

To: Community and Protective Services Committee and City of London Council

Re: abortion victim photographs shown in public

Date: June 13, 2024

I am writing this letter in response to the council attempting to create a bylaw banning the public display of abortion victim photography. I am the organiser of a group that has displayed the photos for about 25 years. We present the truth of abortion on public property and start with a warning sign. We have seen a wide range of responses from negative, neutral and positive.

Many people are surprised and their first reaction is angry but if given the chance we talk calmly and listen attentively and they tell us their stories of hurt and regret. Some choose not to stop and talk and that is their right. Young people especially question why they have not been given such vivid information before. The street is our platform and in Canada people have always used the public spaces to educate others on issues. We are grateful to have such freedom. I don't think peoples' negative reactions trump our civil right to freedom to display facts in public.

To keep this letter short, I will just tell one story. In Kitchener Ontario a teenage girl was pregnant and everyone around her said abortion was her best option. Even though she was not settled with it she made an appointment and was on her way to the hospital alone and was waiting for a city bus. We were along the street near the bus stop with the truth photos. She saw the pictures, didn't stop to talk but turned around and did not go to the abortion appointment. After about eight years she contacted us through a pro-life organization telling how close she came to aborting her son and how grateful she was that she saw the pictures before it was too late. She sent pictures of her son with the letter. I think one life saved is worth others' uneasiness to the strategy.

Rosemary Connell

To: Community and Protective Services Committee and City of London Council

Re: Abortion Victim Photography shown in public

I give my consent to have my letter to included in the agenda and/or as part of the public record concerning this issue

Rosemary Connell

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