



Abortion Rights

# Abortion Rights

## Annual Report

### 2007–2008



## Executive Committee

Since the 2007 AGM the Executive Committee has met more frequently than in previous years in order to plan the work of the campaign in relation to the abortion amendments to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (HFE) Bill. In a very busy year, this has helped in developing a strong working team, with EC members contributing to organisation of events, increasing capacity in the office, fulfilling officer responsibilities, as well as taking responsibility for the strategic development of our work.

The current Executive Committee members are:

Anne Kane (chair), Ann Henderson (vice-chair), Janet Mearns (treasurer), Dorothy Amos (secretary), Marian Brain, Cathy Casserley, Sarah Colborne, Lorene Fabian, Anne-Marie Gutteridge, Finn MacKay, Anni Marjoram, Judith Orr, Mary Pimm, Farah Reza, Bryony Shanks, Cat Smith.

A number of EC members elected at the AGM in September 2007 resigned in January 2008, and the context of this was discussed at the EGM in April 2008.

## Staff

Our current office staff are Louise Hutchins, Campaign Coordinator and Kerry Abel, Campaign Project Worker. Julie Byrne also works for us one day a month as a book-keeper.

Since the last AGM, staff has also included: Caroline Ellis (freelance contract during HFE Bill, now ended), Charlotte Gage (until June 08), Sophie Bolt (May to July inclusive), Anne Quesney (until January 08).

The Abortion Rights Executive Committee wishes to record thanks to all staff.

We would also like to thank Sue Kibble for her help in preparing Abortion Rights' annual accounts.

## Introduction

Since Abortion Rights' last AGM, in September 2007, the pro-choice movement has faced its most challenging time for 18 years.

The debates that arose in relation to abortion amendments to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (HFE) Bill (November 2007 onwards) faced Abortion Rights with significant demands. In response Abortion Rights organised a diverse and active campaign to defend and extend women's rights to choose. The decisive votes in May against a reduction in the abortion time limit were a testimony to the vibrant and broad-based campaign Abortion Rights organised.

The background to this year was influenced by the strongly anti-abortion policy of the Bush presidency. This had a big negative effect for women both in the US and internationally. In Britain, the immediate background included media debate about there being 'too many abortions' and that the abortion should be lowered. Public and political confusion was engendered by those seeking to establish the notion of 'foetal rights'. Digital imagery was misleadingly promoted in sections of the media. This persistent emotive feature of anti-abortion lobbying was rejected by Abortion Rights which asserted that a woman's rights to choose was the central matter, while pointing to copious scientific evidence which refuted lurid anti-abortion claims.

In a year which spanned the 40th anniversary of the passing and enactment of the 1967 Abortion Act (October 2007 and April 2008 respectively) we succeeded in defeating the latest attack on that Act. This was the result of many months of campaigning, particularly up to the key votes on time limits in May.

The pattern of voting by MPs at that time shows that we need to remain opposed to any proposal to cut in the time limit – but the mobilisation of opinion this year showed the strength of opposition to an attack on the law. The strength of feeling was reflected in important developments such as the motion passed by the Trades Union Congress in

September on abortion.

The procedures adopted for the Report Stage of the HFE Bill in October meant no votes were taken on the amendments that had been tabled to bring about positive improvements in the law – particularly by extending abortion law to Northern Ireland. Abortion Rights' campaigning put these goals on the political and public agenda in a new, high profile way. Our AGM is an opportunity to consider the next stages in our campaigning.

The campaign had to respond to unfolding developments – including dates for parliamentary votes and announced or changed at short notice – and communicate these to our supporters. The scale of campaigning organised reflected the strong pro-choice opinion of many individuals and organisations.

The Executive Committee has worked as a strong and active team through the year. We would also like register the hard work of many individuals who have volunteered time to help in our office, with events, in fund-raising, encouraging membership and organising local meetings, stalls and speakers at conferences.

Many new members have joined during the year and others have renewed, and this support has been very important. Affiliated organisations have played a very active role and recognition is due to many, particularly trade unions, who have politically and practically supported women's rights to choose. And the Executive Committee would like to record our appreciation of Abortion Rights' employees in this important year.

## Abortion Rights September 2007 – December 2008

Our last AGM was held on **8 September 2007**, and was attended by around 40 people. Although it preceded the emergence of the government's **Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill (HFE)**, discussion covered the steady stream of smaller scale attempts to restrict abortion law and the positive improvements we wished to see in the law. Thanks to Unite for providing a venue.

