

Where to go from here? By presenting an innovative and active project, Women on Waves created new hope among abortion rights activists worldwide. The project demonstrated the enormous potential of using the ship as a reproductive health facility. We have shown that healthcare and advocacy can be successfully combined.

We have received invitations from groups all over the world. To help women in need, we must be able to perform abortions. To that end, we are working to solve the Dutch licensing issue. Our latest legal research has shown again that in any case we can provide the abortion pill as overtime treatment. We will continue to be a catalyst for legislative reform. We will continue re-energize Abortion rights organizations. And until women everywhere have the right to reproductive freedom, we will continue to make waves.

**EVERY WOMAN
SHOULD HAVE
THE
RIGHT TO
CHOOSE**

RALLY FOR ABORTION RIGHTS

SATURDAY June 23
Temple Bar Square
2..30pm



Women on Waves
087.55

www.womenonwaves.org



Supporters - Supporters - Hinchas

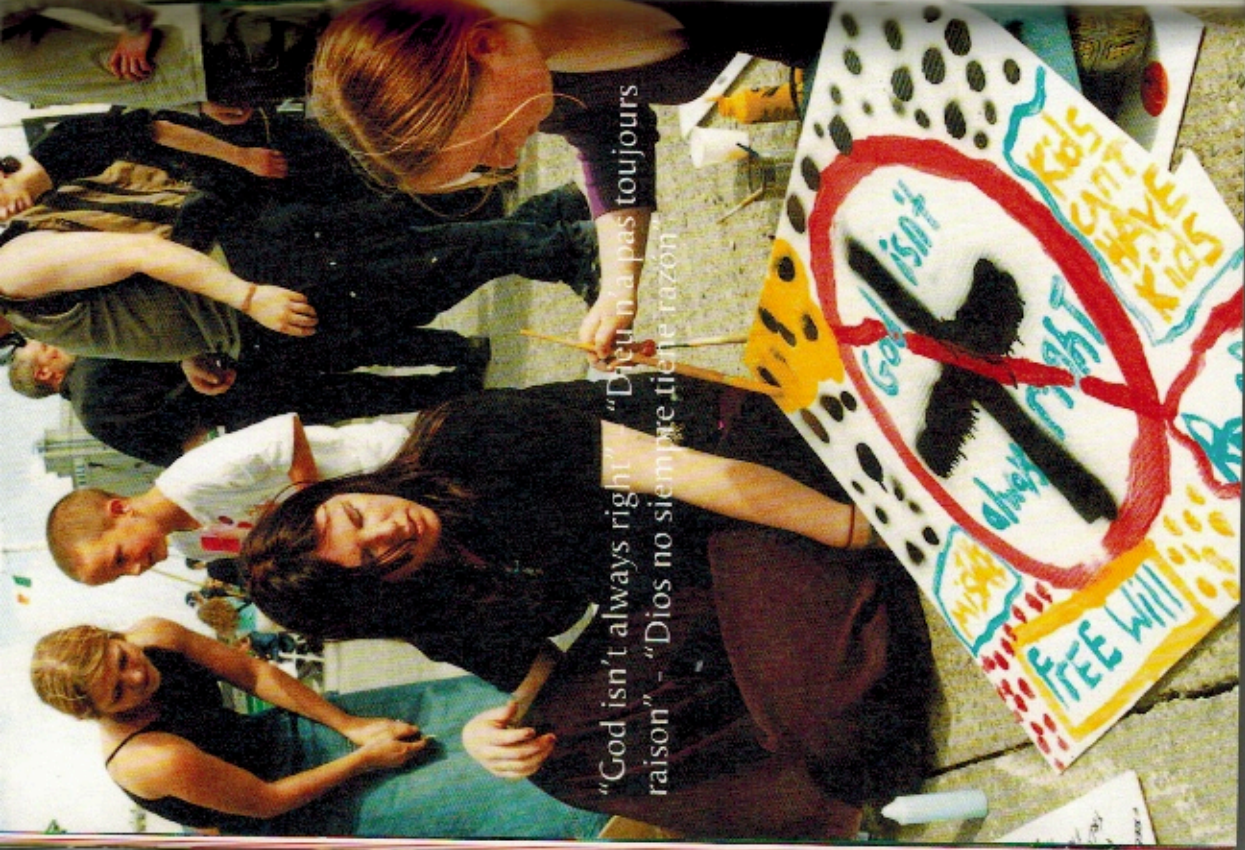


Protestes - Contestataires - Protestantes



SOCIALIST WORKER

**END THE
HYPOCRISY
DEMAND
ABORTION
RIGHTS
NOW!**



Testimonials These are some of the stories of the people that called the hotline or visited the ship.

