

Charity Sister Supporter step-up 'buffer zone' Campaign for Bournemouth abortion clinic.

Charity Sister Supporter has stepped up its campaign for a 'buffer zone' surrounding the BPAS abortion clinic on Ophir Road, Bournemouth.

The charity has increased its efforts by further lobbying councillors and handing local residents leaflets.



This comes after the anti-choice group '40 days for life' targeted the Bournemouth clinic with an almost constant 40-day presence which started on February 26th.

A buffer zone would provide a safe zone around the clinic where anti-abortion and pro-life campaigners would no longer be able to protest.

Anna White, a spokesperson for Sister Supporter, said this is important because it will allow access to healthcare "free from intimidation and harassment."

Anna continued, "Currently harassment can include being followed to and from your car, met by baby clothes left on bushes, having graphic images and leaflets thrust into your hands and monks praying right outside.

"It's harassment that's not only intimidating on a day that is often challenging, but that's also dangerous.

The misinformation that's shared in anti-abortionist material is astonishing."

There are currently buffer zones in Ealing, London, which recently successfully fought a Supreme Court appeal against the zone.

However, Bournemouth is yet to see anything introduced.

The charity is currently collecting evidence to submit a petition for the local council, but Sister Supporter has national aims.

Anna said; "While Sister Supporter Bournemouth is working hard to secure a buffer zone, Sister Supporter London are working on a national campaign to ensure that every clinic in the UK is protected by law."

The campaign has picked up support from the clinic's managing company, BPAS, who has also called for national legislation as Bpas public affairs manager Rachael Clarke, said: "We will always work with local councils to put an end to the kind of sustained, damaging activity that happens outside Bournemouth."

Calls for a buffer zone are often met with criticism from pro-life and anti-abortion action groups who say it breaches the rights of assembly and to express an opinion - which many organisations often say they do peacefully despite claims of violence.

John Deighan, the deputy CEO of the society for the protection of unborn children, said: "In a free society there is a right to express an opinion, to gather with others, to protest etc,

"Pro-life people who gather at abortion clinics are primarily doing so to offer help at the last minute to any woman who may wish to keep her baby rather than proceed with an abortion."

In reference to whether buffer zones infringe Human Rights John added, "Yes. Rights recognised under human rights laws are meaningless as soon as politicians don't like those who are exercising them."

