

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 18th November 2014

LIFE: This new attack on free speech by pro-abortionists is pathetic and sinister

The national prolife charity LIFE has strongly condemned the intolerance shown by pro-abortion students at Oxford University, who have used authoritarian and sinister tactics to shut down a planned debate on abortion that was due to happen this evening. The debate, organised by Oxford Students For Life, was due to take place at Christ Church college, but the college authorities . faced with threats of intimidation and disruption . have not given the organisers permission to go ahead with the event.

LIFE spokeswoman, Michaela Aston, said: %et again a small minority of bigoted, small-minded fanatics are using mob tactics to shut down debate about abortion, and yet again university administrators are spinelessly surrendering to their demands. Harassment of student pro-life groups is par for the course at many universities in the UK, with little or no protection offered by the authorities. In 2012 the studentsq union at University College London tried to ban pro-life speakers from their campus. Similar attempts to silence dissent by student activists are not uncommon.

Whatever the feeble excuses made for the behaviour of the Oxford University Womenç Campaign, the fact is that this is a direct assault on free expression and freedom of association, targeted at a pro-life society simply because it disagrees with the student union on the ethics of abortion. Abortion is not simply a %womenç issue+. it is a complex ethical question with repercussions for all of society, so there is no reason why men should be barred from discussing it just because they are men.+

END

For further media comment please call the LIFE Media Hotline on 07867 744502

LIFE is a pro-life charity that supports anyone facing a crisis pregnancy, pregnancy loss or after an abortion, and strives to engage, inspire and inform the next generation.