A film showing of Vera Drake was held at London's Barbican Centre on **22 October**, together with a discussion panel including Mike Leigh, Lord David Steel and Polly Toynbee marked the 40th anniversary of the Abortion Act. Opinion polling showed strong support for a woman's right to choose.

In **November 2007**, the introduction of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill – and the acceptance that abortion amendments would be allowed – provided the first serious parliamentary opening for anti-abortionists to try to restrict women's abortion rights since 1990. This followed more than three years of agitation from the anti-abortion lobby through backbench bills and propaganda. The pro-choice movement also sought to assert the improvements women needed under this Bill. Abortion Rights began its series of parliamentary mailings to peers and MPs in support of our views. Members took our banner on the Reclaim the Night march. Thanks are due to Unite for support in producing campaign materials.

On **16th January**, coinciding with the Lords' stage of the Bill, Abortion Rights organised a public meeting in Westminster to launch the campaign to defend the time limit and grounds and put forward women's right to choose. Over 300 supporters packed into the largest committee room in parliament and filled a large overspill room, prompting coverage in the Guardian. The platform included Baroness Joyce Gould, Baroness Jenny Tonge, Emily Thornberry MP, John Bercow MP, Katy Clark MP, Diane Abbott MP, Laura Moffatt MP, Evan Harris MP, Narmada Thiranyagama TUC women's equality policy officer, Wendy Savage, Doctors for A

Woman's Choice on Abortion, Anni Marjoram, adviser to the Mayor of London, Alex Kemp, NUS Disabled Students' Campaign, Anne Quesney, Abortion Rights, Marge Berer, Voice for Choice, Katherine Rake, Fawcett Society and was chaired by Anne Kane, Abortion Rights, with the overspill meeting chaired by Janet Mearns, Abortion Rights. Speakers opposed restrictive amendments tabled in the Lords, while others specifically argued against the suggestion of any kind of 'trade off' between a lowering of the time limit and some potential improvements in early access. On 28 January a restrictive amendment moved by Baroness Masham was defeated in the Lords.



Photo: Matt Seywell

*16 January public meeting, Westminster*

In **February** and **March**, Ann Widdecombe and Lord David Alton launched a nationwide road show to promote a lowering of the abortion time limit. Abortion Rights mobilised peaceful protests at events in London, Glasgow, Liverpool, Cardiff and Coventry. EC members were involved in organising and helping in a number of the protests. The events provided an opportunity for pro-choice supporters in those cities to get in touch with each other and plan activities, and put women's rights to choose to the centre of the debate.

In **March**, Abortion Rights organised a 'Stand up and be counted' event for International Women's day. At Westminster supporters formed a human chain in the shape of a giant 83% – the proportion supporting a woman's right to choose in opinion polls. The event was held adjacent to the big CapitalWoman conference, where we





London protest, 6 February

held a workshop and organised a stall. Members took our banner on the million women's march later in the day. In March we also attended the TUC women's conference in Eastbourne, where defend and extend abortion rights was the conference theme, ran a stall and addressed an evening rally. A strongly pro-choice motion was agreed and was also chosen as the priority to go to that year's Trades Union Congress (see below). Abortion Rights was also profiled at the NUS Women's Conference in March, where EC member Bryony Shanks, and Charlotte Gage from the office, ran a workshop and organised a stall. Bryony and Cat Smith, EC members, also helped promote the campaign at NUS national conference later in the month.



NUS photocall, Blackpool

On Saturday 5th **April** an Extraordinary General Meeting of Abortion Rights was held. The meeting allowed issues around our strategy to be debated and resolved. A number of EC members had resigned in January and February and 20 members had called for an EGM. An

Executive Committee motion was moved by Anne Kane and seconded by Marian Brain, and was unanimously supported. The EGM was chaired by AR vice-chair Ann Henderson and attracted a strong attendance from a wide geographical area. Registration included 190 individual members and 26 affiliates, and a further 108 proxy authorisations. A conference arrangements committee was established for the conference and comprised, Anni Marjoram, Sarah Colborne and Mary Pimm, who organised the business so that this formal event ran smoothly and inclusively even though it coincided with a heightened workload. Several other EC members helped with practical tasks in the run up to the AGM and on the day. Thanks were noted to the South East Region TUC (SERTUC) for supporting the venue for the EGM, to CWU for sponsoring circulation of mailings, and to our employees, volunteers and EC members in assisting. A report with decisions of the EGM was sent to members and affiliates in a full postal mailing.