24 years old woman, 14 weeks pregnant. She called twice. First call we referred her to clinics in the Netherlands and the UK, second call she asked if we could give her a double portion of the morning after pill. She was desperate.

A man called on behalf of a friend. He was worried about her, she had been raped and probably 3 weeks pregnant now. Gave him all the phone numbers of clinics in UK and Netherlands and asked for her number. Called her and asked if his story was true. She confirmed that he was very supportive. She sounded very shy. We gave her all the relevant information as well.

17 years old girl, 4 weeks pregnant, confirmed by her doctor. Boyfriend left her and does not want to help her financially. She has no passport, no money and no one knows about it. She is living with her parents and has a brother in the UK. She said she trusts her brother and will ask him for help.

23 years old woman, 4 weeks pregnant. She is crying on the phone and only told her best friend. No money, living by herself, she is going to call her ex boyfriend for at least some financial support. Referred her to the clinics in the UK and the Netherlands.

The mother of the boyfriend of a 17 years old girl called. The girl is 6 weeks pregnant. When she told her mother she was

kicked out of her home. She is now living with her boyfriend's family. She went to see a doctor to confirm the pregnancy. The female doctor told her that she was stupid, to go home and have the baby. Her pregnancy was caused by condom failure. The mother of the boyfriend is going to help her go to the UK. **Call from an interpreter in a court case.** She was interpreting for a Ukrainian woman who lives here without a permit. She already has 3 children and is 3 months pregnant now. The interpreter did not want to be involved but the woman is so desperate that she will make other phone calls for her. Because of her legal status the UK and the Netherlands are no option. There is no money.

32 years old woman from Afghanistan, 7 weeks pregnant. She has an Irish boyfriend. Stopped the pill some months ago, because she is on Lithium (very depressed). Used condoms most of the time.

Two young women sat down in the treatment room. One of them says she is definitely sure that she is pregnant: 28 years woman from Dublin. She had slept with someone who is illegal; and he did not want to use protection. Now she blames him because he wanted this to happen, she assumes, so she would marry him. She is not going to tell him that she is pregnant and definitely wants an abortion. Is afraid he will harass her, follow her if he knows. She needs money, will try to find it and then go to England. We gave her the numbers of clinics in the UK and Netherlands. She already had an abortion in

England 2 year ago, 'but now it makes me a wiser woman'. **Woman, age unknown,** sounded like an African woman, 6 to 10 weeks pregnant, has a baby of 7 months. No financial means to go to the UK. She will call the counseling numbers in Dublin.

20 years old woman visits ship. Sonogram: 4 weeks pregnant, just diagnosed. Counseling centers in Ireland have long waiting time. She has financial problems, housing problems and is in training. She wants addresses of clinics. Referred to clinics in the Netherlands and the UK.

Man tells that his girlfriend was pregnant he hesitated when I asked him 'how old is she?' and how long is she pregnant? 18 years old, he said. Then he hangs up.

24 years old woman, 9 weeks pregnant, has a 4 years old child. Problems with finding care for her child while she would go to the UK.

20 years old woman, 9 weeks pregnant. Referred to clinics in the Netherlands and the UK.

24 years old woman, probably 3 weeks pregnant. Referred to counseling center in Dublin.

19 years old girl, 7 weeks pregnant. Referred to clinics in the Netherlands and the UK.

Mother calling for her daughter who is 8 weeks pregnant. Mother is going to call to clinic in the UK.

Woman, age unknown, 6 to 8 weeks pregnant. Referred to clinics in the UK and Netherlands.

