

Women Speak FOR THEMSELVES

November Note from Helen

November is an important month for your WSFT Gathering. The holidays offer no end of opportunity to connect with friends and loved ones. Yet many of us feel uncomfortable when we “leave the choir loft” to find that our friends and relatives vocally support ideas that are objectively terrible for women—defending “rights” to abortion, contraception, and non-marital sex that immiserate people.

It can be really, really hard to articulate what we believe on these matters, without disturbing close relationships. We don’t want you to fight over the holidays, but we do want you to feel free to share the truth when Cousin Tonya starts talking about women’s “universal right” to BC. So, for this Gathering, we are going to give you some tips on how to communicate with people who feel entirely different from you about birth control, abortion, and relationships between men and women...all the while combining truth with graciousness.

1. [This blog](#) gives you the basics for expressing disagreement on hot-button issues.
2. [This blog post](#) gives a formula for talking specifically about contraception, whether it’s on social media or to your family members at the Thanksgiving table.
3. [This article](#) talks about speaking for ourselves when arguments turn political. Though addressed to writers, it applies equally to conversation.
4. [This post](#) offering tips on how to use “comment boxes” on news websites, but the advice also applies to how to craft short comments for public social media pages.

And [here are your Gatherings questions \(and an activity!\)](#) for November.

It is my sincere hope that these suggestions will empower you to raise your voice, even if it’s just quietly and politely at the dinner table.

Also, just as a head’s up: this month, we’ll be giving you an opportunity to speak for yourself on social media ahead of the #ThxBirthControl campaign. WSFT will send you ideas, including a list of suggested tweets to pass along to your Gatherings group. You can also re-tweet and share tweets, statuses, and graphics from WSFT’s Facebook and Twitter page to your own social networks.

Warmly,

Helen