

Policy Origin: **Students**

Approved by:

**Referendum – 15th March 2019
Board of Trustees – 2nd May 2019**

Expiry:

March 2022

This Union Notes:

1. The Guild's Advice Centre provides a free, confidential, impartial and non-judgemental service for all students at the University of Liverpool, and is independent of the university.
2. There were 185,824 abortions in England and Wales in 2015.
3. Abortion is legal in England up to 24 weeks under the Abortion Act 1967. However, if there is a substantial risk to the person's life, there is no time limit.
4. The Guild's Equality & Diversity policy states that: "The Guild will not tolerate discrimination, whether direct or indirect, positive or negative, on the grounds of... pregnancy and maternity...or any other arbitrary distinction."
5. On the island of Ireland there are far more restrictive regulations regarding abortion rights than in Britain.
6. There are a large number of Irish students studying at University of Liverpool.
7. NUS has official policy to support abortion rights in Ireland, particularly around the 'Repeal the 8th' Referendum 2018.

This Union Believes:

1. That the Guild should therefore support and campaign for students to have access to unbiased sexual health services, and for their legal right to choose to continue or terminate their pregnancy.
2. That anti-choice protests, sentiment and organisations are on the rise. These networks disproportionately target University campuses, and their organising methods are often purposefully designed to be extremely distressing and intimidating.
3. Through the Guild's Advice Centre, the Guild should continue to provide a free, confidential, impartial and non-judgemental service for all students.

This Union Resolves:

1. To fully adopt a pro-choice position, supporting the legal, political and moral right of students to choose including the release of an urgent public statement.
2. To continue to support and advocate the need for free, independent, impartial advice currently provided by the Guild's Advice Centre for students.
3. To support students who engage in legal, peaceful counter-protests against external anti-choice organisations on our campus.
4. To work with NUS wherever possible to support campaigns to secure Irish women's access to abortion.