



## Contradictions and flaws in NUS Women's Campaign policies and propaganda

This guide serves to help you highlight the contradictions in the policies of the NUS Women's Campaign. They are often an active force in universities – helping to promote abortion and abortion services. The weaknesses in their policies and rhetoric must be highlighted. All quotations are taken from:

<http://www.cusu.cam.ac.uk/campaigns/womens/repro.txt>

### KEY :

NAC = National Abortion Campaign  
BPAS = British Pregnancy Advisory Service

### POLICIES :

#### **“The right to have an abortion, free on the NHS.”**

- Abortion can't be described as a 'right' because it infringes on the right to life of the unborn child.
- Whilst desiring 'free abortions', the NUS Women's Campaign actively promotes fee-paying abortion clinics including those of Marie Stopes and BPAS.
- On the one hand they want women to be able to choose to have an abortion free, but on the other hand they think taxpayers should be FORCED to pay for abortions regardless of their own beliefs.

#### **“The right to have children, how and when we want. This includes the right for lesbians, celibate and heterosexual women to have children through donor insemination.”**

- There is no right to have children because rights have to be universal and some people are, sadly, irreparably infertile. That's not to say, however we shouldn't try to cure infertility.
- Whilst talking in terms of human rights they have little consideration for the rights and welfare of the child created by donor insemination or gamete donation (e.g. will the child know his or hers real parents?)
- At the same time as demanding a 'right' to have babies, they also want the 'right' to abort babies.

#### **“The right to full information about all available treatments and alternatives.”**

- Yet at the same time they often refuse to allow the promotion of counselling services such as those of LIFE and CARE. The only information they're interested in are sources tailored to their ideology.

**“Freedom from racist and other discriminatory practices and abuses in the health service.”**

- Whilst claiming to be against discrimination they have failed to condemn discrimination against Muslim students who have been turned down for jobs in the health profession because of their pro-life views.
- The NUS women’s campaign also actively discriminates against pro-life students. Seems as though they’re only against discrimination when it suits them.

**“Sex selection is usually carried out on female fetuses because many societies have a culture of 'boy-preference' and devalue women enough for such practices to be seen as acceptable. NAC disagrees with abortion on these grounds as well as with female infanticide.”**

- This is an EXTREMELY USEFUL quotation. At the same time they claim that the abortion of disabled babies is not discrimination but here they assert sex selection is wrong because it can devalue or discriminate against women! This is flawed and illogical thinking but perhaps they really do discriminate against the disabled.
- It’s also worth asking them whether they believe sex selective abortions carried out on male fetuses is wrong because they only speak of female fetuses here.
- This statement additionally contradicts their support for ‘a woman having the right to choose’ since they go on to say that women should be dissuaded from having a sex selective abortion. They don’t advocate making such a decision illegal however as an attempt to retain some coherence.

**PROPAGANDA :**

**“The struggle for reproductive rights really began with the rise of the first women’s movement in the 19th Century.”**

- FALSE. The first women’s movement was pro-life. For instance in her book, *The Revolution (1869)*, Mattie Brinkerhoff states; “When a man steals to satisfy hunger, we may safely conclude that there is something wrong in society – so when a woman destroys the life of her unborn child, it is an evidence that either by education or circumstances she has been greatly wronged.”
- Another infamous feminist, Susan B. Anthony in 1889 wrote: “Sweeter even than to have had the joy of caring for children of my own has it been to me to help bring about a better state of things for mothers generally, so their unborn little ones could not be willed away from them.”
- See [www.feministsforlife.org](http://www.feministsforlife.org) for more quotations.

**“The UK is one of the few developed countries where abortion is not available on request at any stage in pregnancy.”**

- In reality abortion is available on demand up until when the foetus is 24 weeks old. If a woman had been turned down for an abortion then it is extremely likely that pro-abortion organisations would have highlighted the story. There have been no such occurrences.
- Furthermore the morning-after-pill can act as a form of abortion and is available on demand.

**“The anti-choice movement contends that abortion is unsafe, and causes breast cancer and post-abortion trauma. There is no evidence of this at all.”**

- This is nonsense. For instance, post-abortion trauma is a disease recognised by the medical establishment. In February 2003 the British Medical Journal found that “women who abort a first pregnancy are at greater risk of subsequent long term clinical depression compared to women who carry an unintended first pregnancy to term”
- Doctors writing in *'The Lancet'* medical journal described the symptoms of Post-abortion syndrome in one patient thus: “Severe anxiety, depression, recurrent thoughts and images related to abortion and suction, insomnia, recurrent nightmares...” (9 December 1989).