Message on the voice mail, returned her call but she could not talk, will call again.

Woman, age unknown, sounded very urgent, will call clinics in the UK.

Message on the voice mail, returned her call but she could not talk and hung up.

Woman called twice, first time referred to clinics in the Netherlands and the UK, second time she asked whether there was really no possibility to help her.

Young girl left a message. Returned her call but she could not talk.

20 years old woman, Nigerian student, 9 weeks pregnant. Referred to clinics UK and Netherlands.

17 years old girl, 6 weeks pregnant. Referred to clinics in the UK and the Netherlands.

Woman calls for a friend of hers. Friend is 29 years old and has two children. Referred to clinics in the Netherlands and the UK.

Woman from Dublin, age unknown, 8 weeks pregnant. She went to a hospital because she was bleeding a little where she found out that she was pregnant. Referred to clinics UK and Netherlands

Woman, age unknown, 4 weeks pregnant had already made an appointment with a clinic in the UK but wanted to know whether we could help her.

A couple called, Nigerian students, 8 weeks pregnant. Referred to clinics in the UK and the Netherlands.

31 years old woman, 10 days overdue. She had an abortion in the US before. She is sure that she is pregnant but did not do a test. Referred to clinics in the UK and the Netherlands.

32 years old woman, 2 children, 4 weeks pregnant. Referred to the clinics in the UK and the Netherlands.

21 years old woman, 8 weeks pregnant. Referred to the clinics in the UK and the Netherlands.

Woman, age unknown, 8 weeks pregnant. Referred to the clinics in the UK and the Netherlands.

Woman, age unknown, 4 to 5 weeks pregnant. Referred to the clinics in the UK and the Netherlands.

29 years old woman, 7 weeks pregnant. She has a 12 years old son. Does not know how to go to the UK because of her son.

Told her she should try to find a person she trusts and referred her to clinics UK and Netherlands.

21 year old woman, 7 weeks pregnant. She has 2 children (3 + 5), no boyfriend anymore. Referred to clinics in UK and the Netherlands.

29 years old woman, 3 month pregnant. Referred to clinics UK and Netherlands.

22 years old woman, 4 weeks pregnant. She has done 2 pregnancy tests. She sounds desperate. Referred to clinics in the UK.

Woman, age unknown but sounded young, 7 weeks pregnant went to see a woman doctor who told her to make up her mind. She sounded very much in doubt, didn't tell anyone. We talked a while and gave her numbers of counseling center and

clinics in UK and Netherlands.

32 years old woman, 5 weeks pregnant. She said that she was going to call counseling center.

20 years old woman from Cork, 6 weeks pregnant. She is in doubt and will go to see a counselor. Gave number counseling center.

25 years old woman, 5 1/2 weeks pregnant. She has already seen a doctor but heard about us through the radio. Referred to clinics in the UK and Netherlands

20 years old woman, 6 weeks pregnant. She had seen a doctor and had been counseled. Referred to clinic in the UK.

27 years old woman, without work. She requests an abortion. Referred to clinics in the UK and Netherlands.

A man called on behalf of his wife, who is five weeks pregnant. They have four children. Their old dad is living with them and needs a lot of care. They are going to the UK but they needed the relevant addresses. Gave addresses and numbers clinics in UK and Netherlands.

Woman had heard about us. She had counseling 3 weeks ago. She did not try to find a clinic in the UK, had waited for the boat to come. Referred to clinics in the UK and the Netherlands.

22 years old woman, 9 weeks pregnant. She was just left alone by her partner and has a 7-month-old baby. She lives in a mobile home with her mother and the baby and has no money. Referred to clinics in the UK and the Netherlands

19 years old girl from Dublin, 8-9 weeks pregnant. Referred to clinics UK and Netherlands.

17 years old girl from Dublin, 7 weeks pregnant. Referred to clinics UK and Netherlands.

25 years old woman from Cork, 8 weeks ago last menstruation. We did a pregnancy-test that was negative. Referred to family physician if menstruation does not come soon and did contraceptive counseling.

