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Press statement

DISHING OUT FREE CONTRACEPTIVES AND THE MORNING AFTER PILL

The Life Network Foundation is in favour of discussions to improve the sexual health of the nation however it is an illusion to say that the free distribution of contraceptives is the answer to this. Giving out free contraceptives as if they are some sort of sweets will not decrease sexually transmitted disease nor unplanned pregnancies, especially if the contraceptives are not used in the ideal conditions and are distributed over the counter.

Educating youth about sexual health starts from teaching them appreciation of self respect, loyalty and friendship. Knowledge of contraceptive alternatives and how they work makes sense within this context. Youths also need to know about the effects of alcohol and drugs on clarity of mind in their sexual encounters.

Furthermore, the morning after pill is **not** a contraceptive but classified as a **contragestive** because it **can act after fertilization** has taken place.

A newly conceived life may be destroyed by the morning after pill.

Taken over the counter and at frequent intervals these pills can also cause side effects.

During yesterday's PN press conference there were two conflicting statements. On the one hand the Hon Dr Stephen Spiteri stated that the PN holds the position of protection of life from conception while Ms Emma Portelli Bonnici spoke about free distribution of the morning after pill. A contradiction of terms.

Which type of morning after pill is the PN suggesting to distribute?

Is this PN policy or a candidates' opinion on the morning after pill?

What is the PL position on this issue?

The electorate deserves an answer.

If the election is on the cards in the near future, the electorate also deserves to know what each candidate's position is with regards to abortion.

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