

# Evidence Pack

**CALLING FOR A PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER AT ST  
MARYS HEALTH CAMPUS**

**Hampshire Pro-choice**

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## **Synopsis**

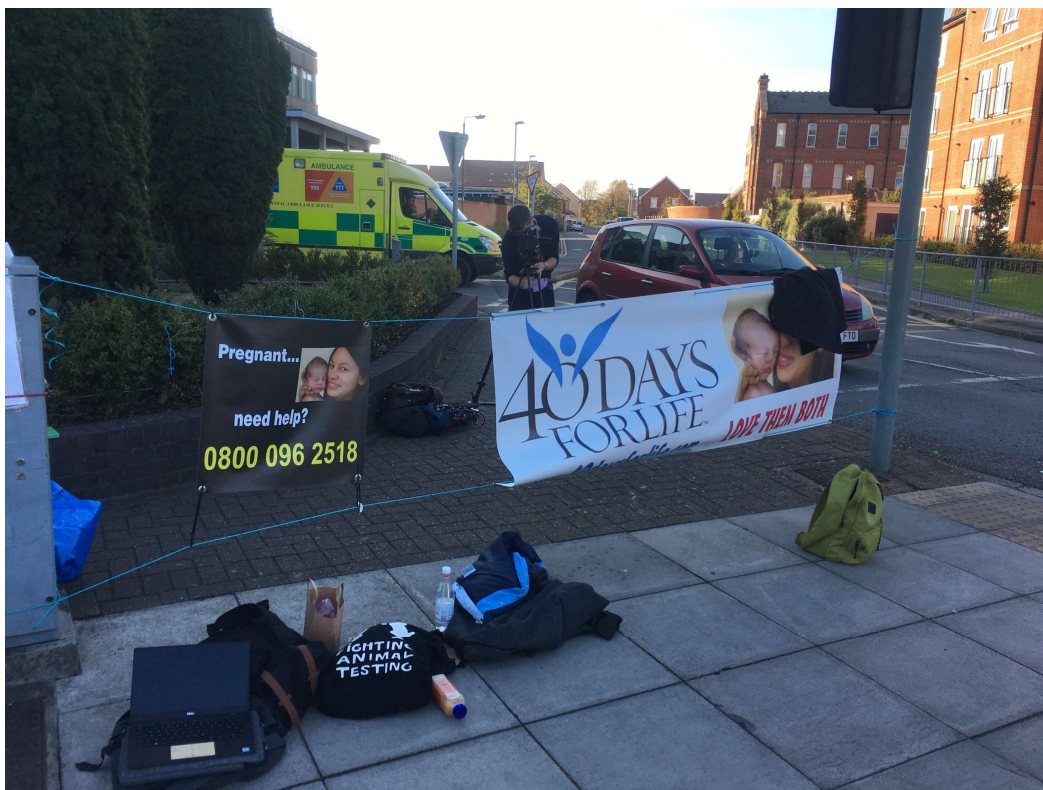
Hampshire Pro Choice is a group founded by residents in 2011, initially with the aim to combat the anti-choice presence outside Royal South Hants Hospital in Southampton. After the BPAS clinic moved from this spot we existed to keep people updated on abortion law within the UK.

In 2017 we were made aware of protests by the anti-choice group 40 days for life outside of Portsmouth St Marys Health Campus and have begun campaigning for a buffer zone to be put in place. We believe that members of the public have a right to access the clinics provided at this hospital free from harassment and intimidation.

This pack has been created to demonstrate some of the complaints service users, staff and members of the public have raised. The information within was collected between 27<sup>th</sup> September – 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017. It aims to give a snapshot into the torment those exercising their right to free, safe, and legal healthcare are subjected to whilst protests occur outside the hospital.

Thankyou.

## Photographic Evidence



Large signs displayed on the only entrance by road to the hospital.

Permission was not gained to display these signs on council property. A number of complaints have been logged by residents and service users requesting their removal. **The efforts by the council to remove these signs is an unnecessary waste of resources.**

These signs are seen not only by those using the BPAS clinic but those accessing the hospital for a variety of other services including the mental health team.