22 years old woman from Dublin, 13 1/2 week pregnant. She has 2 children of 1 and 2 years old. Her husband does not want her to have an abortion. Referred to clinics UK & Netherlands.

22 years old woman, pregnancy duration unknown. She has 1 child of 2 years old. She is always using condoms, problems with pill, would like IUD, difficulties in finding a doctor that want to give her an IUD, and very expensive. Referred to counseling center and clinics in the UK and Netherlands.

21 years old woman from Rumania, 7 weeks pregnant. She has 2 children of 4 years and 3 months. Referred to clinics in the UK and Netherlands.

25 years old woman from Dublin, 5 weeks pregnant. She used the pill but got antibiotics for an infection and got pregnant. Referred to clinics in the UK and Netherlands.

Woman asks if we can provide abortion pills for her niece, 26 years old with two small children. Referred to clinics in the UK and Netherlands.

- Press** Due to the overwhelming amount of media all over the world, the press list that follows is incomplete. 2
- International**
- Colors, 46 October/November 2001
- Publico, Portugal 14-10-2001
- New York Times Magazine, 26-8-2001
- Elle, USA September 2001
- Elle, France Time, 25-6-2001
- India Abroad, 23-6-2001
- Frankfurter Rundschau Magazin, 23-6-2001
- Self magazine, August 2001
- New York Times, 19-6-01
- El Correo, Spain, 18-6-2001
- India Times, 17-6-2001
- Guardian, 17-6-2001
- Der Tagesspiegel, Germ. 7-6-2001
- ChinaStar, China, 17-6-2001
- Observer, 17-6-2001
- Estrella, Spain, 16-6-2001
- Guardian, 16-6-2001
- La Nacion, Argentina, 16-6-2001
- Aftonbladet, Norway, 15-6-2001
- Guardian, 15-6-2001
- The Independent, 14-6-2001
- L'Express, France, 14-6-2001
- Suara Merdeka, Azie, 13-6-2001
- Cronica, Mexico, 12-6-2001
- Folhade S.Paulo, Brazil, 12-6-2001
- Associated Press, 12-6-20001
- Guardian, 12-6-2001
- Cincinnati Enquirer, 12-6-2001
- Berliner Morgenpost, 12-6-2001
- The Independent, 12-6-2001
- Der Spiegel, 11-6-2001
- New York Times, 11-6-2001
- Allegra, Germany, Nr 8-2001
- Emma, Gemany, Juli/August 2001
- Artforum, April 2001
- Der Spiegel, Nr. 50, 11-12-2000
- The Asian Age, 30-11-2000
- New York Times, 21-11-2000
- Alias, Switzerland, 8-7-2000
- The Malta Independent on Sunday, 25-6-2000
- The Malta Independent, 26-6-2000
- The Guardian Weekly, June 22-28, 2000
- Mother Jones, 18-6-2001
- The International Herald Tribune, 17-6-2000
- The Sidney Morning Herald, 16-6-2000
- The Guardian, 16-6-2000
- The Guardian, 15-6-2001
- The Independent, 14-6-2001
- Times of Malta, 15-6-2000
- National Post, 12-6-2000
- The Sunday Telegraph, 11-6-2000
- International Family Planning Perspectives, 6-1-2000, Vol. 26
- Mother Jones Magazine, 23-6-2000
- The Boston Globe, 16-6-2000
- The Washington Post, 16-6-2000
- Ms. Magazine April/May 2000
- Irish**
- SSI newsletter Sept./Oct. 2001
- Irish examiner, 29-6-2001
- Irish Independent, 23-6-2001
- Irish Time, 22-6-2001
- Evening Echo, 21-6-2001
- Irish Time, 19-6-2001
- Irish Independent, 19-06-2001
- Irish examiner, 18-6-2001
- Sunday Business post, 17-6-2001
- Irish Sunday Mirror, 17-6-2001
- News of the World, 17-6-2001
- Irish News, 16-06-2001
- Irish times, 16-6-2001
- Irish independent, 16-6-2001
- The Independent, 16-6-2001
- Irish examiner, 16-6-2001
- The Daily Telegraph, 16-6-2001
- Irish Times, 15-6-2001
- Irish News, 15-06-2001
- Irish Times, 15-06-2001
- Irish Independent, 15-06-2001
- The Independent, 15-6-2001
- Irish examiner, 15-6-2001
- Irish Times, 14-6-2001
- Irish Times, 14-06-2001
- Irish News, 14-06-2001
- Irish Examiner, 13-6-2001
- Irish times, 13-6-2001
- Evening Herald, 12-6-2001
- Irish Examiner, 12-6-2001
- Irish examiner, 11-6-2001
- Irish independent, 11-6-2001
- Irish Times, 11-6-2001
- Irish Independent, 10-6-2001
- Irish Independent, 9-6-2001
- Irish Times, 8-6-2001
- Irish Independent, 7-6-2001
- Weekly, 6-6-2001
- Sunday Business Post, 3-6-2001
- Irish Independent, 1-6-2001
- Irish Independent, 1-6-2001
- Irish Times, 1-6-2001
- Evening Herald, 30-5-2001
- Irish examiner, 28-5-2001
- Irish independent, 28-5-2001
- News of the World, 27-5-2001
- Workers Solidarity, May 2001
- Irish News, 11-12-2000
- Irish Examiner, 13-6-2000

