



SPUC Branch Campaign Newsletter

October 2025

Message from Charlie McCluskey, SPUC Executive Director

Please find below a message from Charlie McCluskey, SPUC Executive Director for Outreach & Development:

Dear SPUC Branch Member,

I hope you have had a restful summer.

I am writing to inform you that Terry Graham has been appointed as SPUC's new Grassroots and Youth Manager, taking over from Josh Coghill who recently moved on from his role with us. I would like to thank Josh for his work during his time at SPUC and we wish him well for the future.

As many of you will know, Terry has been our Northern Development Officer for the past 4 years. He will maintain responsibility for SPUC branches and grassroots development in the North of England in his new role. Terry will also be temporarily responsible for SPUC branches and grassroots development in Scotland, until a new Development Officer for Scotland and Northern Ireland has been appointed. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Terry on his appointment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for everything that you and your fellow SPUC branch members do to protect women and unborn children from the tragedy of abortion.

Best wishes,

*Charlie McCluskey
Executive Director, Outreach & Development*

Assisted Suicide Bill

Actions:

- **Write to members of the House of Lords, asking them to oppose the Assisted Suicide Bill**
- **Write letters to newspapers**
- **Distribute copies of our updated assisted suicide flyer door-to-door in your local area**

Enclosure:

- **Assisted Suicide Bill door-to-door flyer**

Thank you for everything you continue to do to oppose the Assisted Suicide Bill. As you know, MPs voted by 314 to 291 in June to pass Kim Leadbeater MP's Assisted Suicide Bill to the House of Lords, where it is now undergoing further debate and scrutiny. The Second Reading debate took place on 12th and 19th September. This will be followed by the Committee and Report Stages, and finally Third Reading.

Whilst any real change is likely to happen only at Committee and Report stages, the Second Reading debate was crucial in setting the tone for later developments. 200 Peers put their name down to speak. **It is entirely in the Lords' power to substantially amend and even to reject the Bill.** This Bill is not safe, and we are campaigning for them to throw it out.

Please take the following actions:

1.) Write to members of the House of Lords

You can use the briefing on the Bill and the pamphlet *How to Write to Members of the House of Lords on Pro-Life Issues* (both of which were included with the last Branch Campaign Newsletter) to write to Lords, asking them to oppose the Bill.

You can also use the online tool on our website, which picks a Peer at random for you to contact, either by post or by e-mail: **www.spuc.org.uk/campaign/assistedsuicideuk/**

2.) Write to newspapers

Another great way to influence Peers is to write letters to newspapers. Members will often sit in the House of Lords Library reading through the broadsheet newspapers and will notice letters on a topic they are about to debate, such as assisted suicide. If you have already written to Peers, you can adapt that letter to send to newspapers. As with writing to politicians, use your own personal experience and concerns, for instance as a medic or of caring for a disabled relative.

Here are the e-mail addresses for the major broadsheet newspapers:

<u>Newspaper</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
<i>The Times</i>	letters@thetimes.co.uk
<i>The Sunday Times</i>	letters@sunday-times.co.uk
<i>The Telegraph</i>	dtletters@telegraph.co.uk
<i>The Guardian</i>	guardian.letters@theguardian.com
<i>Financial Times</i>	letters.editor@ft.com
<i>The Independent</i>	letters@independent.co.uk

Please consider if this is something you can do. Not all letters will be published, but the more of us that try, the greater the success rate will be!

3.) Distribute copies of our updated flyer door-to-door in your local area

Please consider making the most of the mild early-Autumn weather to distribute copies of the enclosed assisted suicide leaflet door-to-door in your local area. Please adhere to the guidelines about safe and respectful door-to-door leafleting that were included with the last Branch Campaign Newsletter. For another copy of these guidelines, please e-mail: **katherinehampton@spuc.org.uk**

Abortion Decriminalisation

Actions:

- **Continue writing to members of the House of Lords, asking them to fight Clause 191 of the Crime and Policing Bill**
- **Distribute copies of our abortion decriminalisation flyer door-to-door in your local area**

Enclosures:

- **Briefing – *Decriminalisation: The Legal Consequences of Removing Women from Abortion Law***
- **Peers currently in the House of Lords**
- **Flyer – *No to abortion up to birth***

On 17th June, MPs approved an amendment to the Crime and Policing Bill, that would legalise self-induced abortions up to birth.

