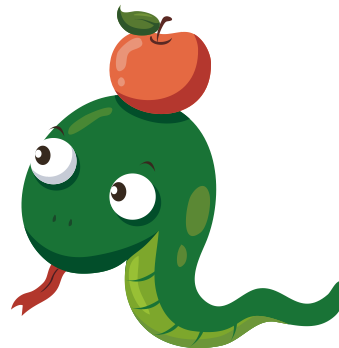


Why is 'normal' birth regarded as abnormal?

Because democracies move from oppression to liberalism, from superstition to reason and from darkness to enlightenment



1591 Lady Euframe MacAlyane



1824 Repeal of the Combination Act enabled people to get together to campaign for political reform.

1903 WSPU founded by Emmeline Pankhurst
The suffragettes fight religious opposition to pain relief

1928 – National Birthday Trust – 1 in 200 births result in maternal death. Ladies Baldwin and Astor campaign for better maternity care/pain relief for all social classes.

The origins of 'normal' birth Movement

- 1956 Obstetrician Grantly Dick Read becomes first president of Natural Childbirth Trust later NCT.
- Occurs just as epidural technology is being developed and therefore women for the first time have access to effective pain relief.
- 2007 Daily Mail “*****ing hell, can’t any woman give birth naturally? NHS worker rants at caesarean mum”

Political failure – Cyber success

- 2002 10% homebirth target in Wales
- 2000 onwards Mumsnet and Netmums Yahoo groups formed – BTA and other groups with 'open' access .
- 2009/2010 **Growing call to respect women's choices and put good outcomes for women and babies - not ideology - at the heart of services.**
- **The future meaning of normal birth – ANY birth ending in a happy and healthy mother and baby.**