## Photographic evidence



Sign held by protesters stating

*"Before I formed you in the womb, I  
knew you*

*God "*

This sign offers no support or advice,  
contrary to what 40 days for life claim to  
be offering, and instead exists solely to  
**manipulate and impose judgement** on  
those using the clinic.

## Photographic Evidence

Banner held by anti-choice protester stating

*"Adopted? Thanks Mum!"*

The use of the word "Mum" to refer to women accessing the clinic is a tool 40 days for life use frequently. Again, it **serves no purpose other than to cause distress**. Signs like this offer no information about the adoption process, nor do they offer any support for carrying an unwanted pregnancy.

It is also of note that the person holding this sign repeatedly **claimed to be acting on behalf of social services**.





## Photographic Evidence

In its location, **illegally** attached to the railings directly beneath the St Marys Health Campus sign (blue and red top left), this sign indicates an affiliation with the NHS. The sign does not explain that this telephone line leads to a religious pro-life group, and implies a neutral helpline. Once called, the number takes the caller to an unidentified female who advises to make an appointment with 'the friar'. **No support or advice is offered over the phone.**

Also note the inappropriate picture of the smiling mother with her baby.



## Photographic evidence

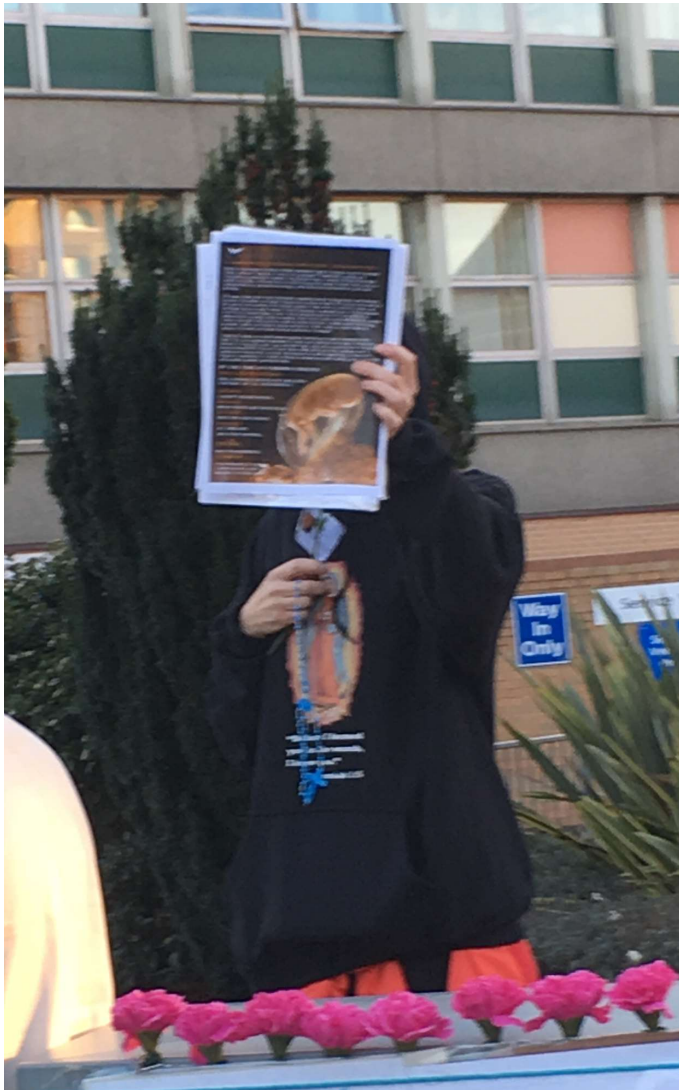


Men dressed in what appear to be religious robes are stationed along the access route to the hospital. These people stand, praying loudly using rosaries, in a way that **forces those accessing the hospital to pass them.**

This is an effective **intimidation tactic** and one that we have received many complaints about. They hold coloured rosaries that relate to the gender of your “baby”. Pink for a girl and blue for a boy.



