



Abortion Rights

the national pro-choice campaign
voicing women's **right to choose**



abortion — a trade union issue



“access to birth control and abortion has allowed immeasurable economic, educational and social benefits for women. Now is the time to stand up again to defend women's right to choose”

Frances O'Grady,
TUC Deputy General Secretary

Women's right to abortion — a trade union issue

The introduction of the contraceptive pill and the legalisation of abortion have transformed women's lives — increasing control over when, and if, to have children and so boosting women's employment and education prospects, incomes and opportunities. Barriers to reproductive rights are barriers to full social, economic and political equality.

Women still face obstacles and unequal access to services across Britain including some obstructive GPs, long NHS delays or hundreds of pounds in independent sector fees — one in four have to pay for terminations. Abortion is still denied to women in Northern Ireland.

Many workers in sexual health and abortion services are trade union members and must be free to carry out their work without fear of attack or abuse.

The trade union movement has played a key role in defending women's rights to abortion when they have come under attack in the past. Now the pro-choice movement needs your active support again.

Abortion rights under attack

Women's rights to abortion are under serious and sustained attack. The anti-choice lobby worldwide has been strengthened by US President George W Bush's aggressive anti-abortion agenda. Internationally, Bush has devastated women's access to abortion through the 'Global Gag' rule. In the US, access to abortion is now severely restricted in many states and rights under federal law are under threat.

In Britain and the US, the anti-choice lobby, which opposes all abortion, is promoting a sensationalist and misleading focus on later abortion in the hope of confusing public and political opinion and winning support for the chipping away of legal rights.

Few women need later abortions. Those who do, face exceptional and distressing circumstances, they do not take the decision lightly and need the protection of the law.



1.15 million pro-choice march, Washington DC 2004

Abortion Rights

— building a strong pro-choice movement

Abortion Rights is the national pro-choice campaign — working to defend and extend reproductive rights. Abortion Rights was formed from the merger of the National Abortion Campaign and Abortion Law Reform Association in 2003 to build a strong, broad based pro-choice movement.

We aim to oppose any restrictions to women's rights and access to legal abortion, to liberalise UK abortion law, and to improve women's access to and experience of abortion.

Abortion Rights is calling on trade unionists and labour movement organisations to affiliate and add their active support to the campaign. We are happy to provide speakers for meetings at every level, campaigning materials and model resolutions. Affiliates will receive regular briefings and updates and can take part in deciding campaign policies.

What YOU can do

- Affiliate your branch/region/national union to Abortion Rights
- Join as an individual member
- Ensure your trade union/branch has a pro-choice policy
- Invite Abortion Rights to speak at meetings
- Support Abortion Rights' campaigning initiatives and distribute pro-choice literature
- Raise funds by playing the 'pro-choice lottery'

Membership form

Please join Abortion Rights today, help defend and extend women's reproductive rights

I/my organisation agree/s to the aims of Abortion Rights and would like to join/affiliate

Signature..... Date

Organisation

Contact / individual name and position.....

Address.....

.....Postcode

Email..... Tel

P.T.O. for payment options

Please complete both sides of the form and return to:
Abortion Rights, 2 – 12 Pentonville Road, London N1 9FP

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