**“On his first day in office Bush reversed U.S policy on unrestricted family planning aid and barred U.S money to international groups that use their own money to support abortion (through performing the surgery, counselling on abortion or lobbying foreign governments on abortion policy).”**

- Bush ended the funding because such groups were breaking local laws and also aiding in forced abortions in countries such as China and Peru. Suspiciously there's no condemnation of forced abortion in these countries by the NUS Women's Campaign.
- Furthermore, one wonders whether the NUS Women's Campaign is in favour of democracy?

**“At the moment one woman dies every three minutes world-wide as a result of an illegal abortion” AND “If you want to make abortion illegal because you believe it to be murder you are advocating enforced pregnancy or backstreet abortion.”**

- This is a very strange statistic and the source ought to be questioned (note that no source is provided on the website!). If women *really are* dying from illegal abortions then why doesn't the NUS Women's Campaign support tougher action to stamp this out and provide real alternatives to abortion?
- Illegal abortion statistics are normally fabricated to make the case for legalising abortion (i.e. “It's inevitable anyway” or “Women will die otherwise”). They have to resort to false arguments because the case for abortion is not strong enough.
- Former abortionist “Dr Bernard Nathanson” admitted that he deceived people about the number of illegal abortion deaths while campaigning for

pro-abortion law in the US (*Aborting America, Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1979, p193*).

- In Northern Ireland, where abortion is illegal, there have been no recorded deaths from illegal abortions since 1 case in 1982.
- We are as much against illegal abortion as we are legal.

**"NAC [(national abortion campaign)] supports the right of all women to choose abortion for whatever reason, even if this is about disability."**

- Whilst claiming to be against discrimination towards the disabled they think it's acceptable for a woman to abort her child for no other reason than the fact that their baby is disabled. That's not only discriminatory but eugenics too.

**"...we should not have a law that reflects the view of only a minority of the population who might agree with the implacable Church of Rome."**

- This implies that people who are against abortion are religious. This isn't true at all. Student LifeNet is not religious and neither are any of the main other pro-life groups. Furthermore there are a vast number of atheists and agnostics against abortion – represented by organisations such as Libertarians for Life.

**"It can also be argued that 'consciousness' is needed in order to experience pain and that a foetus does not have this"**

- Wrong. Virtually all scientists recognise a foetus has consciousness at some stage – the debate is when.
- In March 2003 Baroness Greenfield, a professor of neurology at Oxford University and the director of the Royal Institution, said there was evidence to suggest the conscious mind could develop before 24 weeks, the upper age where terminations are permitted (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=%2Fnews%2F2003%2F03%2F10%2Ffoet10.xml>)

**"Sex selection is usually carried out on female foetuses because many societies have a culture of 'boy-preference' and devalue women enough for such practices to be seen as acceptable. NAC disagrees with abortion on these grounds as well as with female infanticide."**

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- This statement also contradicts their support for 'a woman having the right to choose' since they go on to say that women should be dissuaded from

having a sex selective abortion. They don't advocate making such a decision illegal however to retain some coherence.

**"Studies show that women are not damaged by abortion."**

- That's ridiculous. We don't pretend that all women are damaged by abortion but certainly a significant number are. As stated above post-abortion trauma is a disease recognised by the medical establishment. A number of women also suffer long-term psychological damage – particularly if they later become infertile and realise they aborted their only child.

**"early abortion is one of the safest operations you can have."**

- This statement implies later abortions are less safe and yet above they had stated 'women are not damaged by abortion'.
- They repeatedly speak about the need to have early abortions. But following their logic it should not matter when a woman has an abortion – after all it's a "woman's choice". Perhaps they advocate early abortions because they know later abortions involve a more developed unborn baby which after the first trimester looks little different to a newborn baby. Women are therefore more likely to opt for bringing up their child or adoption – which isn't what the NUS Women's Campaign wants.

**"If the anti-abortionists really cared about how women felt after abortion, they would stop telling them it was murder and putting out such disgusting propaganda."**

- As anyone who has worked in post-abortion counselling knows, women are not hurt by pro-lifers but by genuine feelings they have developed independently.
- This statement is basically telling pro-life activists to shut up. Yet earlier they had stated that women should have access to full information.

**"Childbirth is 7-14 times more dangerous physically than safe early abortion"**

- Again they don't state their source for this statistic (7-14 is quite vague!). We failed to find this statistic on the web.
- They seem to be suggesting that abortion is preferable to childbirth. Yet I thought their aim was to allow women to choose? The only choice they really advocate is abortion.

**"post-natal depression is a recognised medical condition."**

- No-one denies it is not. But post-natal depression can be more easily tackled since it normally arises due to changes in lifestyle. If worse comes to the worse the child could be adopted (not an easy decision but still an available option). With abortion there is no turning back and a woman has to live with the consequences for life.