Dutch

- Medisch Contact, 12-10-2001
NRC, 6-10-2001
Opzij, July/August 2001
Nursing, August 2001
Vrij Nederland, 14-7-2001
Medisch Contact, 14-7-2001
Vrij Nederland, 7-7-2001
PZC, 4-7-2001
Volkskrant, 4-7-2001
Vrij Nederland, 30-6-2001
NRC, 30-6-2001
Groene Amsterdammer, 30-6-2001
Rotterdams Dagblad, 29-6-2001
Volkskrant, 29-6-2001
Algemeen Dagblad, 29-6-2001
Parool, 28-6-2001
Volkskrant, 25-6-2001
Nieuwe Revu, 20/27-6-2001
Vrij Nederland, 23-6-2001
Groene Amsterdammer, 23-6-2001
Volkskrant, 19-6-2001
NRC, 19-6-2001
Telegraaf, 18-6-2001
NRC, 20-6-2001
Telegraaf, 16-6-2001
Algemeen Dagblad, 16-6-2001
Parool, 16-6-2001
Algemeen dagblad, 16-6-2001
NRC, 16-6-2001
Volkskrant, 16-6-2001
- NRC, 15-6-2001
Parool, 14-6-2001
NRC, 14-6-2001
Volkskrant, 13-6-2001
NRC, 13-6-2001
Parool, 13-6-2001
NRC, 12-6-2001
Trouw, 12-6-2001
Telegraaf, 12-6-2001
Volkskrant, 12-6-2001
Parool, 12-6-2001
Parool, 11-6-2001
NRC, 11-6-2001
Volkskrant, 8-6-2001
NRC, 8-6-2001
Filosofie Magazine, June 2001
Parool, 7-6-2001
Volkskrant, 7-6-2001
NRC, 7-6-2001
NRC, 6-6-2001
Telegraaf, 6-6-2001
Opzij, June 2001
Opzij, July/August 2000
De Telegraaf, 24-6-2000
M/V Zorg, 9 no.3 May/June 2000
Z, June 2000
Leeuwarder courant, 15-4-2000
Rotterdamsdagblad, 15-4-2000
Viva, 13-12-1999
Volkskrant Magazine, 11-12-1999
Mozaïk 1, no.2, 1999
- Marie Claire, June 1999
Onze Wereld, May 1999
De Gelderlander, 9-4-1999
Eindhovens Dagblad, 3-4-1999
Opzij, April 1999
Onze Wereld, April 1999
NRC Handelsblad, 27-3-1999
NRC Handelsblad, 18-3-1999
Trouw, 12-3-1999
Het Parool, 11-3-1999
Trouw, 10-3-1999
Algemeen Dagblad, 9-3-1999
Telegraaf, 9-3-1999
Vrij Nederland, 10-3-1999
Volkskrant, 9-3-1999,
NRC Handelsblad, 8-3-1999
NRC Handelsblad, 5-3-1999
- International Radio**
Rai Radio, 21-06-2001
Radio Barcelona, 20-06-2001
BBC radio 4 morningshow, 25-06-2001
Radio Barcelona, 23-06-2001
BBC Health Radio, 22-6-2001
BNN radio, 24-06-2001
BNN radio, 14-06-2001
NPR-USA, 14-6-2001
BRT radio, 14-06-2001
Radio Eksen, Turkey, 11-6-2001
Malta, Public Broadcasting
- Services, 5 hour long program about abortion with Dr. Bezzinna, 15-9-2000
Deutschland Radio, 30-8-2000
Wereldomroep, 27-8-2000 and 28-8-2000
Sveriges radio, Sweden
KGrind, Australia, 10-7-2000
BBC, Women's Hour, 30-6-2000 at 10:00 GMT
BBC, Medical Chanel, 30-6-2000
BBC, World service, worldnews, 18-6-2000 at 9:45 GMT
Wereldomroep, 22-6-2000
The Alan Colmes show, New York, 15-6-2000
BBC World service: European news 15-6 at 17:00 GMT
BBC Global news from around the world, 4-6-99
Levende Lijve, Radio 1, Belgium, 3-4-1999
- Dutch Radio**
Radio West, 27-06-2001
Radio 1 Journaal ochtend editie, 25-06-2001
Tros radio nieuwsshow, 16-6-2001
Radio 1 Journaal ochtendeditie, 15-06-2001
Radio 1 Journaal avondeditie, 15-06-2001

