

Press Release Cardiff Student Union vote for abortion rights on campus

27/11/14

A pro-choice motion is being put to the student body at a meeting of University of Cardiff Student Union today, Thursday 27 November proposed by the Chair of the Women's Association.

As the motion points out, 1 in 3 women will have had an abortion by the age of 45, so this is very clearly a student issue.

Despite having been accused of being against free speech, the motion calls for accurate information to be distributed and calls for students to be free to make up their own mind about their choice.

Cardiff Student Union is deciding whether to commit to a pro-choice policy at their Council meeting today, Thursday at 5:30.

Kerry Abel, Chair of Abortion Rights said "The position the motion is taking is in line with the law on abortion in Britain. Groups calling themselves 'pro-life' have been using the free speech argument to stifle debate and intimidate students on campus. There's nothing in this motion that restricts free speech, students should be able to decide for themselves with all the options on the table. It's the anti-choice campaigners that want to restrict this"

Rachael Melhuish, the proposer of the motion and Chair of the Women's Association at Cardiff University said "Students will benefit from a pro-choice campus that respects their wishes and does all it can to provide non-biased information which is free from blame and helps them to make their decision. That's what this motion does. We've also accepted an amendment which makes our position on protest clear."

Obstructions to a woman's right to choose on abortion include false information which exaggerates and fabricates risks, so-called "crisis pregnancy centres" that seek to deter women from this legal medical procedure and protest groups around clinics that intimidate women into missing appointments.

Notes for editors:

* Abortion Rights is the UK's national campaign for a woman's right to choose on abortion.

* Abortion is legal in England, Scotland and Wales provided two doctors agree the procedure is in the patients best interest. Abortion is illegal in Northern Ireland unless the mother's life is at risk.

* The motion is available to read here: <http://www.cardiffstudents.com/pageassets/your-voice/agm/Motions.pdf> and was proposed by Rachael Melhuish, the Chair of the Women's Association at Cardiff University