

[Jobs](#) [Cars](#) [Homes](#)

[Register](#) [Login](#) [Newsletter](#)

News Letter

[Home](#) [News](#) [Health](#) [Politics](#) [Crime](#) [Farming](#) [Education](#) [Business](#) [More](#)

Pro-choice campaigners take illegal abortion pills in Northern Ireland

By
DAVID YOUNG
[Email](#)

Published: 14:21
Updated: 15:26
Thursday 31 May 2018

Share this



Sign Up To Our Daily Newsletter

Sign up

Pro-choice campaigners have taken illegal abortion pills outside Northern Ireland's main court building in defiance of the strict laws governing terminations.

Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK where the procedure is not legal, aside from exceptional cases. Ireland has voted to allow it in early pregnancy.



Pills

There was a heavy security presence and counter-demonstrations by anti-abortion activists in Belfast centre.

About Cookies On This Site ×

Our site uses cookies so that we can remember you, understand how you use our site and serve you relevant adverts and content. Click **AGREE** to accept cookies on this website.

If you do not agree with our use of cookies you can change the cookie settings in the [Cookie Consent Tool](#) or by using the [Cookie Settings](#) link at the bottom of the page. You can also read more about cookies and similar technologies in our [Privacy & Cookies Policy](#).

Agree



Ruth Coppinger TD addresses the crowds outside Belfast's Crown and High Courts where counter-demonstrations were held sides of the Northern Irish abortion argument. Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK where the procedure is not legal.

After several minutes, the officers abandoned their attempt to speak with the woman and left the area.

Eleanor Crossey Malone, from socialist feminist movement Rosa, was one of those who took the pill in television cameras.

She said: "I have taken this in defiance of the extremely outdated, medieval, anti-choice laws that exist Northern Ireland.

"We are not willing in the wake of the repeal referendum to be left behind any longer.



Pro choice campaigners outside Belfast's Crown and High Courts where counter-demonstrations were held by both sides of the Northern Irish abortion argument. Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK where the procedure is not legal

"Northern Ireland after repeal will be one of only two jurisdictions remaining in Europe to criminalise effectively for having abortions.

"We are not willing to accept it any more."

Earlier, campaigners addressed the crowd, among them pro-choice activists and Irish parliamentarian Copping TD.

After a tense hour-long encounter staged in an open area between Belfast's Crown and High Courts, the choice activists boarded a bus.



Campaigners intervene after police try to lead away one of the three women (centre with sunglasses) who publicly took an abortion pill during a demonstration outside Belfast's Crown and High Courts, where counter-demonstrations were held by both sides in the Northern Irish abortion argument. Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK where the procedure is not legal.

They drove towards a constituency office of the anti-abortion Democratic Unionists, who oppose liberalisation in Northern Ireland, to continue their day of protest.

Prime Minister Theresa May has come under pressure to legislate for abortion in Northern Ireland since the Stormont Assembly has been suspended for months.

At Thursday's protest there was chanting involving supporters of both sides of the emotive debate. Opponents included anti-abortion activist Bernie Smyth.

Three women gathered in a circle and others dressed as handmaidens, in reference to the Margaret Atwood novel *The Handmaid's Tale* about women's rights being stripped away, stood behind them.

The three women produced and took the tablets.

Ms Crossey Malone added: "Women every day in Northern Ireland are using these pills - as long as we talk about it, as long as we act like it is a secret, politicians are not under pressure to legislate on this.

"We are bringing it into the spotlight in order to demand that politicians take action on this immediately extend the 1967 Abortion Act to Northern Ireland."

She said the PSNI was under enormous pressure and was aware of the international pressure inspired by the repeal movement.

"There is pressure on the state at every level to change the situation here, it has been described as a violation of human rights."

She added that they were "willing to flout the law because we do believe it violates human rights".

Sponsor

13 Comics Showing What Love Looks Like Before and After 30

COSMO WOMENS

Gamers around the world have been waiting for this game! Already 35 million players

GREPOLIS - ONLINE FREE GAME

New Site Finds the Cheapest Flights in Seconds!

FLIGHTFINDER

12 Facts How Coconut Oil Will Change Your Life

12FACTS.COM

15 Pictures You Need To See Before You Die - Ammmazing

AMMMAZING

The Top 10 Cheapest Countries To Buy a Home

WOMENARTICLE.COM

15 Most Beautiful Women In The World

CRAZY FREELANCER

Voordelige auto lening. Ontvang nu je scherpe aanbod

EXCITE SEARCH

The 20 Most Expensive Watches in 2018 - Dress Like a Boss

TOEXPENSIVE.COM

10 Countries That Don't Want You To Visit

BORED ARTICLES

**Seismic wave will hit NI, says pro-choice protestors**

Hundreds of pro-choice activists have vowed to hit Northern Ireland like a “seismic wave” as they stepped up their change with a Belfast rally.

**Andrew Lincoln to leave The Walking Dead – here's why fans should follow suit**

iNews

Andrew Lincoln is reportedly set to leave The Walking Dead during season nine – and the news has come as a shock to those who can't believe the show is still being made. Lincoln, who plays lead character Rick Grimes, is reportedly

You May Like**It's True - You Can Start Speaking Spanish In 3 Weeks**

Babbel

People from Netherlands cannot believe these flight prices

Trips Shop

Sponsor

Trending

- 1 TT 2018: New red flag procedure confirmed after collision between rider and official...
- 2 TT 2018: Manx rider Dan Kneen killed following crash in practice
- 3 John Cleese slammed by DUP over 'derogatory' remarks
- 4 Michael Portillo (and his jacket) turn heads in Belfast
- 5 'Double tragedy' for Tyrone family after death of boy, 15

More from News

Eighth Amendment had 'seeds of its own destruction': pro-life ex-SDLP leader

As a trade off unionism could agree to stay in customs union for 20 years if nationalism agrees to no border poll in that time

Allister: practical as well as moral concerns in abortion rape cases

The Catholic nationalist Irish state alienated Protestants



Jobstoday

Apply for local jobs today



Start your job search at jobstoday.co.uk

APPLY NOW

Follow Us On

Explore

- [News](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [RHI Scandal](#)
- [Lifestyle](#)
- [What's On](#)
- [Farming Life](#)

More from the Belfast News Letter

- [Announcements](#)
- [Directory](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Dating](#)
- [Public Notices](#)
- [Must Read](#)
- [Travel Insurance](#)

- [Buy a Photo](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Local Guide](#)
- [Reader Shop](#)
- [Read This](#)
- [Events](#)

Useful Links

- [Contact Us](#)
- [Place your Ad](#)
- [Advertise a Job](#)
- [Subscribe](#)
- [Readers Charter](#)

© 2018 Johnston Publishing Ltd. All rights reserved.

[Terms and Conditions](#) [Disclaimer](#) [Privacy & Cookies Policy](#)