

Petitioner submission of 27 January 2023

PE1991/B: Develop an educational resource on abortion

I would like to submit some supplementary information in support of my petition.

A recent investigation found that many schools in Scotland have been visited by SPUC (Society for Protection of Unborn Child). SPUC have been known to spread concerning disinformation such as wrongly suggesting that abortion could cause breast cancer.

They have also promoted 'abortion reversal pills' on their website. The promotion of such medication led to the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists issuing the [following statement](#):

"It is concerning that some organisations and individuals are recommending progesterone as an abortion reversal medication despite the lack of evidence of effectiveness and the likelihood of side effects. This is an off-label prescription and is not licenced for abortion reversal. The people recommending abortion reversals are associated with anti-abortion activist groups, and they have no access to the range of services that NHS services can provide. They are unlikely to offer impartial, non-judgemental advice or discuss your full range of options. We wish to stress that this practice is not supported by medical evidence and is not endorsed by any authoritative national or international best-practice guidelines.

All drugs have side-effects and by suggesting progesterone can reverse an abortion without evidence to support this, these people are providing false reassurance to vulnerable women and girls which could be distressing and confusing for the women involved."

While consideration of anti-abortion views may be a reasonable aspect of an RE lesson, it is essential that young people get factual information regarding their healthcare as per their human rights.

If groups who spread misinformation can enter schools, it is important that the young people are also presented with accurate information from reliable sources on abortion care.

Further information:

“Anti-abortion group has carried out dozens of school visits”, The Herald, 19 December 2022

[“Secret recordings reveal anti-abortion group spreading falsehoods in schools”](#), Humanists UK, 23 March 2012