**“Even so, having a baby is one of the biggest decisions a woman makes in her life, and it will affect the rest of her life dramatically - it is not fair to her or the baby to use childbirth as a punishment for not using contraception.”**

- Pregnancy or children should not be viewed as a punishment. This amounts to an attack on women and children.
- It's quite bizarre that they believe childbirth is not fair to “the baby”. Abortion seems slightly more unfair to us...

**“A survey by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists stated that there was no significant connection between abortion and infertility. Permanent physical side effects from abortion are extremely rare. In countries where abortion is illegal and dangerous, abortion is a major cause of fertility problems.”**

- The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists have a vested interest in the study since they represent abortionists.
- If so-called illegal abortions are resulting in infertility then surely there must be some connection between infertility and abortion since ultimately legal & illegal abortions use the same techniques.
- There are various reasons why abortion results in infertility. One study found that women with chlamydia have a 10 to 25 percent chance of developing post-abortion pelvic infection which can result in infertility (F E Skjeldestad, “Induced abortion: chlamydia trachomatis and postabortal complications. A cost benefit analysis”, Acta Obstetrica et Gynaecologica Scandinavica (1988); 67(6), pp.525-9; and S J Duthie et al., “Morbidity after termination of pregnancy in first trimester”, Genitourinary Medicine (1987), 63, pp.182-7)

**“giving away the baby [for adoption] is extremely difficult for women and an option they should be free NOT to choose.”**

- This is massively offensive to anyone who has bravely decided not to abort their baby and place their child for adoption.
- What about women's right to decide? Seems as though the NUS Women's Campaign know best. So much for their choice rhetoric! The only choice they support is abortion.

**“Sociological studies from Sweden and Czechoslovakia show that children who are born unwanted are much more likely to have problems later in life, compared to wanted children.”**

- An unwanted pregnancy does not result in an unwanted child. Conversely, evidence suggests that most abused children are wanted before they are born. Professor Edward Lenoski of the University of Southern California studied a series of 674 cases of physical abuse of children. He found that in 91% of cases the parents of these children had wanted them before birth – 9% were unwanted.

- Despite the high number of abortions child abuse still continues to this day. This alone counters the quoted claims.

**“We have no figures for the numbers of backstreet abortions taking place [in England before the 1967 abortion act] because they were illegal and women were reluctant to report them”**

- If there are no figures then how can they be sure illegal abortions were happening on the large scale they suggest?
- The World Health Organisation recorded estimates on the number of deaths as a result of backstreet abortions which had declined from 96 deaths in 1950 to 56 deaths in 1960 to 32 deaths in 1970 (World Health Statistics Report, Vol.30, no.4, Geneva: World Health Organisation, 1977, p.322.; World Health Statistics Annual 1970, Geneva; WHO, 1973, vol.1 p.516.)
- As one can see, the decline in the number of deaths was not due to legalisation of abortion in 1967 but as a result of improvements in healthcare equipment and procedures.

**“Anti-abortionists always exaggerate the number of late abortions that take place in this country.”**

- That’s a bit tricky because there are official statistics.

**“Women are not forced to have abortions [by society] - they choose to have them.”**

- That’s not true. For instance students at universities often have abortions due to the lack of practical resources available.
- Earlier on they had stated that the best way to end sex selective abortions was to change attitudes in society. That’s funny they’ve just said society doesn’t influence women’s choices...

**“If the anti-abortionists really believed in helping women, they should be campaigning for greater child benefit...”**

- We’ve done that

**“...free childcare...”**

- Done that too

**“...or increased income support...”**

- And that too. What has the NUS Women’s Campaign done to support alternatives to abortion and increase support for student mothers?

**“The kind of counselling the anti-abortionists offer seeks to convince women that abortion is murder and to talk them out of having an abortion.”**

- That’s not true. Although pro-life counselling highlights the other alternatives no-one can force a woman to choose to do something. Furthermore pro-life counselling has no financial interest.

- Marie Stopes and BPAS counselling is far more directive since if the woman decides not to have an abortion it represents a lost sale.

**“The anti-abortionists are helping to create a climate of fear and secrecy about a morally acceptable and very common procedure.”**

- Again this is an unfounded claim. Women suffer from abortions for all sorts of reasons. If a woman becomes infertile and then realises she has aborted her only child this is not the doing of the pro-life movement.

**“\* Find out if there is any post abortion counselling/self help groups in your area and advertise them.”**

- This is one of the suggested activities. Yet earlier on they were suggesting that post-abortion trauma etc does not exist!