

NEWS

Pro-choice campaigners swallow illegal abortion pills in front of cops in Belfast after neighbouring Ireland's vote to overturn ban

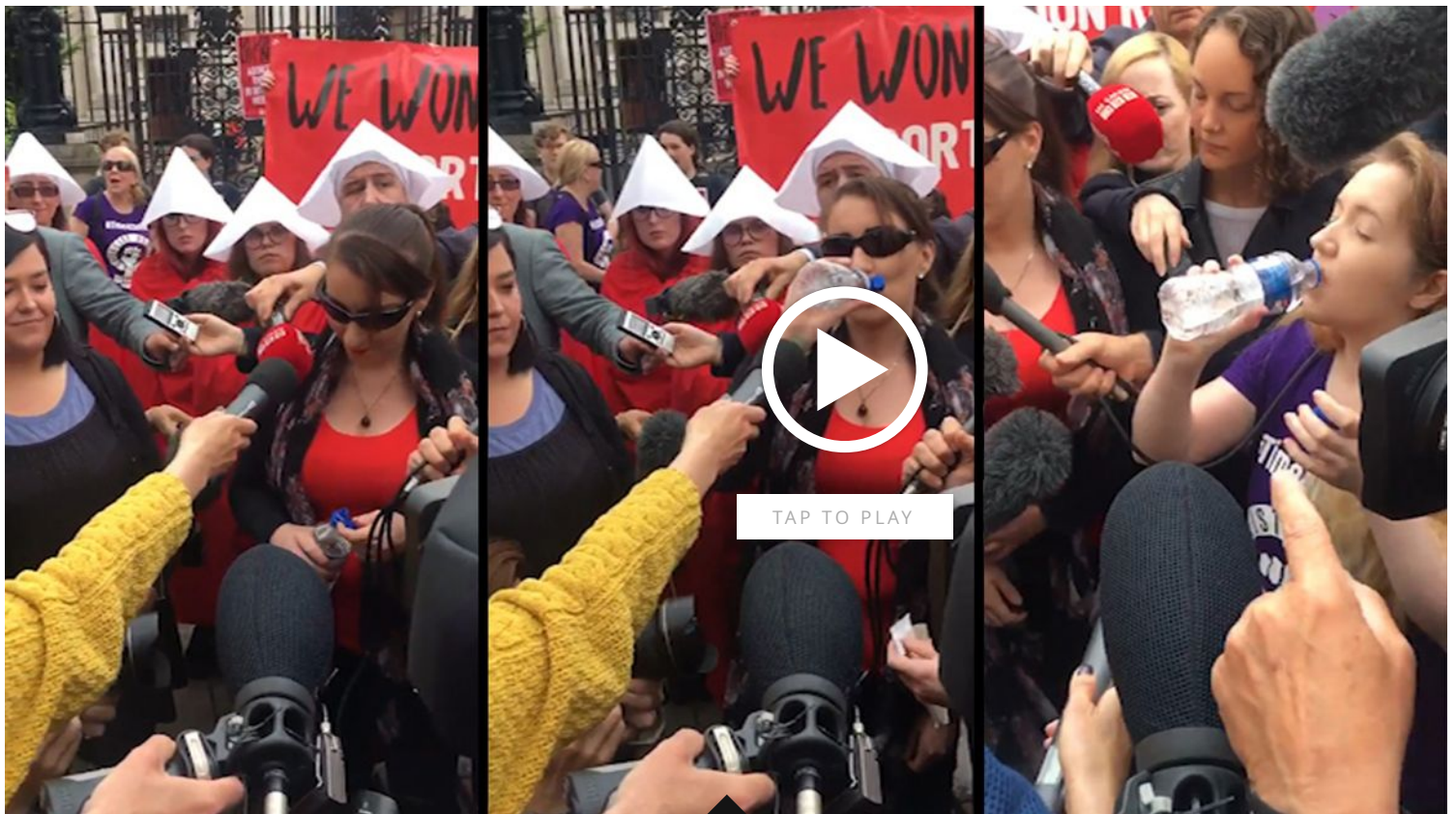
Demonstrators have called for a "medieval" ban on abortions to be scrapped in Northern Ireland mounts on the government after the referendum south of the border



14 COMMENTS

By **Dave Burke**

14:02, 31 MAY 2018



VIDEO: PRO-CHOICE CAMPAIGNERS TAKE ABORTION PILLS IN FRONT OF BELFAST POLICE

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Defiant campaigners have swallowed abortion pills in full view of Belfast police - as pressure in the law following neighbouring Ireland's historic vote last week.

