



Labour Party in Northern Ireland

Women in Northern Ireland are being short changed – they need a Labour Voice.

Did you know that:

- The 1967 Abortion Act does not extend to Northern Ireland.
- The only exceptions are to save a woman's life, or if there is a risk of permanent and serious damage to her mental or physical health.
- Last year official figures confirmed that around 40 terminations a year are carried out on these grounds.
- Abortion in NI is still governed by the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 which carries a life sentence for anyone assisting in an abortion.
- That is the same legislation as applied in the Republic of Ireland which led to the tragic death of Savita Halapannavar last year.
- Despite being UK citizens and taxpayers, women from NI do not qualify for NHS abortions elsewhere in the UK.
- Every year around 40 legal abortions are carried out in Northern Ireland because the mental or physical health, or the life, of the woman is at serious or grave risk.
- Every week around 40 women travel across to England from Northern Ireland to have a private abortion at a cost of around £2000 each.
- Democratic Unionist Party Health Minister Edwin Poots wants to toughen up enforcement of the 1861 Act to reduce this number.
- The DUP want to prevent Marie Stopes providing early abortion procedures. The SDLP, officially Labour's sister party, has supported them on this issue.
- Labour members in Northern Ireland are not allowed to contest elections by the party leadership.

No wonder 51% of women here told an opinion poll earlier in 2013 that they wouldn't bother to vote in an Assembly election.

The Labour Party in Northern Ireland are fighting hard to redress these inequalities.

In 2012, a general meeting of LPNI unanimously voted for the immediate introduction of the Abortion Act 1967 to Northern Ireland. Nationally, the Labour party supports the Tories in refusing to either extend the Act or provide Northern Ireland women with NHS abortions elsewhere in the UK.

We need a Labour Voice, we need Equal Choice

What People Say About Abortion in Northern Ireland

‘If this is the backwoods, I’m glad we’re in it.’

‘Pro-choice is pro-death’.

Edwin Poots, DUP Health Minister for Northern Ireland

‘The SDLP is a pro-life party and has been consistent in our total opposition to abortion’.

Pat Ramsey, SDLP Chief Whip

‘If one is prepared to contemplate the destruction of a highly disabled unborn child in the womb one should also be prepared to contemplate, I think, putting a bullet in the back of the head of the child two days after it is born.’

John Larkin QC, May 2008. He is currently Northern Ireland’s Attorney General.

‘If I give women in Newcastle upon Tyne the right to have an abortion then I should give it to Newcastle in County Down. It’s her choice.’

Baroness May Blood, LPNI Patron and Labour peer

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