



Voices

At the age of 71, I handed myself in to police for helping women in Northern Ireland get an abortion

There is a civic duty to obey a just law, but there is a moral duty to disobey an unjust law

Diana King | 1 hour ago |  1 comment





Protesters on the 'Annual March for Choice' in Dublin, Ireland in 2014 *Rex*

Derry is a city full of kindnesses. It is a city blessed with a culture of women helping women. But in 1966 there was an oppressive silence throughout the whole of **Northern Ireland**. The catalyst? **Abortion**.

A group of forward-thinking and courageous women set up **Alliance for Choice** in Derry to promote reform, discussion of abortion and changes to abortion law; their work continues today.

In 1967, the UK Abortion Act was introduced – but not in Northern Ireland. In Northern Ireland it rescued only those women who could afford travel to Britain for a legal abortion.

In the 1970s, I was working for Belfast Welfare Department as a social worker. The only abortions poorer people with crisis pregnancies could afford then were on the backstreets and they

▶ men could afford to travel and
Britain.

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f health and safety. Is that

n travel, abortion and
termination total up to
want a choice don't have



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nine-week abortion pills on
irs ago, was so significant. It
weeks of pregnancy
thern Ireland for the first

harmony in Holland offering GP
ire counselling, if necessary.
who had procured the nine-
re Belfast Court, tried and
nce, for accessing these pills.



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followed up by charges against a mother who procured the pills



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Northern Ireland are outraged that women coping as



can with the pregnancy which already presents a crisis for after being dragged before our courts. They are being charged with life imprisonment under our archaic 1861

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The outrage is legitimate as only poorer women are the true victims. Women who can afford to travel to Britain for a legal abortion will not be deterred by this legislative precedent.

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You need only fear jail if you are women who chooses to access affordable abortion pills. Mifepristone and Misoprostol, online – the very same pills recommended by the World Health Organisation. We have one law for the rich and another for the

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men, at the age of 71, I led myself in to police for being involved in the procuring of abortion pills for women who terrified to have them a protest against the law.

We don't respect the law because it is archaic, irrelevant and unfair. However, we don't believe that we are committing a crime



finding the blacklist or Exposing a whole industry put it, "there is a civic duty to that law, but there is a moral duty to disobey an unjust industry"



Modern Scandi design UK Abortion Act should be introduced across Northern but our government is letting people down. They simply



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back and look away. | Northern Ireland | abortion | abortion rights



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Angela_K

11 minutes ago

NI is stuck in the 19th century, opposed to equal marriage and still controls women's bodies. Incredible that NI is part of the UK.

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