

Motion to Abortion Rights AGM 2020

Abortion Rights and Grassroots Activism

At this time we can see a rise in anti-abortion campaigning across the UK. There are, as we speak, groups picketing abortion providers and harassing women accessing their legal rights to healthcare.

The grassroots activism of Abortion Rights and affiliated groups has an impact on the effect the anti-abortionists are able to have and the ways in which their activities are viewed by the public. Abortion Rights Cardiff's actions have created change in how the police have managed anti-abortionists on our streets. By working with our local BPAS provider we were able to put the facts about current abortion access inequalities in front of the politicians with the power to make change. This led directly to the creation of a Welsh Government Cross party group on Women's Health that has gathered cross-Wales data and is actively working to co-ordinate improved access. By working alongside other groups such as the new Cardiff University Pro-Choice Society we can see that the great majority of the public abhor the tactics of anti-woman organisations like CBR UK who peddle dangerous inaccuracies.

This motion calls for Abortion Rights, its members, and affiliate groups to work together and remain committed to grassroots activism.

Proposed by: Eleanor Hill, Cardiff

Seconded by: Lesley Blower, Cardiff

Trade union support is crucial

The trade union movement have been stalwart supporters of Abortion Rights and the fight for reproductive healthcare for many decades.

Abortion Rights welcomes the several new affiliates from trade union branches in 2019.

Abortion is a trade union issue, experienced directly by working women and their families. Trade unions represent millions of workers across many different sectors and we also note that the majority of trade union members are now women.

We resolve to increase affiliations throughout the trade union movement and join with them to campaign to keep abortion safe, free, legal and local and to win decriminalisation of abortion in England, Scotland and Wales.

Proposed by: Maddy Cooper

Seconded by: Kerry Abel

Campaigning for decriminalisation of abortion

Following the success of the campaign to win decriminalisation of abortion and the vote in Westminster Parliament to scrap sections 58 and 59 of the archaic 1861 Offences Against the Persons Act in England and Wales. This now exposes even more starkly that our abortion rights in England Scotland and Wales are underpinned by Victorian law.

We would like to pay tribute to the years of campaigning of activists in Northern Ireland who faced their homes being raided and risked arrest. Many women have had to travel abroad, speak out publicly about private experiences and take legal cases.

Abortion Rights commits to ramp up our campaign for decriminalisation in England, Scotland and Wales. Decriminalisation would mean women can take the pill at home, have teleconsultations with their doctors and avoid needless travel to doctors' appointments. This would put choice back in the hands of women rather than having doctors as gate holders of choice.

We believe abortion is not a criminal matter, but a healthcare decision to be made by the person affected.

Proposed by: Judith Orr

seconded by: Jillian Merchant