

## Useful contacts:

### Oxford Life Pregnancy Care Centre

130 High Street, Oxford

Tel: 01865 202435

### LIFE

<http://www.lifeuk.org>

Hotline: 01926 311511

### Feminists For Life

<http://www.feministsforlife.org>

### Society for the Protection of

### Unborn Children (SPUC)

5/6 Matthew Street

London SW1P 2JT

Tel: 020 7222 5845

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### Committee:

**President:** Fleur Willson (*Merton*)

**Vice-President:** Katherine Shaw (*Merton*)

**Secretary:** Anna-Maria Bielinska (*Magdalen*)

**Treasurer:** Jinzhu Chen (*St Hilda's*)

**Publicity:** Esther Miller (*St Catherine's*)

### **Other Committee Members:**

Lucy Underwood (*Corpus Christi*)

Francis Murphy (*Trinity*)

To make contact, e-mail [general@oxfordprolife.org](mailto:general@oxfordprolife.org)

Our website can be found at <http://www.oxfordprolife.org>



Some information  
about the...

# Oxford University Pro-Life Society



### Patrons:

Professor the Lord  
Alton of Liverpool

Ms Ann Widdecombe MP

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

## The Fundamental Principle

*No-one has the right to choose to destroy the life of any innocent human being from fertilisation to natural death.*

### WHAT ARE THE SOCIETY'S AIMS?

We aim to promote an understanding of the ethical issues surrounding human life and death and to promote discussion and dialogue on relevant issues. We aim to campaign for the protection of human life, giving support to other organisations and raising critical opposition to all legislative and judicial decisions that contradict our fundamental principle. We also organise speaker meetings, workshops, debates and panel discussions.



An unborn child in its eighth week of life

### WHO CAN JOIN?

All members of Oxford University who agree with our Fundamental Principle can join and there is a nominal subscription of one pound. Non-University members can be admitted at the committee's discretion. Termcards and mailing list subscription are available to non-members.

### *Abortion:*

Abortion is legal in this and most other countries. Although not always seen as a good thing, it is nevertheless seen by many as better than the alternative of continuing with an unwanted pregnancy. State-sponsored abortion is seen as a remedy against the bad old days of 'backstreet abortions'.

However, we do not see abortion as an acceptable or desirable solution to the problem of unwanted pregnancy. **Abortion regularly stops a beating heart.** We believe that life begins at conception, and that every abortion involves the killing of an innocent and utterly helpless human life.

Not only does abortion involve the destruction of an innocent life — it can have profoundly negative effects on the woman who undergoes an abortion. As well as the risk of physical complications and the dangers posed for future pregnancies, the threat to the mental health of a woman following an abortion is significant, with symptoms of post-abortion trauma continuing for months and even years after the 'solution' of abortion.

### *Euthanasia:*

Unlike abortion, euthanasia is not officially legal in Britain. However, many cases of doctor assisted suicide have been publicised, and there have been cases where patients have been allowed to die by starvation and dehydration by removal of feeding pipes. Euthanasia has in effect occurred and set a dangerous precedent.

It is important when considering the issue of euthanasia to appreciate the difference between causing someone to die, by starvation/dehydration or by administration of fatal drug doses, and discontinuing medical treatment which might otherwise prolong life artificially.

The problem of who should decide until what point human life is of value, and at what point a person is

better off dead, is problematic to say the least. In the Netherlands, where euthanasia is legal, up to a fifth of the nation's deaths involve 'mercy killing' - a disturbing number being involuntary.

The development of palliative care by the hospice movement to relieve the suffering of the terminally ill shows that there is a preferable alternative to euthanasia.

### *Human embryo research:*

Frequently connected to infertility treatment—with 'spare' IVF treatment embryos used—embryo research involves the freezing and then subsequent use of unborn children as 'lab rats', before they are disposed of as clinical waste. Research is generally done into defects such as spina bifida, to make early detection and abortion of those suffering from such conditions easier.

### *Human cloning:*

Authorised in 2000 for 'therapeutic' purposes, cloning involves the creation of human embryos for the purpose of using their stem cells—after which the embryos are disposed of as clinical waste. Given the equal success apparently available via techniques using adult stem cells, there seems no justification for recourse to such 'therapeutic' cloning.

## Think about it

**"Everyone has the right to life."  
Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948**

**"I will maintain the utmost respect for human life, from the time of conception."  
Hippocratic Oath, 4th century BC**