A week of action was held from 21st to 27th April – to raise awareness of the forthcoming debate in parliament. Members were encouraged to write to local newspapers, visit MP surgeries or write using our updated model letter and postcard, or collect signatures on Abortion Rights petition. Trade unions, NUS and other affiliates distributed Abortion Rights' postcards to MPs. Abortion Rights sent new briefings to MPs ahead of the debate. We worked with others in the Voice for Choice network in support of a photo-call to spotlight the campaign to defend the abortion time limit. Also in April, Amnesty International UK's AGM affirmed a pro-choice position on abortion, overwhelmingly supporting a motion endorsing Amnesty's International Council decision in August 2007 and enabling

'AI to recognise and take account of the difficulties women and girls face with unwanted pregnancy, whether because they have been sexually assaulted, or because of a severe risk to their life or health'.

A number of Abortion Rights members helped support this development.

In **May**, with debates on anti-abortion amendments anticipated, campaigning

intensified further. On **7th May** we organised a national lobby of parliament and public meeting. Print and email publicity was widely circulated. Supporters included fpa, TUC, Scottish TUC, NUS, UNISON, UNITE the union, UCU, GMB, PCS, NAPO, ASLEF, RMT, FBU, bpas, Education for Choice, Fawcett Society, the British Humanist Association, the New Humanist Magazine, and the National Secular Society. Speakers at the evening public meeting were Diane Abbott MP, Julie Bentley, Director family planning association, Katy Clark MP; Stuart Derbyshire Phd, Dr Evan Harris MP, Sally Hunt, General Secretary UCU, Robert Key MP, Jane Loftus CWU, Chris McCafferty MP, Katherine Rake, Fawcett Society, Wendy Savage, DWCA, Kat Stark, NUS, Sarah Veale, TUC, Zoe Williams, Guardian Columnist, Marian Brain, an Abortion Rights EC member, who spoke of her later abortion experience, and the meeting was introduced and chaired by Anne Kane, Abortion Rights EC. Good media coverage was secured.



*protest 20 May, London*

Abortion Rights updated its briefing and lobbying materials to parliamentarians, and these were provided to the national trade unions and NUS for use with MPs. Email and telephone contact with our individual members encouraged one-to-one lobbying of MPs, and a telephone canvass revealed the vast majority of members acted. During May the date of the key votes on anti-abortion amendments became known. As this was to be **20th May**, Abortion Rights called a further mass protest outside parliament that day. This was sponsored by the TUC, NUS and others. Many affiliates publicised the protest. More than 1000 attended, and the protest

secured strong media coverage. Thanks are due to Finn, Judith, Sarah and other EC members who helped organise stewarding of this and other events through the year. The evening before, hundreds of protesters also gathered in Glasgow and Edinburgh, at events which also won a media profile for our views.

The **Committee Stage voting** on the evening of 20th May reflected the importance of these months of campaigning. Women's rights to choose had been put at the centre of the debate – and anti-abortion propaganda successfully countered. Campaigning, work by trade unions, students and individuals, and by pro-choice allies in parliament ensured as strong as possible an attendance at the vote by MPs opposed to reducing the time limit. The voting defeated a string of anti-abortion amendments – a huge victory for women. While the outcome was decisive, the detailed pattern of voting within the political parties showed some entrenched anti-abortion views as well as confusion.

The votes were:

- 71 for 12 weeks, 393 against
- 84 for 16 weeks, 387 against
- 190 for 20 weeks, 332 against
- 233 for 22 weeks, 304 against

In its update to members, analysing and reporting on the outcome, Abortion Rights pointed out that 'Nadine Dorries MP has pledged to continue with her fight to lower the time limit. We must ensure that this is the end of anti-abortion attacks. We are calling on parliamentarians to put the focus back where it should be: on improving women's access to safe, legal abortion and removing the unfair and cruel obstacles and delays that women still face.'



*Women's reception, TUC, Brighton*



### **'Resolution carried unanimously at TUC 2008**

*'Congress believes that a woman's right to choose with regards to abortion is a fundamental right. Congress believes abortion should be legally available at the request of the woman and the requirement that two doctors agree to her decision should be ended.*

*Congress notes that the 1967 Abortion Act has saved the lives and health of thousands of women. Congress notes that research shows that 27 per cent of PCTs have delays beyond three weeks for abortion services due to under-funding in the NHS. Congress also notes that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill currently in Parliament is subject to anti-abortion amendments to reduce the abortion time limit from 24 weeks and to impose a 'cooling off' period and compulsory counselling. Congress believes such measures would have appalling consequences for women seeking abortion and assume women are not capable of making their own decision.*