## Photographic Evidence



Protesters obscure their faces from view using pieces of paper which were not given out to members of the public. This includes an image of a foetus, again a common tool of 40 days for life to **invoke feelings of guilt and shock** in members of the public, to **stir up upset and distress**.

## Photographic Evidence



This photo shows a large congregation (estimated at 60 people) of anti-choice protestors kneeling in prayer, **blocking access to the hospital building**. They had been told repeatedly by hospital security, and members of staff, that under no circumstances did they have permission to enter the campus grounds. Despite this they have done so on numerous occasions.

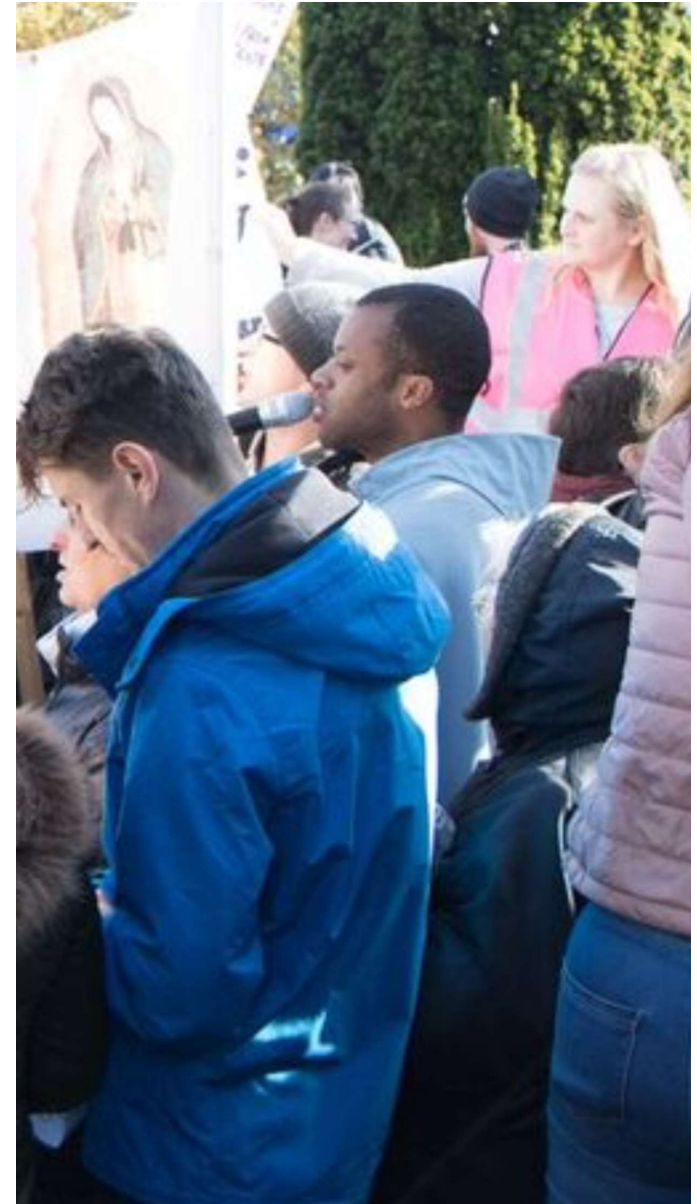
Anybody accessing the building would need to pass through this protest to gain entry. This would understandably **cause immeasurable distress and angst, undoubtedly preventing members of the public from attending their appointments.**

## Photographic Evidence

40 days for life frequently state their events are peaceful and non-disruptive. However, at a recent event they arrived with **megaphones, microphones** (see right) **and speakers** which they used to broadcast prayers. These prayers repeatedly used the words “***murder***” “***sinner***” and “***forgiveness***”.

We have been told that these prayers could be heard in the clinic consulting rooms which **understandably causes distress** to patients and their companions.

