

No platform to anti-choice!

Submitting Committee: Equality and Diversity Committee



USSA Notes:

1. Since the 'Alliance of Pro Life Students' was set up, more and more anti-choice groups have been established in Student Associations in the UK.
2. USSA's existing policy states that 'women's control over their own bodies and access to safe abortions is fundamental to women's freedom and equality' and 'The union opposes any moves to restrict the current legal situation.'
3. The UN classifies lack of access to abortion as torture.¹
4. Anti-choice groups actively spread misinformation about the development of the foetus, for example the 'tear-drop baby'.
5. Having access to safe abortion may be a determining factor in whether or not someone is able to continue their studies.

USSA Believes:

1. Anti-choice groups actively use intimidation and fear tactics to harass people entering abortion clinics.
2. That the establishment of anti-choice groups at USSA would directly contravene Equal Opportunities policy by giving them a platform to harass students. This in turn violates their safe space.
3. That allowing an anti-choice group to form would be a barrier to freedom, equality and body autonomy for those with uteruses on campus and therefore not only violate existing standing policy but also act against the interests of a large amount of the student population.
4. The safety and wellbeing of students should be protected.

USSA Resolves:

1. Anti-choice groups should not be affiliated to, funded or promoted by the University of Strathclyde Students' Association.
2. The Association should continue to support access to safe abortion and support the bodily autonomy of their students.
3. The Association should provide accurate and up to date information relating to abortions should a student seek it.

Useful links:

1. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A.HRC.22.53_English.pdf
2. http://www.lifeandlibertyforwomen.org/truth_about_photos.html
3. <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/keeping-campuses-pro-choice>
4. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/11958784/Anti-abortion-activists-clinics-Harassment-intimidation-and-fear.html>