*Congress re-affirms its support for a woman's right to choose, and believes that the debate on abortion is dominated by sensationalist reporting in the media. Congress recognises that control over whether to have children, and when and how many, is crucial to every other aspect of a woman's life, and that three quarters of people in Britain support a woman's right to make her own decision. Congress believes the law should be modernised to allow women, not doctors, to make the abortion decision, like every other medical procedure.*

*Congress, therefore, opposes any attempt to restrict existing legal rights, and calls on the TUC Women's Committee to:*

- i) campaign amongst affiliates, and with the Irish, Scottish and Welsh Women's Committees, to defend the current legal upper limit of 24 weeks and oppose any mandatory 'cooling-off' period and compulsory counselling;*
- ii) work closely with Abortion Rights UK to defend the 24-week time limit and ensure pro-choice amendments are put forward to liberalise the current legislation;*
- iii) campaign for the right of workers in sexual health and abortion services to be free to work without fear of abuse or attack;*
- iv) call for the extension of the 1967 Act to Northern Ireland;*

## **Abortion Rights Scotland**

Since October 2007, Abortion Rights supporters in Scotland have organised a number of student meetings, trade union events, lobbying MPs, and protest actions to coincide with the relevant parliamentary business days at Westminster, when the amendments to the HFE Bill were being discussed.

In January 2008, on the first date of the Anne Widdicombe roadshow, students at Glasgow University organised an effective demonstration. NUS Scotland Women's campaign has promoted women's rights on abortion as a priority, and NUS has been represented at all our Scottish activities. We have also been able to participate in the meetings of the Cross Party Group on Sexual Health in the Scottish Parliament, and will be developing joint work in the coming months. Abortion Rights has developed liaison with a range of organisations, including Terence Higgins Trust Scotland, and fpa Scotland. An Edinburgh Abortion Rights Group has been established, and is preparing an event for the New Year.

A successful fringe meeting was held at the STUC Women's conference in Glasgow in November 2007, and at the 2008 STUC Women's Conference in Perth in November, Abortion Rights led a workshop discussion with delegates. Delegates at that Conference overwhelmingly adopted a motion supporting Abortion Rights, and committing to campaigning together for a woman's right to choose in the year ahead (see below).

Ann Henderson

- v) call for any review of current provision to recognise the need for better access to family planning services, and for improved sex education in schools; and*
- vi) publish guidance and support for trade unions on workplace issues relating to access to abortion and time off for treatment.*

TUC Women's Conference'

## EDM 2009

### Chris McCafferty MP

*'That this House supports access to safe abortion as early as possible for women who need one; recognises that medical ethics, practice and social attitudes about abortion have progressed since the Abortion Act was framed in 1967; is concerned that the current legislation imposes clinically unnecessary restrictions which cause delays, resulting in abortion taking place at a later gestation than is necessary; notes the Science and Technology Committee's recent inquiry into the 'Scientific Developments relation to the Abortion Act 1967' which found no evidence to support the need for two doctors' signatures for a woman to have an abortion; recommended that suitably trained healthcare practitioners as well as doctors should be permitted to perform abortions, that the restriction on the locations where abortions could take place should be removed to give women the choice of completing the second stage of early medical abortion at home; further notes these recommendations are supported by the RCOG, the RCN, the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare, fpa, Antenatal Results and Choices, Abortion Rights, the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, Marie Stopes International, Doctors for a Woman's Choice on Abortion and Brook; further notes these organisations support provision of safe abortions in other primary care settings as a way to increase choice, improve access and minimise delay; and urges hon. Members to support amendments to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill to modernise the law and improve women's early access to abortion.'*

During **September** Abortion Rights worked hard to raise support during the conference season. We attended the Trades Union Congress in Brighton to support the debate on an important pro-choice policy motion. EC chair Anne Kane addressed the women's reception, and Louise Hutchins from our office promoted literature and priorities to delegates. A composite motion from the TUC Women's Conference was moved by Unite Amicus member of the TUC Womens Committee (and Abortion Rights EC member) Lorene Fabian who urged delegates to 'contact your members, organise meetings and support Abortion Rights' protests ahead of the vote so that MPs understand the strength of pro-choice feeling'. After an excellent debate the motion was agreed unanimously.