New Clause 1, tabled by Tonia Antoniazzi MP, is **now Clause 191 of the Crime and Policing Bill**. The Bill is now in the House of Lords, where Peers will have the opportunity to debate and amend it.

The Bill comes up for its Second Reading debate on **Thursday 16th October**. The best opportunities to make changes are likely to come at the Committee stage. We don't have an exact date for that yet, but we know that the abortion clause will be debated on the last day of Committee.

Write to Lords

Please **write to members of the House of Lords and ask them to fight the extreme abortion up-to-birth amendment**. This was not in any political party's manifesto at the last election. It was passed after just 43 minutes of backbench debate, with very little notice. The Lords can and must fight back.

As always, physical letters, written in your own words, are the most impactful. You can use our guide, *How to Write to Lords on Pro-Life Issues*, to help you. This was sent to you with the August Branch Campaign Newsletter. Please use the enclosed order form to receive further copies. Our briefing on this amendment enclosed, *Decriminalisation: The Legal Consequences of Removing Women from Abortion Law*, tells you what you need to know about the legislation.

As the first guide explains, it is best to do some research on Peers and personalise the letter accordingly. However, for those without access to the internet, we have included a printout of the Peers currently in the House of Lords.

Alternatively, you can use our online tool. This tool brings up a suggested Peer for you to write to, and an editable template. The tool will e-mail the message to you, either with instructions on posting it to the Peer, or e-mailing it to them, depending on which option you choose. The tool can be found at: <https://spuc.org.uk/campaign/abortion-decriminalisation/>

Get other people writing

It is vital that as many people as possible write to Peers to stop this amendment. Please find enclosed a copy of our *No to abortion up to birth* flyer, which advertises our online tool to write to Lords. Please order more copies of this flyer to deliver door-to-door or to distribute at your church.

Scottish Assisted Suicide Bill

Action for Scottish Branches:

- **Consider lobbying your MSPs in-person as part of SPUC's mass lobby in Holyrood on Tuesday 7th October**

On 13th May, the Scottish Parliament backed Liam McArthur MSP's Assisted Suicide Bill by 70 votes to 56 at Stage 1. However, it can still be defeated. At Stage 2, MSPs will consider amendments before voting again. We need to lobby MSPs hard to make sure it is defeated at the next stage.

To that end, we will be holding a mass lobby for our Scottish supporters at Holyrood on Tuesday 7th October. A mass lobby is where lots of people go into Holyrood on the same day to lobby their MSPs. SPUC staff will be on hand to help on the day. People in Scotland are represented by 8 MSPs in Holyrood, so going into Parliament is an excellent way to speak to as many of them as possible.

Torchlight Procession – Thursday 30th October

For those living in or near Scotland, the annual Torchlight Procession will be taking place again on **Thursday 30th October**. Please note that due to the closure of George Square, the arrangements are slightly different this year.

The Torchlight Procession will leave John Street at Glasgow City Chambers at **6.30 p.m.** for St. Andrew's Cathedral. There will be Rosary in the Cathedral at **7 p.m.** and Mass at **7.30 p.m.** The main celebrant will be Fr. Paul Denney.

SPUC Position Paper Series

Enclosure:

- ***Medical Abortion: Which studies can we trust?***

The latest publication in our position paper series is enclosed. Written by Dr. Greg Pike, this paper reviews the evidence about the safety and effectiveness of medical abortion.

Report on SPUC National Conference 2025

SPUC held its National Conference from 19th to 21st September, in Staffordshire, attended by 140 SPUC supporters and staff. Thank you to all those of you who came. We welcomed speakers Professor David Albert Jones, Research Fellow in Bioethics at St Mary's University, Twickenham; Jonathon Van Maren, Communications Director for the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform; and Obianuju Ekeocha from Culture of Life Africa. Feedback from those who attended was overwhelmingly positive, with people appreciating the high quality of the speakers and the opportunity to network with other pro-lifers. And of course it wouldn't be a SPUC conference without the ceilidh!

Participants also took part in workshops on a variety of different areas of SPUC's work: grassroots fundraising, legal rights at the end of life, ARCH, our work to change the culture, and our work in schools.

Please look out for information on next year's SPUC Youth Conference, coming soon.