Positive press

New York Times Magazine, 26-6-2001 "Rebecca Comperets had the idea to lease a boat, sail it to Ireland and perform abortions at sea. It failed spectacularly-or did it?"

"Yet along the way something curious was beginning to happen. A simple thing, really. On board the Aurora, the mobile phone had started to ring. Women were calling and requesting abortions- first one, then two, then suddenly 20 and 30. As evening fell, I found Juul Böckling, the ship's nurse, sitting on a chair in the cramped captain's quarters next to the wheelhouse. She estimated that she had at least 50 calls and voicemail messages over the course of the day. "It is freaking me out," she said, "There are desperate stories. Girls of 14, women with children, women with no children." Before she could finish, the phone started to ring. Böckling listened quietly, jotting notes on a pad as the caller relayed her story and asked a few medical questions about the situation... She then read slowly, two telephone numbers - one for the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, an agency that provides abortions, and one for the Irish Women's Abortion Support Group in London, which helps traveling Irish women find accommodation and local transport... What Böckling was doing represented Women on Waves first bit of rebellion, since Irish law says that counselors may not give out the numbers of abortion providers in England over the telephone... It went on like this for the 20 minutes or so I sat with Böckling, one call on top of the next... In the final analysis, it may be hard to say whether Rebecca Comperets succeeded or failed. The nature of protest, in any event, does not always run along those axis... "Even though the details didn't work out exactly right, Comperets ignited something." The feminist Eleanor Smeal says, "this was the first step."

Sunday Business Post, 17-06-01 "Abortion ship puts politicians in the dock"

ARD Aktuell, 11-06-2001
 BBC 10 o'clock worldnews, 4-12-2000
 Pjazza 3 on Malta's national station on PBS, 27-6-2000
 Canadian Broadcasting, all news channel, 12-6-2000

Irish Television
 RTE News, 15-6-2001
 RTE News, 14-6-2001
 RTE News, 11-6-2001
 Late late show, Ireland, 2-2-2001

Dutch Television
 NOS Journaal, 15-6-2001
 RTL nieuws, 15-6-2001
 Den Haag Vandaag, 12-6-2001
 Vragenuurtje NOS, 12-6-2001
 SBS Nieuws, 11-6-2001
 2 Vandaag, 11-6-2001
 Den Haag Vandaag, 11-6-2001
 Hart van Nederland, 11-6-2001
 NOS Journaal, 11-6-2001
 RTL-nieuws, 11-6-2001
 Ontbijt TV, 11-6-2001
 NOVA, 6-6-2001
 VPRO, 7 dagen, 13-5-2001
 Het Lagerhuis, 13-3-1999
 Barendenvandorp, 8-3-1999