**Local residents have also lodged complaints** against the use of megaphones and microphones by this group.

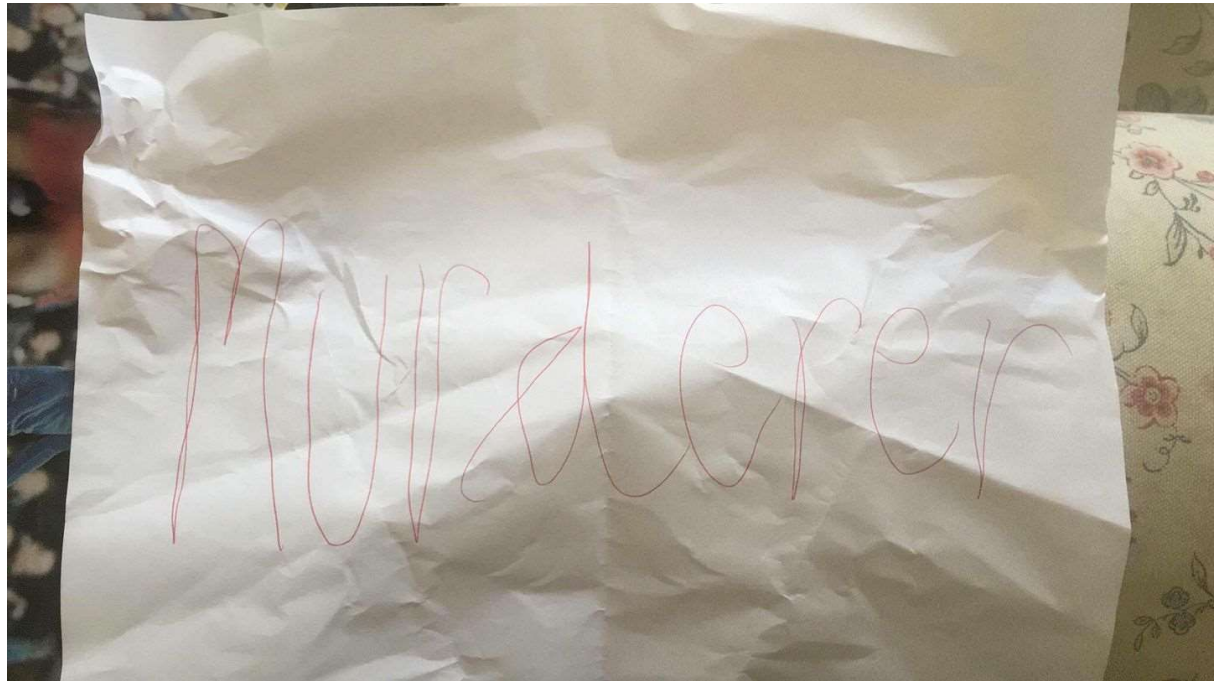




## Photographic Evidence

The presence of 40 days for life has also stirred up unrest within the community. One of our members woke to find this note pushed through her letter box.

This member has spoken openly about having had abortions and this is an obvious **attempt to threaten** her. She has young children at home who have also been impacted by this **scare tactic**.



Her home has been tracked down and a member of an anti-choice group has **violated the privacy and safety** of her residence with this personal attack. A few days later this member's house was also egged in a potentially related incident. A police report has been filed.

