

UKIP and the EFDD back the EU Thalidomide Survivors' Campaign

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Press Release

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â€¢ At a press conference in the European Parliament today (27.05.2015) UKIP and other MEPs from the Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy group expressed their continuing support for the [EU thalidomide survivors' campaign](#)

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The German pharmaceutical company Grunenthal marketed the drug in the late 1950s as a harmless pain killer, yet thalidomide proved to be the most infamous drug of modern times. The drug caused thousands of foetal deaths and abnormalities worldwide.

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Evidence has emerged that the trial of Grunenthal was prematurely ended in 1970 with the active participation and encouragement of the German Federal Government. This meant that thousands of victims were, and continue to be, denied the right to the compensation they deserve.

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EFDD MEPs attended the press conference to show support, and [UKIP MEP Steven Woolfe](#) was invited to speak at the press conference. He said, "An injustice endures 50 years on after the biggest peace time man-made disaster in European history with the abhorrent treatment of the Thalidomide survivors."

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"We believe that the best way forward is the German Government to allow their ambassadors in Sweden, Italy, Spain and the UK to meet with the representatives of those suffering and reach an honest and fair end to this injustice."

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Diane James, MEP and UKIP Home Affairs spokesman, added: "Even in the UK we do not have a resolution of the problem and it ought to be a resolution found this year because most of the victims are in their 50s and they should not be another forgotten group who die with their problems unresolved and unrecognised."