



SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

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December 2021
Ref. NI-FS-1221 / PP 56

Dear Father,

As you may be aware Belfast City Council are proposing changes to the city's bye-laws that have the declared intent of restricting street preachers and pro-life displays in the city center. Under the proposals street preachers and pro-life campaigners alike will have to secure a council permit or face a fine of £500.

Our concern is that these proposals represent an attack on both civil and religious liberties, undermine free speech, and risk contravening Article 10 (freedom of expression) and Article 11 (freedom of assembly) of the European Convention of Human Rights. We are also concerned that, should the proposals be adopted, a precedent will be created, and similar restrictions spread to other councils, towns, and cities.

We, at the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, are campaigning for the Council to preserve freedom of speech by retaining the current bye-laws. With this letter we have included a number of postcards that you and your congregation can use to likewise register your protest. Please feel free to get in touch with me at the SPUC NI office should you have any questions or wish to order more.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Lynn
SPUC NI Development Officer

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The Society's national work is undertaken through **SPUC Pro-Life Ltd** (no. 6195816)
a company registered in England and Wales

AN URGENT MESSAGE TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

ACT NOW TO DEFEND FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Please return this postcard to SPUC Northern Ireland no later than Friday 11th February 2022 and we will present your message to Belfast City Council.

Name _____
Address _____

Postcode _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Recent proposals to alter Belfast City bye-laws represent a targeted attempt to restrict the freedom of speech of street preachers and pro-life activists alike. Under these proposals people using amplification or street displays will have to apply for a permit or face a £500 fine. Belfast City Council is clearly overstepping legitimate authority by seeking to restrict the speech of those with whom they disagree, and also risk contravening Article 10 (freedom of expression) and Article 11 (freedom of assembly) of the European Convention of Human Rights.

We, therefore, urge Belfast City Council to reject the proposed changes to city bye-laws that will restrict and curtail freedom of speech.

SPUC will add your name, address and telephone number to our database so that we can contact you by post or telephone about campaigns and opportunities to donate. We will keep your details safe and will not sell, swap or give them away. You can change your preferences anytime by email: dataprotect@spuc.org.uk or call: 020 7091 7091. You can view our privacy policy at spuc.org.uk/privacy-policy. I am also happy for you to contact me by email.

Belfast office: 02890 233061 information@spuc.org.uk

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