

PRESS RELEASE
Tuesday 23rd June 2015

Government and health establishment are clueless on STI rates

The pro-life charity LIFE has expressed shock and sadness at the continuing high level of STI infections. The figures for last year, released today, show that there were almost 440,000 new cases of STI infection in the UK in 2014. This is a small decrease from 2013, but still extremely high and there have been very steep rises in the incidence of certain STIs.

A LIFE spokesman, Mark Bhagwandin, said: "For many years now the UK has been in the midst of a sexual health crisis, especially among young people, who account for more than half of all new diagnoses of genital warts and gonorrhea. Yet the government and health authorities appear not to care. The so-called solutions proposed by the government and health establishment are the same old half-measures, bound to fail because they are constrained by the rigid dogmatism of our dysfunctional sexual culture."

"The government's feeble condoms and consent approach to sexual health is inadequate. It does little or nothing to encourage people to think deeply and carefully about their sexual behaviour. The government are scared to talk about monogamy or fidelity or commitment, so they fall back on useless platitudes about condoms, which offer only limited protection against some STIs, or talk vaguely and tentatively about 'reducing the number of new partners', which is a reasonable aspiration but unlikely to succeed without giving people good reasons to do so.

"There is also little sign of joined-up policy in the increasing emphasis on giving girls and young women hormonal contraceptives, or fitting them with Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARCs). These may be effective in reducing crisis pregnancies, but hormonal contraceptives offer no protection against STIs.

"As well as their physical effects, STIs can cause heartbreak and distress, and damage relationships. Some threaten future fertility. They are a source of worry and fear for hundreds of thousands of people. The STI crisis is at heart a cultural problem and we cannot solve cultural problems by technocratic means."

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

The morning-after pill for under-16s: a sticking plaster solution to a serious problem

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.