



Goldsmiths Students' Union Policy

Goldsmiths Students' Union Student Assembly

Motion proposed by Tamara White

Motion Title:

Support a Woman's Right to Choose

Union Notes:

1. Current UK abortion law is based on the Abortion Act (1967) and Section 37 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act (1990)
2. Abortion in the UK is allowed up to 24 weeks on condition that continuing with the pregnancy involves a greater risk to:
 - the physical or mental health of the woman, or
 - the physical or mental health of the woman's existing children than having a termination
3. Abortion is allowed after 24 weeks if there is:
 - risk to the life of the woman,
 - evidence of severe fetal abnormality, or
 - risk of grave physical and mental injury to the woman.
4. An abortion must be:
 - agreed by two doctors (one in an emergency) and
 - carried out by a doctor, and
 - carried out in a government-approved hospital or clinic.
5. The 1967 Abortion Act only applies to England, Scotland and Wales. In Northern Ireland abortion can only be obtained if the woman's life is at

risk and in some cases of fatal abnormality.

Union Believes:

1. Women having full control over their own bodies and access to reproductive health care is a key element of women's human rights and the fight for women's equality. We can never win the fight for women's equality if women do not have full control over their own bodies.
2. Women should be the sole decision makers over their own bodies and current abortion law in the UK does not give women the right to choose.
3. Abortion laws in the UK are more restrictive than in almost every other European country, where abortion on request is legal in the first three months of pregnancy.
4. The 'Two Doctors' rule is outdated and should be changed to allow abortion on request.
5. Women in the UK have died from forced pregnancy and without free, safe abortion on demand women's health is put at risk.
6. The more vicious "pro life" groups have been making a stronger presence in the UK this year – including Abort 67 doing a university tour.

This Union Resolves:

1. To support a woman's right to choose, the right to free, accessible and safe abortion and agree that women should have the first and only right to make decisions about their own bodies.
2. To mandate the Student Union to support the Women's Officer to run a

campaign informing women students about the importance of a woman's right to choose, Abortion Law and where they can go for more information and / or advice.

3. To support campaigns to make access to abortion easier and fairer for women who decide to not continue a pregnancy.

4. To prevent groups which present a threat to women's safety and intend to restrict women's reproductive rights from harassing women students on campus.

5. The definition of Harassment and Intimidation in the motion shall be made by the Women's Officer.