likewise, you should spend some time each week reading through some serious book that will help you to become a better thinker, debater, writer, and campaigner when it comes to pro-life

issues. Here are two highly recommended resources:

[The Ethics of Abortion: Women's rights, human life, and the question of justice](#) Dr. Christopher Kaczor. (New York: Routledge, 2011), paperback £21.99 from Amazon. Kaczor, a philosophy professor, offers readers a systematic and philosophical book that deals blow by blow with every possible argument in the debate over abortion. Questions discussed include: abortion and 14 hard cases, does the human embryo have rights, how to use language, what is personhood, when does personhood begin. There is an extensive bibliography and index of names and subjects.

[Department of Health Abortion Statistics 2011](#) It is very important that you are familiar with the abortion statistics – numbers, rates, age of women, abortion according to gestation, method of abortion, place of abortion, marital status of women having abortions, repeat abortion, regional statistics, abortion law and abortion forms, how the statistics are produced. A familiarity with these facts will give you confidence in discussing abortion, and help you plan campaigning.

Remember: the most important part of this newsletter is the action points – that's where to turn resources and knowledge into action.

To view hyperlinks in this document please see on-line version at:

<http://www.spuc.org.uk/youth/spucyouth20121016>