

Josh Brahm recording two podcast interviews with leaders from the Minimize Project in Ireland



Equipping the Pro-Life Movement in Ireland!

by Josh Brahm

A few days after returning from our January DC trip I headed to Ireland for a series of speaking events in Dublin, County Tipperary, and Galway!

As many of you know, abortion became legal in Ireland in 2018. Instead of giving up, the pro-life movement in Ireland is growing and dedicating themselves to righting this wrong. They're learning how best to fight abortion in their unique cultural context—and they've decided to model their advocacy after ERI's relational approach.

After many discussions with Irish pro-life leaders, I wrote a new speech titled, "What the Pro-Life Movement in Ireland Needs to Know in 2020." I gave the talk at the Students for Life of Ireland conference and again at a pro-life event in Galway. I will publish one of those recordings as well as the Q&A sessions on the ERI podcast in the future. I delivered four additional speeches as well as a meet-and-greet event that included a tour of the Irish Parliament building. I also recorded two podcasts with "Minimize Project," a fantastic pro-life organization in Ireland run by smart, young advocates, including one who was trained at Oxford University. They interviewed me for the first episode of their podcast, and then I interviewed them for the Equipped for Life Podcast.

This trip reaffirmed something I learned during my speaking trip in Denmark in 2018:

ERI's approach to dialogue skills and pro-life apologetics is particularly needed in countries where the culture has turned against the pro-life movement.

Interestingly, the way this obstacle manifests is different in Ireland than in Denmark. In Denmark, people are just confused that anyone is even debating abortion anymore. They see it as a settled issue. "We don't need to talk about abortion. We're debating Muslim immigration and climate change now." The pro-life movement there is very small, yet as I got to see firsthand, courageous.

In Ireland, a cultural shift has happened more recently. The opinion polls on abortion there aren't perfect, but one pro-life leader estimated that while two-thirds of the country used to be pro-life, now only about one-third is. That change is due to multiple factors, including a reaction to Savita Halappanavar's death which was wrongly blamed on the pro-life law at the time, as well as a turning against the Catholic Church. Because Ireland has always identified as a strongly Catholic country when the scandal about sexually abusive priests came out, many people came to hate the church. They saw their vote for abortion rights as a way to show contempt for the church, given that the

Catholic church is connected with pro-life ideation.

I'm so grateful that I was able to both encourage and equip the pro-life community in Ireland. Given what the leaders from Denmark, Ireland and Scotland have said about the benefit of our training materials in their countries, I'm planning on pursuing more international trips. I hope to influence countries where abortion is not yet legal. What if we were able to help prevent abortion becoming legal in some places?





DC Trip 2020!

January was our most successful DC trip as an organization yet!

As you can see from the top picture, the banners came out great and we had a real visible presence at the March for Life. Not only did it make it easy for our followers to find us, but it also piqued people's curiosity who asked what "a fresh approach to pro-life dialogue" means! We handed out flyers for the Equipped for Life course and told them about how ERI can help their advocacy.

We were even able to use the banners at our National Pro-Life Summit booth, shown on the left. We talked with pro-lifers from all over, including a doctor from Australia who used to be pro-choice and has been helped by our bodily rights arguments. Josh spoke on a panel in front of roughly 200 students on why men have an important role in advocating for the unborn, and how to respond effectively to the common pro-choice mantra, "Men can't talk about abortion."

The bottom picture shows Josh filming a video about the Equal Rights Argument for a

partnership project with CareNet. This video has animation in the style of "PragerU" videos so pro-life advocates can easily understand the Equal Rights Arguments and share it online. We've seen an early cut and it's going to be fantastic. It will be published in the following months, so be sure to look for it!

During the same trip, we also met with the leaders and students from SPUC Scotland as has become tradition. (Shown below.) They showed us a presentation they've been giving on overpopulation and then we answered dialogue and sidewalk counseling questions from their students before driving home.



Thank you so much to everyone who financially supported our March for Life trip and banners this year!

Personal Note to Josh's Friends and Supporters

Have I mentioned lately that my Mom is awesome? Because it's worth repeating, given that she took care of our kids for over a week so that Hannah could come with me to Ireland! She even let us stay an extra few days to give us time for sightseeing, which is the only reason we were able to see the Cliffs of Moher and Loop Head, literally the two most beautiful places I've ever seen. Seeing those cliffs in person, something I've seen so many pictures of, literally brought tears to my eyes. If you haven't watched my recent ERI Update video at our YouTube channel, check it out because of the many beautiful shots of Ireland I added. The trip gave us a wonderful break and made for a great anniversary trip, as we celebrated our 14th wedding anniversary a week later.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that I recently recorded the piano piece I wrote for my Dad, I've now posted that recording to my personal YouTube channel, so you can hear it by visiting [YouTube.com/JoshBrahmMusic](https://www.youtube.com/JoshBrahmMusic). I'm very happy

that others have enjoyed it, and even connected to their own personal grief through it.



And now for my obligatory cute kid picture, William and Eli recently had to share a room because of company coming. They loved it so much that now they "get to" whenever it's not a school night. When Hannah went to check on them and cover them up with their blankets she found them just like that. >>>

Heart. Melted.

Warmly,

~ Josh