Abortion Rights was also present at the political party conferences in September, distributing information and speaking to delegates, and held a fringe meeting at the Labour conference in Manchester, chaired by EC vice-chair Ann Henderson, with speakers including Louise Hutchins from our office, Katrina Murray UNISON and fpa Director, Northern Ireland, Dr. Audrey Simpson. Abortion Rights literature was promoted at student unions and local activities.

On **Tuesday 7th October**, Abortion Rights had a further big meeting at Westminster. Speakers included Diane Abbott MP, Annie Campbell, Alliance for Choice, Kay Carberry, TUC, Assistant General Secretary, Katy Clark MP, Evan Harris MP, Jacqui Lait MP, Christine McCafferty MP, Wendy Savage, Doctors for a Woman's Choice on Abortion, Dr Audrey Simpson, fpa Northern Ireland, Polly Toynbee (Guardian) and AR chair, Anne Kane. EC members were active in



October 21 protest, Westminster, London



promoting the meeting and helping organise it smoothly on the night along with volunteers and our staff. The following day Abortion Rights supported the event by Alliance for Choice, where women who had travelled from Northern Ireland organised a photo-event and delivery of a letter at Downing Street.

Later in October, at short notice, the government scheduled the Report stage of the Bill for Wednesday 22nd. On the evening of **21st October** Abortion Rights organised a protest outside parliament attended by hundreds of supporters. Publicity was widely distributed from the office and by members, along with

an updated briefing for members to use in contacting MPs, urging them to vote for choice. The TUC and a number of individual unions also circulated publicity and briefings. An individual member, worked with our office staff to develop an innovative web-based tool to lobby MPs. The protest was attended by hundreds of supporters and addressed by a number of speakers, including MPs Diane Abbott, Katy Clarke and Alliance for Choice, and was covered by Channel 4, BBC evening news, the New Statesman, Politics.UK, the Guardian and other media.

No votes were taken due to the decision on how the debates and votes were timetabled. In criticising this, Abortion Rights pointed out that this left women – particularly those in Northern Ireland – continuing to lack important rights. Abortion Rights undertook extensive media work to publicise our continuing objectives and called on government to use its regulatory powers to improve women’s access – such as by allowing women from Northern Ireland to use NHS services when they travel to Britain for abortion and by extending the range of facilities in which early abortion can be performed. We supported and, through our office, publicised a parliamentary Early Day Motion (EDM number 2393) tabled by Diane Abbott MP on this issue. Campaigning raised awareness and support considerably, as illustrated in the number of individuals who have acknowledged that they were not fully aware that the Abortion Act did not extend to Northern Ireland, and the impact of this on women.

In **November** Abortion Rights EC members and staff attended the Scottish TUC women’s conference in Perth, addressing a workshop and supporting delegates in a debate on an excellent policy motion. The conference made Abortion Rights the recipient of its closing fund-raising appeal. Also that month, the Abortion Rights Executive Committee and office has been busy organising the Annual General Meeting – we would like to note our thanks to SERTUC for sponsoring the AGM venue and to CWU for supporting the three postal AGM mailings to members. Thanks are also due to Unite and SERTUC for support with venues for other meetings in the autumn.

In **December**, the Abortion Rights AGM 2008 was planned for Saturday 6th, at Congress House.

## EDM 2393

### Diane Abbott MP

*‘That this House supports safe, legal abortion for women, with existing time limits, no matter where they live in the United Kingdom; recognises that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, despite having abortion within its scope, was not necessarily the most appropriate way to amend the law on abortion; notes that because the Abortion Act 1967 was never extended to Northern Ireland, women in Northern Ireland do not have the same access to abortion as women in the rest of the United Kingdom; further notes that as a consequence women who are, for example, the victims of rape or incest or who are carrying a severely abnormal foetus are forced to continue their pregnancy against their will or to travel to England and pay for a private abortion, which can cost up to £2,000 and takes place later in gestation than necessary; condemns the inequity that this causes by its impact on poorer, younger and other vulnerable women; deplores the fact that thousands of women are forced into motherhood, illegal abortion or debt each year because they do not have the same reproductive rights as women in other parts of the United Kingdom; and calls on the Government to relieve this burden and provide funding for women in Northern Ireland to access NHS abortion services in Britain.’*

## Resolution agreed at Scottish TUC Women's Conference

18 November 2008

'That this Conference welcomes the defeat of attempts to reduce time limits on access to abortion services and recognises that the strength of the victory was down to the lobbying work that women in the trade union and women's rights movement have done, along with the medical profession, to show that the very few women who require late term abortions would be the most vulnerable should the time limit be cut.