## Video Evidence

<https://www.facebook.com/portsmouthnews/videos/10155799242972418/>

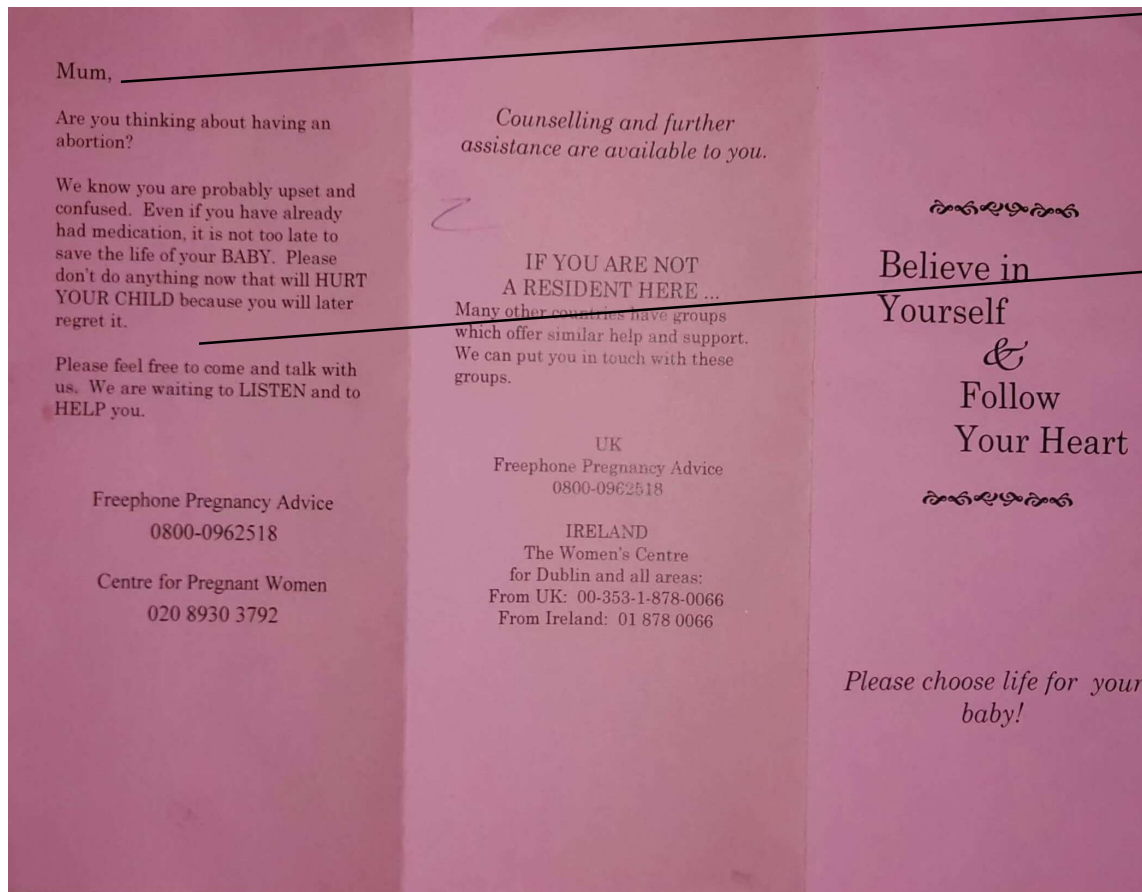
This still image is taken from a live stream from The News Portsmouth's Facebook page. It shows a man in religious robes (grey with black rucksack) trying to gain access to the entrance of the hospital. BPAS have reported numerous incidences of these men attempting to enter, on occasions where they have succeeded, they proceed to film and photograph the clinic entrance without permission from staff or service users. This is a **flagrant breach of patient confidentiality**.

These clinics are intended to be safe and secure places for people to access without out fear or judgement. 40 days for life disregard this when they trespass into clinical areas.





# Leaflets and handouts



Emotive use of the word "Mum"

"Please don't do anything that will **HURT YOUR CHILD** because you will later regret it."

These leaflets have been thrust into the hands of hospital patients, staff, the residents and through car windows outside the hospital.

This is an up to date version of the literature.

This language used is **threatening** and **emotionally manipulative**.

# Leaflets and handouts

Incorrect information about development of foetus.

**❖ What am I going to do?**

- ❖ How can I be sure I am pregnant?
- ❖ How should I tell my family?
- ❖ Can I continue in school or keep my job?
- ❖ Where can I obtain good medical care?
- ❖ What about finances?
- ❖ Can I keep my baby?
- ❖ Should I keep my baby?
- ❖ Is marriage the solution?
- ❖ Where can I live until my baby is born?

**Who will help if...**

You are pregnant –  
And your first thought is  
“No – not me – oh, Please – not me!”

You are scared ... resentful ... angry.  
You feel sick and your nerves  
are like hot wires.

Your whole world is changing  
and you don't want to face it.  
Not now – not yet.

You want yesterday again.

Who will listen and really understand how  
scared and sick and angry you are?

***We will!***

**This little unborn baby's**  
heart is beating on the 18th day,  
and by the 24th day it has eyes, spinal  
cord, nervous system, thyroid glands,  
lungs, stomach, liver, kidney and  
intestines.

