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# Pro-Choice Activists Are Using Drones to Deliver Abortion Pills

Pretty clever, if you ask us.

BY [JILL WALDBIESER \(/AUTHOR/JILL-WALDBIESER\)](#), June 21, 2016



PHOTOGRAPH BY SHUTTERSTOCK



If you think Amazon is using drones in clever ways, you haven't seen anything yet. This morning, several women's rights groups used one of the aerial transport devices to deliver [abortion pills](#) (<http://www.womenshealthmag.com/life/mifeprex-new-label-abortion>) to Northern Ireland, the only U.K. country that outlaws the procedure, reports [The Guardian](#) (<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jun/21/drone-delivers-abortion-pills-to-northern-irish-women>).

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The move was meant to draw attention to the country's [restrictive abortion laws](#) (<http://www.womenshealthmag.com/life/oklahoma-abortion-law>), which, according to [Amnesty International](#) (<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/Abortion-in-Ireland-and-Northern-Ireland>), make seeking to terminate a pregnancy punishable by jail time, without exceptions for incest, [rape](#) (<http://www.womenshealthmag.com/life/teen-poet-rape-culture>), or pregnancies that threaten the life of the mother or child. Even buying the pills, a combination of the drugs mifepristone and misoprostol, is illegal there, and women have faced sentences as severe as life in prison for helping people obtain the drugs.

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Several pro-choice groups, including Women on Waves, the Alliance for Choice, the Abortion Rights Campaign, Rosa, and the Labour Allegiance, arranged the historic drone flight to coincide with a pending appeal against a 2015 ruling that found Northern Ireland's strict abortion laws in violation of human rights legislation.

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The drone delivery was received by protestors who were not pregnant, but ingested the pills as a demonstration of how safe they were. Protests are planned to continue in front of the Belfast Court of Appeal this afternoon, reports *The Guardian*.

This is not the first time activists have done this. In 2015, [Women on Waves](http://www.womenonwaves.org/en/page/5636/abortion-drone--first-flight-to-poland) (<http://www.womenonwaves.org/en/page/5636/abortion-drone--first-flight-to-poland>) used drones to drop the pills into Poland, which has some of the strictest laws in Europe.

With more and more states in the U.S. [restricting women's access to reproductive care](http://www.womenshealthmag.com/life/indiana-abortion-bill) (<http://www.womenshealthmag.com/life/indiana-abortion-bill>), we'd like to extend a warm invitation to our neck of the woods.

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