Only a small proportion of abortions take place after 24 weeks. The decision to end a pregnancy later on is not taken lightly. Sometimes, this is the result of the postcode lottery of NHS provision, causing delay or hostility from GPs. Ten per cent of GPs consider themselves to be conscientious objectors and refuse to grant women an abortion. Women are best placed to decide on whether or not abortion is right for them with the support of their doctor.

"Conference welcomes the establishment of Abortion Rights (Scotland) as a part of the Abortion Rights' Campaign and instructs the STUC Women's Committee to be a full partner in this work. However, Conference firmly believes that abortion rights should remain a reserved issue, dealt with by the Westminster Parliament.

"Conference asks the STUC Women's Committee to take opportunities to be campaigning for amendments to the law, which make it easier for women to access abortions earlier in their pregnancy, including:

- the end to the requirement for 2 doctors to approve an abortion;
- enabling suitably trained healthcare professionals to carry out early abortions;
- allowing women to be at home for the second stage of an early medical abortion;
- requiring anti-choice doctors to declare a conscientious objection;
- improving the regulation of organisations offering counselling related to abortion; and
- supporting any campaign by our sisters in Northern Ireland to extend the abortion Act to Northern Ireland."

Mover: UNISON: Scotland

Seconder: National Union of Rail, Maritime & Transport Workers



Glasgow University protest, January 23rd

Photo: Duncan Brown

## Membership & Communications Thanks

Communication with our membership has been intensive this year. Abortion Rights produced a wide range of campaigning and briefing materials, at each key stage of the Bill and promoted the findings of our opinion polls to demonstrate the strength of support for our aims. We distributed regular newsletters and updates to our membership, affiliated organisations and contact lists of thousands of individual supporters. Each key activity – public meeting, protests and conferences – was publicised widely by email and print. Full postal mailings have gone out through the year, backed up by email communications. Three postal mailings have distributed AGM information. Our website is a strong campaigning and information resource.

A good media profile was achieved and Abortion Rights events were well covered in national, regional and local media. Articles, letters and research were published and provided to a range of outlets. The large number of press releases issued through the year are on the website.

Membership and affiliations have risen through the year. Our trade union affiliation was boosted by the affiliation of the National Union of Teachers and UCU, and by a significant increase in regional and local union branches. Individual membership and active membership engagement have grown significantly. Membership leaflets were distributed at a wide range of conferences, to demonstrations, in mailings by affiliates and supportive organisations. Each supporter was contacted from the office on the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the Abortion Act in April and encouraged to join, as well as after the successful parliamentary vote in May.

The 'Speak Out' website, [www.prochoicemajority.org.uk](http://www.prochoicemajority.org.uk), proved an important source of case study evidence from many individual women. The website now has over 300 messages of support and testimonies.

We would like to record thanks to the TUC and regional TUCs, and the growing number of nationally affiliated trade unions, regional, trade union branches, for support in this last year. We would also like to thank a range of volunteers who help support the office work of Abortion Rights, including Darinka Aleksic, Drew Bishop, Amy Cairns, Melissa Dear, Katy Dow, Hannah Jedh, Sue Lumsden, Nasrena Miah, Hannah Mitchell, Ben Soffa, Kate Smurthwaite, Alice Tichborne, and to Katy Ladbroke who coordinated fund-raising with the Workers Beer Company and the many volunteers that helped to raise funds.

A number of EC members have also provided assistance, time and skills which have increased office capacity during the year.

Funding sources have included the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust, Feminist Review Trust, Exelgyn, the Andrew Wainwright Reform Trust and Unison, and we would like to record our appreciation.

We would also like to thank members and affiliates who have responded to fund-raising appeals during the year, providing resources to contribute to increased campaigning costs.



**To the Abortion Rights  
2008 AGM**

**Congratulations  
on a great year of  
campaigning!  
Look forward to working  
together in 2009**

**stuc** STUC Women's Committee  
[www.stuc.org.uk](http://www.stuc.org.uk)



Unite congratulates Abortion Rights on the success of the campaign this year to protect women's abortion rights.

The defeat of the attack by the anti-abortion rights lobby was a great victory maintaining women's right to choose which was long fought for by women in this country. Congratulations also go to the many women that participated in this campaign including many Unite members. Unite will continue to support Abortion Rights in defending and extending abortion law.



The FBU Women's Committee sends Sororal Greetings to all delegates at the Abortion Rights AGM.

*PCS sends greetings to the AGM and pledges continued support for Abortion Rights' campaigning work on behalf of women*



**Public and  
Commercial  
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