

SISTER SUPPORTER BOURNEMOUTH



EVIDENCE PACK 2022

**CALLING FOR A BUFFER ZONE AROUND THE BPAS
ABORTION CLINIC ON OPHIR ROAD, BOURNEMOUTH**

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SISTER SUPPORTER IS A PRO-CHOICE, ANTI-HARASSMENT ORGANISATION, FOUNDED BY EALING RESIDENTS IN NOVEMBER 2015. WE HAVE A TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGNS ESTABLISHING SAFE SPACES (CALLED BUFFER ZONES) OUTSIDE ABORTION CLINICS, WHICH ENSURE THAT THOSE WHO WISH TO ACCESS THEIR LEGAL RIGHT TO ABORTION HEALTHCARE CAN DO SO WITHOUT INTERFERENCE OR JUDGEMENT.

THE BOURNEMOUTH ABORTION CLINIC (RUN BY BPAS) IS ONE OF THE MOST TARGETED CLINICS IN THE COUNTRY BY ANTI-ABORTION GROUPS. WE ARE CALLING ON BCP COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH A BUFFER ZONE AROUND THE CLINIC TO PREVENT FURTHER HARASSMENT.

THE EVIDENCE OF HARASSMENT IN THIS PACK HAS BEEN GATHERED BY SUPPORTERS, RESIDENTS AND THE BPAS CLINIC. IT'S JUST A FRACTION OF WHAT WE HAVE COLLECTED, BUT IT DEMONSTRATES THE NECESSITY OF A BUFFER ZONE AROUND THE OPHIR ROAD CLINIC .

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

**END
HARASSMENT.**

WHAT IS HARASSMENT?

HARASSMENT IS ANY BEHAVIOUR PERPETRATED AT AN INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP THAT CAUSES DISTRESS OR ALARM.

OUTSIDE ABORTION CLINICS, THIS TAKES THE FORM OF ANYTHING THAT CAUSES FEELINGS OF DISTRESS, GUILT, SHAME OR JUDGEMENT IN CLINIC STAFF AND SERVICE-USERS. THE 'PEACEFUL VIGILS' THAT ANTI-ABORTION GROUPS ATTEND OUTSIDE CLINICS CAUSE THESE FEELINGS.

FOR MORE INFO, CHECK OUT OUR YOUTUBE VIDEO



INTIMIDATING ANTI-ABORTION PRESENCE

THIS IS PARTICULARLY PROBLEMATIC DURING THE ANTI-ABORTION '40 DAYS FOR LIFE' CAMPAIGN, WHICH SEES DAILY ANTI-ABORTION DEMONSTRATIONS DIRECTLY OUTSIDE AND OPPOSITE THE CLINIC.



2020

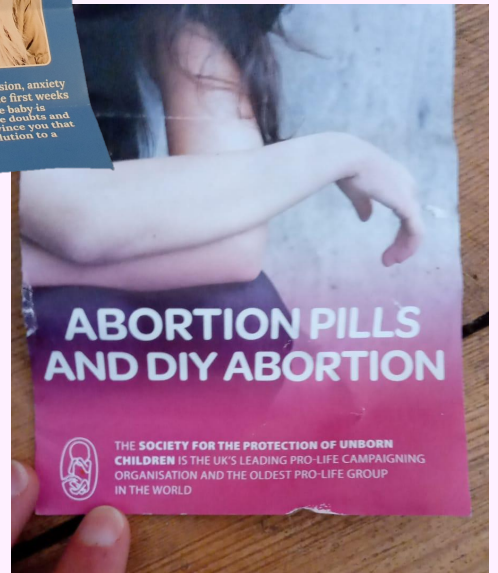
INHIBITING ACCESS TO THE CLINIC

THE BPAS CLINIC IS LOCATED IN A CUL-DE-SAC, MEANING THERE ARE NO ALTERNATIVE ROUTES FOR STAFF AND SERVICE-USERS TO AVOID ANTI-ABORTION GROUPS. THEY TAKE UP THE PATH, FORCING PEOPLE TO PASS CLOSE BY AND RISK INTERACTION OR WALK IN THE ROAD.



DISTRIBUTION OF LEAFLETS

LEAFLETS CONTAINING JUDGEMENTAL, MISLEADING AND MEDICALLY INACCURATE INFORMATION ARE GIVEN TO SERVICE-USERS OUTSIDE THE CLINIC, AS WELL AS HANDED TO THEIR COMPANIONS WAITING IN PARKED CARS NEARBY.



