



SPUC Branch

Campaign Newsletter

August 2025

Assisted Suicide Bill

Actions:

- Write to members of the House of Lords, asking them to oppose the Assisted Suicide Bill
- Distribute copies of our updated flyer at the back of church or door-to-door in your local area
- Write to your GP, requesting that they do not raise the issue of assisted suicide with you if it comes into law

Enclosures:

- Updated briefing - *Terminally Ill (Adults) End of Life Bill*
- Guide - *How to write to members of the House of Lords on pro-life issues*
- Updated Assisted Suicide Bill door-to-door flyer
- Assisted Suicide Bill poster
- Proforma letter to help you write to your GP

On 20th June, MPs voted by 314 to 291 to pass Kim Leadbeater MP's Assisted Suicide Bill to the House of Lords, where it will undergo further debate and scrutiny. The Second Reading debate will take place in the Lords on Friday 12th September, followed by the Committee and Report Stages there, and finally Third Reading.

It is entirely in the Lords' power to substantially amend and even to reject the Bill. This Bill is not safe, and we will campaign for them to throw it out.

Please take the following actions:

Write to members of the House of Lords

You can use the new enclosed briefing on the Bill and the pamphlet *How to Write to Members of the House of Lords on Pro-Life Issues* to write to Lords, asking them to oppose the Bill.

The briefing includes facts and tips, but please include your own concerns and personal experience when writing. Do you have a disability or care for someone who does? Who would you be fearful for if the Bill makes it into law? Do you have relevant professional experience, such as in medicine, care work, or social care?

You can contact as many Lords as you like (but make sure you send the letters in separate envelopes).

We suggest also holding letter-writing sessions in your local area, perhaps at your Church.

You can order more copies of the letter-writing guide and the briefing on the Bill to help you with this. Then you just need to get some envelopes and pens – and perhaps some tea and biscuits!

We have also created an online tool to contact members of the House of Lords. It will generate a Peer (Lord) at random for you to write to and bring up an editable template. Once you have finished your letter, it will be e-mailed to you to print off and send to the Peer by post. Paper letters are always more effective than e-mails and many Peers do not have publicly available e-mail addresses! The tool can be found at: www.spuc.org.uk/campaign/assistedsuicideuk/

1.) Distribute copies of our updated flyer at the back of church or door-to-door in your local area

Please ask your priest/minister for permission to distribute copies of the enclosed updated flyer at the back of church. The flyer includes details about how to contact members of the House of Lords using our webtool. The front page of the flyer is also enclosed as an A4 poster. Again, please ask your priest for permission to put this poster up on your church noticeboard.

You might also consider making the most of the good weather we are currently enjoying to do some door-to-door leafleting in your local area. Please adhere to the enclosed guidelines about safe and respectful door-to-door leafleting.

2.) Write to your GP

This Bill relies heavily on the medical profession to carry out the assisted suicides. Many in the medical profession are already unhappy with this Bill, with the Royal College of Psychiatrists pulling support, and the Royal College of GPs also expressing concern. However, we need a groundswell of concern from GPs on the ground. Many ordinary doctors have not been engaging with this debate and will not be fully aware of how much it will impact them.

We are asking people to write to their GP, requesting that they do not raise the issue of assisted suicide with them in the event that it comes into law. We are enclosing the proforma letter, developed by doctors, that you can use. (This was also enclosed with the July Branch Campaign Newsletter). This letter serves two purposes – making it clear that you do not want your doctor raising assisted suicide with you if it does become law, and making it clear to GPs now that this is an issue that they need to respond to. We are hoping that enough GP surgeries will receive this letter to make a real impact on the debate.

Abortion Decriminalisation

Action: Continue writing to members of the House of Lords, asking them to fight Clause 191 of the Crime and Policing Bill

On 17th June, MPs voted to expand our already horrific abortion laws even further. Abortion advocates in Parliament hijacked the Government's Crime and Policing Bill by tabling amendments to remove abortion from the criminal law. New Clause 1 (NC1), tabled by Tonia Antoniazzi MP,

seeks to change criminal law so that "no offence is committed by a woman acting in relation to her own pregnancy" at any gestation. This means that a woman who induced her abortion at home using pills (or any other method) at any stage of pregnancy, including just before natural birth, would not commit a crime. This was approved by 379 votes to 137.

The Crime and Policing Bill has now passed to the House of Lords for debate and scrutiny. As NC1 was incorporated into the Bill, the clause on decriminalising abortion is now **Clause 191** of the Crime and Policing Bill. There will be opportunities for Peers to debate Clause 191 and to suggest changes to it – or even to reject it altogether. The Bill will not come up for debate until after the Parliamentary recess, so in September or October.

Thank you to those of you who have been writing to members of the House of Lords about abortion decriminalisation. Please continue writing to Peers and ask them to fight this extreme amendment. You can use the briefing and suggested list of Peers that were enclosed with the July Branch Campaign Newsletter to help you.

You can also use our web tool to help you: www.spuc.org.uk/campaign/abortion-decriminalisation/

SPUC Position Paper Series

Enclosure: *IVF: The Risks to Women and Children*

The latest publication in our position paper series is enclosed. Written by Dr. Greg Pike, this paper explores what IVF is, the risks it poses to women, how it harms and commodifies unborn babies and why SPUC is opposed to it. It also explains some of the ethical and pro-life alternatives to IVF.

'Join the Fightback' Campaign

Action: Liaise with your priest to raise awareness of SPUC in your church as part of our '*Join the Fightback*' campaign

Thank you to those of you who have helped to promote our '*Join the Fightback*' campaign in churches this summer. If your local church has not yet engaged with this campaign, please follow the instructions in the recent mailing that we sent you about this and liaise with your parish priest to raise awareness of our work in your church.

SPUC National Conference 2025

We are delighted to report that this year's SPUC National Conference, due to take place from Friday 19th to Sunday 21st September, is now fully booked! If you would like to attend the conference, but you have not yet booked, please e-mail katherinehampton@spuc.org.uk and ask to be added to the waiting list for places.