Pro-choice campaigners, including members of action group Rosa NI, protested outside Laga today demanding a "medieval" ban on abortions is scrapped.

Last week voters in the Republic of Ireland voted by a landslide to repeal laws making abortio

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One of the women who swallowed a pill told reporters: "I've taken it in defiance of the extreme mediaeval anti-choice laws that exist in Northern Ireland.

"We're not willing in the wake of the victory for the repeal referendum to be left behind any l



A woman defiantly swallowed what is believed to be an abortion pill in full public view (Image: Amanda)

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Activists have called for Northern Ireland's strict abortion laws to be reformed (Image: Amanda Ferguson)

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Activists say they're no longer prepared to wait for reform (Image: Amanda Ferguson)



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Theresa May faces calls to allow a free vote in Northern Ireland - but the **DUP**, who the Tories support, say it is a move she **"would regret"** .

And she added: "Women every day in Northern Ireland are using these pills, as long as we as politicians aren't under pressure to legislate on this issue."

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"We're bringing this into the spotlight to demand that politicians take action on this immedia

Rebecca Gomperts, speaking on behalf of protest group Women on Waves, said: "The reason pills is to highlight how safe and freely accessible they are.

"They're licensed in the UK, and yet women in Northern Ireland take these pills in the UK and they're shamed and they're criminalised. It's time to stop."

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Pressure is mounting on the government to shake up the law banning abortion in Northern Ireland

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Defiant pro-choice campaigners today swallowed abortion tablets in full view of police

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Theresa May has been challenged to demonstrate her feminist credentials on the issue (Image: PA)



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Labour has told the Prime Minister to prove her feminist credentials by reforming Northern Ireland's abortion laws.

Mrs May had already faced calls from MPs across the Commons - including within her own Conservative Party - to address the "anomalous" situation in Northern Ireland following the overwhelming referendum result in favour of liberalisation.

Labour said it was now "looking at legislative options" to see how that could be achieved by the end of the year.

The party's shadow attorney general Baroness Chakrabarti said reform was a matter of fundamental women's rights.

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Pro-choice organisations say Northern Ireland's laws must be reformed (Image: Amanda Ferguson)

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Pressure is mounting for voters in Northern Ireland to have their say on abortion (Image: Amanda Fergu

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The public show of defiance was made in Belfast today (Image: Amanda Ferguson)

She told the BBC: "We are calling on Mrs May, a self-identifying feminist, to negotiate with the Ireland and then to legislate without further delay.

"You can't have democracy without fundamental human rights. And the women of Northern suffered for long enough."

But the Prime Minister faces a political headache over the issue because her fragile administ the support of the 10 **Democratic Unionist Party** MPs - who strongly oppose any reform to strict laws.

Downing Street believes that any reform in Northern Ireland "is an issue for Northern Ireland adding "it shows one of the important reasons we need a functioning executive back up and

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DUP leader Arlene Foster said her party is a pro-life political group (Image: Jack Taylor)



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DUP leader Arlene Foster said: "The legislation governing abortion is a devolved matter and Northern Ireland Assembly to debate and decide such issues.

"Some of those who wish to circumvent the assembly's role may be doing so simply to avoid

"The DUP is a pro-life party and we will continue to articulate our position. It is an extremely not one that should have people taking to the streets in celebration."

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firmbutfair



2 HOURS AGO

The march had to be over for 3pm to allow the women time to get home and put the dinner on. # r

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theamc



2 HOURS AGO

Nice of the Mirror to graphically show and glorify the consumption of illegal drugs on the streets of

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Fkairns



4 HOURS AGO

It's just to make a point. With May in the pockets of the DUP they have to fight with whatever mean push the government to respond and be like the rest of Ireland and the UK where women have the decisions about their own bodies.

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thesimplelife



4 HOURS AGO

On another note when was the last time both sides in Ireland agreed on anything, could this be a n

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Harleyjon



5 HOURS AGO

Wouldn't taking the termination pill when not pregnant pose a lot of risks or at least mess up your

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