

# 'Abortion drone' delivers pregnancy-terminating drugs over Germany-Poland border

July 1, 2015 - 8:53AM

37 reading now

[Read later](#)**Josephine Tovey**

Reporter

[View more articles from Josephine Tovey](#)[Follow Josephine on Twitter](#)[Follow Josephine on Google+](#)[Email Josephine](#)[Email article](#)[Print](#)Autoplay  ON  OFF [Video feedback](#) [Video settings](#)

## Drone delivers abortion pills to Poland

A charity group delivers abortion pills to two women by flying a drone from Germany to Poland where there are strict abortion laws. Video: Women on Waves

A European women's activist group used a drone to deliver pregnancy-terminating drugs from one country to another this week, in a move designed to raise awareness about restrictive abortion laws and test the possibilities of the emerging technology.

Campaigners from the Netherlands-based pro-choice group [Women on Waves](#) (WOW), along with other groups, used a drone to fly so-called "abortion pills", mifepristone and misoprostol, across a river from Germany into Poland on Saturday, where they were picked up and used by two women to terminate their unwanted pregnancies, according to the organisation.

Unlike Germany, access to abortion is strictly limited in Poland, and only available in cases of rape, where the woman's life or health is at risk, or in the case of severe foetal abnormality.

Reproductive rights advocates say these laws lead to women in Poland, a largely Catholic country, obtaining illegal and potentially unsafe abortions, or having to travel to neighbouring countries such as Germany to obtain a termination.

The Polish women who participated in the drone exercise were prescribed the abortifacients by doctors over the telephone and Skype, according to the group.

The drone only had to fly a short distance, delivering the pills from the German town of Frankfurt an der Oder on one side of the Oder river to people waiting in the Polish town of Slubice on the other.

Dr Rebecca Gomperts, founder of WOW, told Fairfax Media using a drone to deliver the pills was not

only a practical measure to make the drugs available to women who wanted them, but also allowed the group to demonstrate the sharp difference in laws between different countries.

"This reality within this very narrow distance is what we wanted to make visible," said Dr Gomperts.

It was an issue that remained "so hidden," she said.

"Women travel to Germany all the time but nobody cares because it's invisible women, so if we have a drone that can visualise that, I think it's extremely important."



The drone used in Saturday's flight between Germany and Poland. Photo: Women on Waves



It is not the first time WOW has made news trying to make abortions available to women in countries where the law forbids it, previously sailing a ship to some countries to provide abortion pills. Improvements in the reliability and the distance a drone can fly had made them a viable option for providing the medication only recently, Dr Gomperts said.

"It's very new technology, it's developing very quickly, the range they can fly is becoming bigger... that is why Amazon and Google are investigating these things, because it has huge potential for delivery, especially in more rural areas."

Dr Gomperts said no legal action would be taken against the women in Poland as it was not illegal to perform your own abortion. However, police in Germany arrived on the scene after the drone had left and confiscated the drone's controller. Whether they would press charges or not was not clear, she said.

"We'll see if there will be any legal challenges or not, because it's a totally grey area where we're working again, there is no jurisprudence and so we just have to work through that first."

According to broadcaster Deutsche Welle, a small group of pro-life activists showed up to protest the arrival of the drone in Poland.

"I understand that it's very difficult for the women, but on the other side it's a life, it's a child," Teresa Skraburska, from the Polish Catholic Mission in Berlin, told the news organisation.

## Recommended



[Warnings before strikes for high risk social housing...](#)

*Queensland*



[Perth celebrities in a twist over nude yoga](#)

*Entertainment*



[Single atom experiment gives scientists a reality check](#)

*Technology*



[Six things you should forget about once you turn 30](#)

*Daily Life*



[Sister freaks out at twin reveal](#)

*Essential Baby*

## Promoted Stories



[Common Personal Changes That Occur During Menopause!](#)

*Health Central*



[What Your Pee Can Tell You](#)

*The Remedist*



[A Guide to Throwing a Chic, Fun and Successful Summer...](#)

*domino*



[15 New 2015 Cars That Are Just Bad](#)

*Forbes*



[Menopausal Women: Don't Do These 10 Things](#)

*HealthCentral*

Recommended by

[Email article](#)

[Print](#)