**A tiny person ... his actual size and  
appearance**

11 weeks  
15 weeks

6 weeks  
8 weeks

**Pregnant...**

**Not sure what to do?**

**We'll help!**

Call our London Centre:  
**020 7724 6465**

*'How scared, sick and angry you are'*

# Leaflets and handouts

Only offering 'alternatives to abortion'

*'Help fostering self-development from which to learn responsibility for one's own actions and respect for the rights of others'*

**Judgemental assumptions** about the lifestyle choices of people using the clinic, contrary to the statement below that *'no judgements are made'*.

**What we can do for you now...**

- ❖ Give you a FREE pregnancy test.
- ❖ Offer counselling and alternatives to abortion.
- ❖ Counsel as needed with parents, boyfriend or husband.
- ❖ Provide you with sound medical advice.
- ❖ Show you how you can continue studies or your job.
- ❖ Help with accommodation.
- ❖ Help arrange financial assistance.
- ❖ Help you find out about resources in the community which may be useful.
- ❖ Provide contacts in many other countries who can offer similar services.
- ❖ Offer help and guidance in all related areas.

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**All services offered in strict confidentiality**

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**...and later on**

- ❖ Ongoing personal counselling.
- ❖ Help with fostering healthy relationships.
- ❖ Both prenatal and postnatal guidance.
- ❖ Provide maternity clothes and baby things.
- ❖ Referral for adoption/fostering counselling.
- ❖ Help with baby-sitting.
- ❖ Planning for the mother and baby's future.
- ❖ Other assistance suitable to your particular circumstances and needs.
- ❖ Help foster self-development from which to learn responsibility for one's own actions and respect for the rights of others.

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**No judgements are made  
No strings attached**

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**Reach out for life**

You and your unborn baby are important valuable human beings with basic rights and individual needs.

**We care about you.** We know you are facing perhaps the greatest personal crisis of your life. You don't have to face it alone now!

**Possible physical complications of abortion:**

- ❖ Perforation of the uterus or cervix
- ❖ Haemorrhage
- ❖ Infection
- ❖ Retained placenta or foetal parts
- ❖ Inability to become pregnant in future
- ❖ Disruption of menstrual cycle
- ❖ Breast cancer

**Possible psychological complications:**

- ❖ Guilt, fear, anxiety
- ❖ Depression or thoughts of suicide
- ❖ Obsession with the would-be birth date
- ❖ Re-experiencing the abortion
- ❖ Preoccupation with becoming pregnant again
- ❖ Feeling unworthy or incapable of motherhood
- ❖ Damage to maternal instinct and to bonding process with any other children you have
- ❖ Alcohol and drug abuse; eating disorders

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**Our help is free**

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It is well documented that breast cancer is not a side effect of abortion. This kind of advice is incredibly **misleading and reckless**.

## Leaflets and Handouts

This card was handed to a patient in the hospital. The card calls for them to 'spiritually adopt an unborn baby'. It is particularly troubling as not only does it **impose religion** but it assigns a concerning degree of focus onto the foetus, not supporting the woman as 40 days of life claim.

*Protectress of the Unborn*



*Please spiritually adopt an unborn baby. Every day over 3,000 babies are killed by abortion. They have so little protection only the hand of God can end this massacre. Prayer is the best weapon to help them - the most effective.*

*Say this prayer every day for nine months to save a baby's life!*

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.*

*Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen*

*"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you." (Jeremiah 1:5)*

Adoptive Baby's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spiritual Adoption Date \_\_\_\_\_

***Please pray!***

***This baby is counting on you.***

**SPIRITUAL ADOPTION INC.**

**Bob Paige (248) 474-8064**

P.O. Box 217 • Novi, MI 48376

E-mail: [rjpaige@msn.com](mailto:rjpaige@msn.com)

[www.spiritualadoption.org](http://www.spiritualadoption.org)

This is a blatant attempt to **emotionally threaten** those accessing the clinic facilities.

Words including 'massacre' and 'babies killed' are used to enhance the **emotional trauma** caused.

