CBR-UK Makes History in Aberdeen, Scotland

On March 15-16, 2020, history was made in Aberdeen, Scotland. The first CBR photo signs were displayed in public, on a busy main high street near St. Nicolas Church and Cemetery. This Union Street location has hundreds of people passing on foot, or traveling by bus and car.

Abortion law in Scotland is the same as in England. Abortions are legal up to 24 weeks for any reason, and in specific cases, abortion is permitted up to birth. Most abortions in Scotland are performed by 12 weeks of pregnancy, so CBR’s abortion photo signs which focus on early abortions resonated with many people.

CBR-UK team member Dave Brennan gave a 2019 presentation that motivated a student to engage in pro-life activism. He invited CBR-UK to train a group of students from the University of Aberdeen and to help them conduct the first-ever educational display using graphic abortion images. The passionate Life Ethics Society at the university has struggled through the law courts to establish themselves and have only just begun to hold events of their own.

CBR-UK’s Kathryn Attwood reported on the response to the training and public display:

One member of the Life Ethics Society said after the presentation, “It led me to understand that the most effective form of pro-life activism is through showing graphic images.”

A law student said, “I had never seen the abortion procedure before. I was shocked by it. It really brought home the injustice of it all.”

Both these students joined us for the display the following day.

The best outcome was that we were approached by a student after the presentation, who asked if he could be the new team leader for displays in Aberdeen! He will begin training in the summer months to prepare for September.

The next day we met early to train the team in apologetics and display protocol before heading to our display location.

We had the most peaceful display and all the team members were instantly comfortable engaging the

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public in conversation even though it was the first time any of them had seen the scale of the images we’d be using. Aisling and I were so encouraged.

One man told a team member he was pro-choice at the beginning of their conversation but … by the end of their time together he told her that he had to admit she was right about it all and asked to take the leaflet he had earlier refused.

Another team member spoke with a woman and her small child. She had been pressured to abort her baby by her mother but resisted. Her sister is now pregnant and under the same pressure to have an abortion. On seeing the pictures inside the leaflet, she took it and said confidently that “This will do it; this will save the baby.” We hope the images gave them the strength to stand against the pressure to abort.

The team so enjoyed the display they didn’t want it to end and asked if we could carry on a while longer. We know they’ll be keen and ready to run another display in September when we return. Another Scottish team member was so pleased to have the support of other pro-lifers and the fellowship we shared. He felt he was in Scotland alone and has found more friends to stand alongside as he saves babies’ lives from abortion.

We connected after the debrief with one student team member from Mexico. She has offered to translate all our training videos into Spanish to allow us to roll out the training to more nations.

And one of my personal highlights was speaking with James Porter. I met him first in Cambridge when we ran a display outside the university there and he was skeptical about the use of images. A few years along … He was astounded by the speed at which the images do the job of expressing the pro-life position and change people’s minds. He has a heart to quickly see activist groups established in each university city running displays, and a community built out of it.

He told me he has decided he wants to work with CBR-UK full time and is convinced of the strategy. He wants to envision students and though his dream is big, I believe he has the passion to make it happen. I look forward to seeing him make the transition between his current full-time employment into full-time pro-life work!

CBR-UK is eager to run a Scottish tour in September and to work with the amazing men and women again. Join us in praying for them.
“Unmasking Choice” Event at Wake Tech in North Carolina

Volunteering at CBR educational photo displays is not for the faint-of-heart, largely due to the persecution we face. But cold and windy weather presented another challenge on March 5, 2020, when our determined team arrived at Wake Technological Community College, Main Campus, in Raleigh, North Carolina. They set up A-frames with ten of our 3’ by 4’ photo signs of living babies in the first trimester, as well as aborted babies.

CBR-North Carolina staff members Bill and Jeanette Schutz led the crew of four CBR staff members and three first time, enthusiastic Knights of Columbus volunteers.

Volunteer Paul encountered a young lady who thanked him several times for being there to stand against abortion. In contrast, two apparent faculty members tried to intimidate our team, claiming we shouldn’t be allowed on campus. They would not discuss our purpose, but only muttered their contempt and scurried away. This sort of professor demonstrates why we must be on U.S. college campuses to present the pro-life point of view.

Joshua Lindsey, CBR staff member, spoke with a young man who asked how old the baby was in one of our photo signs. When Mr. Lindsey told him 10½ weeks, the young man changed his mind and no longer supported early abortions. He also spoke with and received permission from Ana to pray with her as she shares the gospel with her peers on campus. Volunteer Rich joined in the prayer.

CBR staff member Mik’aela Raymond spoke with a biology professor from Germany and later a former student of his. One of the student’s arguments was that abortion should be legal if the mother would have to suffer greatly taking care of the baby after birth, such as when the child is very sick or deformed. Miss Raymond replied that there are times when a born child suddenly becomes difficult to care for, but we don’t say the child should be killed to help make the mother’s life easier. CBR spends time with such students to help them see the logical fallacies.

The Schultzes received feedback from the volunteers, all of whom had a good experience and indicated they would volunteer again. Even the students who hurried by in the blustery weather gave three-second glances at our photo signs, and seeds of truth were planted. Some stopped to dialogue with our team and many accepted our literature. A big victory is that four students signed up to attend the next CBR pro-life training class in Raleigh. CBR is helping reach and train the next generation of pro-life leaders.

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This will do it; this will save the baby.

Scottish woman who accepted a CBR-UK brochure with abortion photos for her pregnant sister

CBR-UK videos Kathryn Attwood as she describes the project in Scotland to show the public what we are doing and why we’re doing it. This video will then be skillfully posted on social media to greatly amplify our influence.

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