

TARGET OVARIAN CANCER

United Kingdom



GLOBAL
OVARIAN
CANCER
CHARTER
a World Ovarian Cancer
Coalition initiative

“Target Ovarian Cancer is championing the Global Ovarian Cancer Charter in the United Kingdom because it will spearhead a much-needed increase in awareness of ovarian cancer and an unprecedented opportunity to drive our mutual goal of transformational change for women through international collaboration.”



..... CHARTER
CHAMPION

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CHAMPION PROJECT: ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Target Ovarian Cancer's first Pathfinder Study documented the experiences of UK women with ovarian cancer. The results were launched at a parliamentary reception in 2010 and led directly to the formation of an All Party Parliamentary Group on Ovarian Cancer that has played an active role in discussing key issues in awareness, diagnosis and treatment of ovarian cancer, and bringing them before fellow politicians and decision makers over the last ten years. The number of UK women who live at least a year beyond their diagnosis is very low when compared to some other countries, 20% are diagnosed too late for any treatment and the UK has the lowest proportion of women being diagnosed within a month of first visiting a doctor when compared to other countries in the Every Woman Study.

The members of the group are elected representatives (Members of Parliament) from around the United Kingdom, or are members from the House of Lords, and represent all the main political parties. The group has no formal powers but is vital in raising awareness of ovarian cancer issues in Parliament. Target Ovarian Cancer continues to provide secretariat duties to the group. Women who have ovarian cancer are central to the success of the group in presenting their experiences and encouraging support from their own MPs. Membership has included MPs with personal or family experience of the disease, as well as those with campaigning constituents.

During the last ten years the group has initiated debates in Parliament, held meetings with Ministers for Health, and challenged policy makers. Successes include ovarian cancer being part of pilot 'Be Clear on Cancer' awareness campaigns run by Public Health England, improving access to new drugs, and more recently holding an inquiry entitled "Diagnosing ovarian cancer sooner, what more can be done?" Each March members dress up as Teal Heroes and share the images on social media and Target Ovarian Cancer share the images with local press.

The Coalition chose to showcase this programme because it shows an impactful way of engaging with politicians and policy makers. Women's experience is key to driving the interest of politicians, either through their constituents or personal or family experiences. This group is an important mechanism to bring key issues in front of those who can effect change, involving the whole ovarian cancer community.

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