## Quotes from clinic users at BPAS Portsmouth 2017

*“They were protesting outside the main entrance, waving placards saying, ‘Pray to stop abortion’. It made me feel **uncomfortable**, **stigmatised**, I felt it was aimed at me, made me feel like a **bad person**”*

*“It has made me so **angry** as I have come down with my 15-year old granddaughter and I don’t want her to **feel bad** for what she has decided to do “*

*“They were shouting and chanting at cars driving into the car park. It made me feel **uneasy** and **judged**”*

*“**Not happy**. Made us feel **uncomfortable**. Should be able to come to the clinic and feel comfortable”*



## Resident statements

*"I found it very **distressing**. I have recently had a **miscarriage** and neither myself or my husband wanted to be confronted with that on our return home"*

- Resident A, Name and address given

*"I regularly walk my dog in that area but quickly stopped when they started protesting due to feeling **intimidated** by them. When there was a large group I didn't even go in that direction as I **didn't want to be approached** by them. I'm all for freedom of speech but **there is a line and they have crossed it.**"*

- Resident C, Name and address given

*"Because of them I've had to explain to my children what an abortion is. We pass them every day and the kids ask questions. They ask what and abortion is. Its forced me to have a conversation with them that neither are old enough for"*

- Resident B, Name and address given

*"It's **scary** seeing their signs about abortion and the monks. We see them every day on the way to school and at home time. **I don't know why they have to be there. It's not really fair.**"*

- Pupil at Milton Cross Academy, Name supplied. Aged 12.

## Resident statements

*“The 40 days for life march that came through the Milton family day market on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October on their way to St Marys Campus caused **concern** and **distress** to many of the families in attendance. The group were **chanting using a megaphone**, taking up the whole pavement and **handing out unwanted leaflets to adults and children**. I had to monitor them as they passed through as we knew it would **cause upset, not one person I saw or spoke to supported them**. Just marching through the streets was **distressing** enough for the community, it must be **horrendous** for the staff and women at the clinic. **A buffer zone should be a priority to protect those women and let them make their own choices**”*

- Kimberly Barrett, Campaigner at Keep Milton Green.

*“At a small counter protest in late September 2017 we were stood no engaging with the 40 days for life movement. I turned around at one point and saw that the ‘Friar’ was **throwing holy water at our backs**. I said something but he ignored me and carried on. It was **really offensive and extremely passive aggressive** in my view . There are spiritual rituals, I have my own, but this did not feel like that. It felt **incredibly patronising and offensive**.*

- Resident D, Name supplied

*“I was called a ‘**murderer**’ when I approached them to discuss why they were outside the hospital. I disclosed I had accessed a termination in the past and would have found their presence upsetting. They said I was **against the church** and said they could not talk to me any longer”*

- Resident E, Name and address supplied

## **Statement from Chris Francis,** **Unit Manager BPAS Portsmouth**

*“Women who attend our clinic are often anxious as they face a difficult and emotional decision. They deserve support and compassion, not judgement. It is important that women in the U.K can access safe abortion care without fear or intimidation. The feedback we have received not only from BPAS clients but other departments seeing **vulnerable women** is that the protest is upsetting.*

*Equally the team have found this protest **unsettling**. In 2015 the police were called after the monks were seen **photographing the hospital, the BPAS signs and the car park**. Fortunately a domestic worker reported the activity to the hospital security and the police were able to delete the images from the digital devices. You can imagine how **unnerving** this news was for the team. Monks of the same order are taking part in this protest and, though they have not entered the unit again, it has caused some upset. In addition, last Saturday the **protesters marched to the hospital doors** and the police were reinforced. Fortunately our team and clients didn’t know about this until afterwards. **Other departments have been affected** too – mental health clients attending the hospital have been approached and this has **caused undue stress**.*

*We are lucky to have a dedicated team who strongly believe in protecting a woman’s right to choose despite concerns about their own privacy. The local support should be noted too, and has bolstered the team – cakes, balloons and a pro-choice presence have made them feel less isolated”.*

## Pro-choice support outside St Marys Health Campus