HOLDING UP SIGNS

ANTI-ABORTION GROUPS HOLD UP SIGNS THAT DIRECT SERVICE-USERS TO A 'HELPLINE' OR TO SERVICES THAT ARE ILL-EQUIPPED TO PROVIDE GENUINE, CERTIFIED ADVICE AND SUPPORT. OTHER SIGNS REFER TO THEM AS 'MUM' OR THE PREGNANCY AS 'BABY' TO INDUCE GUILT, WHICH IS PARTICULARLY DISTRESSING FOR SERVICE-USERS WHO ARE HAVING TO ABORT WANTED PREGNANCIES DUE TO ISSUES WITH FOETAL OR PARENTAL HEALTH.



PRAYER AND 'VIGILS'

AUDIBLE PRAYING AND SINGING, AND THE USE OF ROSARY BEADS, PRAYER BOOKS AND BIBLES ARE GUILT-INDUCING FOR SERVICE-USERS, GIVING THE IMPRESSION OF JUDGEMENT. 'HOLY WATER' HAS BEEN SPRINKLED ON THE PAVEMENT OUTSIDE THE CLINIC, AND CANDLELIT 'VIGILS' ARE HELD IN THE DARK OPPOSITE THE CLINIC. ANTI-ABORTION GROUPS OFTEN CROSS THEMSELVES AND KNEEL AS SERVICE-USERS PASS BY IN CARS.



BABY CLOTHES

BABY CLOTHES HAVE BEEN LEFT IN NEARBY BUSHES ON THE CLINIC APPROACH.



IMPACT OF HARASSMENT ON STAFF

ONE TESTIMONIAL FROM THE BOURNEMOUTH BPAS CLINIC STAFF

So I left work at 5.30 on Wednesday and we have been mega stressed cause of the current situation (less staff required services and more upset women).. as you can see I had to walk through these two protesters as I was leaving the clinic. This just rattled me because I thought of women having to walk through the gap of these two protesters. So i started walking back taking photos of them. I took a photo of the picture they've got propped against their bag and they really didn't like that so they then started grabbing my phone as if to take it. I advised her it is personal property and that she should let go which is why there are photos of her gloves. She did finally and started ranting at me about the babies in the womb at which point I walked away because that was enough after a long day. She followed me to my car shouting about the women and babies in their tummies. I ignored her and drove off. She took photos of me. And that was that. But boy did it boil my blood..



March 20, 2020 7:2

This was about 9.30 this morning.. if you're sending out support always come first thing as they catch people on our clinical days (Tuesday Wednesday thursdsy) on their way in to the building. One woman came in completely overwhelmed as one of the above protesters called her a murderer as she walked by. Our clinic isn't a through way so these protesters know the woman walking by are only woman coming to the clinic. Its completely devastating. Yes please share



*The clinic isn't on a through way (it's a dead end road)

March 11, 2020

IMPACT OF HARASSMENT ON SERVICE-USERS

ONE TESTIMONIAL FROM A BOURNEMOUTH BPAS CLINIC SERVICE-USER IN 2018, RECALLED TO SISTER SUPPORTER IN 2022

I found out I was pregnant just before my 21st birthday. I was in an incredibly unstable time in my life as I had only recently fled an abusive relationship so despite being a maternal person and desperately wanting children, I came to the difficult decision to terminate my pregnancy. As this was not a decision I took lightly, it caused me a considerable amount of upset. The day I attended the clinic I was a mess emotionally and once my appointment was over, I left the clinic to be met with 2 anti-abortion protesters who approached me and handed me a leaflet expressing their views on abortion and told me that there are “other options” as my baby deserved a life. Not only was this intimidating as there were 2 of them and I was in a vulnerable state but it also devastated me as I thought I had done the wrong thing and that I’d made a horrible mistake. I know now that I made the right decision but that moment is still something that has stayed with me for the past 4 years.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

CONTACT COUNCILLORS ANNE FILER, ROBERTO ROCCA AND DAVID KELSEY. ASK THEM FOR A BUFFER ZONE TO BE IMPLEMENTED AROUND THE BPAS CLINIC USING OUR PRE-WRITTEN EMAIL:

CONTACT COUNCILLORS

SPREAD THE WORD AMONG FRIENDS, FAMILY, COLLEAGUES, HOUSEMATES AND PARTNERS.

GET IN TOUCH

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 **@SISTERSUPPORTERBOURNEMOUTH**

 **@SISTERSUPPORTERBMOUTH**

 **@SISTERBMOUTH**

**CONTACT US WITH YOUR TESTIMONIES
OF ANTI-ABORTION HARASSMENT
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