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# Activists call for public to go on strike unless government holds abortion referendum

The group said unless an abortion referendum is called by March 8 they want people to take action



COMMENTS

BY KATHY ARMSTRONG  
22:22, 23 JAN 2017



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Activists are threatening to go on strike unless the Government calls a referendum on the Eighth Amendment by March 8.

Strike 4 Repeal urged the public to support the movement as they said: "We can't wait and we won't wait."



Among the groups backing the movement are Abortion Rights Campaign, AIMS Ireland, Women on Web and Sex Workers Alliance Ireland.

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They said in a Facebook video: "The Government has deployed a Citizens' Assembly to delay a referendum on the Eighth Amendment.

"Meanwhile people's lives and health are in danger, another person could die at any time. We can't wait and we won't wait.

"We have one demand to the Government, call a referendum before the 8th of March or there will be a national strike.

"Thousands of people took time off work last year to access abortions, we are asking you to show your solidarity with them."

Posted by **Strike 4 Repeal**  
310,053 Views

The group - which is "an ad-hoc, non-affiliated group of activists, academics, artists and trade unionists" - said unless an [abortion](#) referendum is called by March 8 they want people to take action.

Ideas listed include using March 8 as an annual leave day, not doing domestic work, wearing black in solidarity and staging a lunchtime walk out.

The Citizen's Assembly consists of 99 members of the public chaired by Supreme Court Judge Mary Laffoy, who have until June to submit a report with recommendations for the future of the Eight Amendment [here](#).

They have received over 4,500 submissions to date from the public but Strike 4 Repeal has dismissed the Assembly as a "delay".

Strike 4 Repeal Spokeswoman Avril Corroon said: "We share the concern of many pro-choice groups that the Citizen's Assembly is no more than a hollow pretence of progress.

"It is the latest in years' worth of attempts to delay the undeniable movement in favour of repealing the 8th Amendment."

Her fellow Strike 4 Repeal Spokeswoman Aoife Frances claimed that the Government is under increased pressure to put the controversial issue to a referendum.

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Ms Frances said: "We call upon the Government to take direct responsibility for what is a violation of human rights.

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"We believe a national strike is not only possible, but an incredible opportunity to show the sheer power of our movement, and to put pressure on the government to call a referendum.

"In the past 5 years, support for repeal has grown to a level that the government can no longer ignore."

For more information see [www.facebook.com/strike4repeal/](http://www.facebook.com/strike4repeal/)

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