13-6-2001
 Radio 2 Spitsjournaal, 13-06-2001
 De dag van EO, 11-6-2001
 Radio 1 journaal, 11-6-2001
 Radio West, 11-6-2001
 AVRO, de tijd van je leven, 26-8-2001,
 Punch, 20-12-1999
 Tijdsein, 9-3-1999

Irish Radio
 Cork public radio, 11-06-2001

International Television
 Arte, documentary, 14-8-2001
 BBC HardTalk, 9-7-2001
 CNN Q&A, 18-06-2001
 VTM Vlaamse TV, 18-06-2001
 CBS News, 15-6-2001
 NBC News, 15-06-2001
 CNN Worldnews, 15-6-2001
 Good Morning America, ABC, 15-6-2001
 BBC Worldnews, 15-6-2001
 RTF news, France, 15-6-2001
 Japans tv station, 15-06-2001
 ITN News, 15-6-2001
 ITN News, 12-6-2001
 CNN Worldnews, 12-6-2001
 Univision Noticias, 12-06-2001
 ZDF, Germany, 11-6-2001

"Some weeks ago I wrote about the anticipated arrival of the Dutch abortion boat to Dublin. I suggested that little would be achieved by the initiative, that it might even damage the pro-abortion lobby, and that no women in her right mind would attempt to secure an abortion on board a vessel very publicly moored in Dublin Port. Well, I was wrong, guilty of middle class assumptions about the ease with which abortions can be secured in Britain... The women slink of in their thousands, out of sight, out of mind. Britain provides such an efficient service that no one's conscience is troubled by back-street abortions, dead babies and dead women. The abortion ship had brought all of this into focus."

Irish Examiner 16-6-2001: "Decisive leadership vital to resolve abortion issue"

"Further kindling the flames of medical, legal, and public debate, the abortion controversy has intensified with the arrival in Dublin of the Dutch abortion ship. While no abortions will be carried out, its very presence in the jurisdiction has heightened tensions. So divisive has this issue become that the Medical Council is appealing to its members not to speak to the media about proposals to relax medical guidelines on abortion. Some members are threatening to seek judicial review of its procedures. Meanwhile the hypocrisy of Ireland's approach is seen in the annual exodus to Britain, where at last year 6,388 women who underwent abortions gave addresses in the Republic"

Irish Independent, 16-6-01: "What the abortion ship delivered"

"Having failed to get a permit from the Dutch government before it set sail, the ship may not be able to provide the primary services for which it is designed, but it has reopened the abortion debate"

Irish Examiner, 18-6-2001: "Ireland needs women like this to rock the State's boat",

"So is the Aurora's arrival on our shores no more than a cheap stunt by yet another bunch of uppity women? Or is it a genuine attempt to force our government to indulge in a bit of inner reflection on the intolerable

fuzziness of its present position? According to Greek mythology, the dawn-goddess Aurora sets out before the sun to proclaim the coming day. And no doubt Women on waves named their boat with this in mind. Although the Dutch government have rapidly distanced themselves from their actions and pointed out the restrictions that apply to them under Dutch law, this is unlikely to stop them achieving their aims."

The Sunday Business Post, 17-6-2001: "Pro-choice groups say flood of calls greet abortion ship"

"Tony O'Brian of the IFPA said: "When the organizers first told me what they intended doing, I thought, 'Well, that's a good idea, but you're not going to get anybody here who's going to look for an abortion from you.' Since then, we've probably had calls from more than 60 women and all they wanted to know is, 'how can I get to the boat?'" O'Brian said that many of the women were in the later stages of pregnancy-over 15 weeks gestation- and had been unable to travel to England for an abortion because they hadn't saved enough money. Others just couldn't find a good enough excuse to give to their families for an absence of two or three days. "Our counselors have told them about cameras and protesters around the boat, but they say they don't care," added O'Brian. The Well Women Center said they had a similar experience. Chief executive Alison Begas said: "we've had about 30 calls so far, one or two of whom have been in a very late stage of pregnancy. The calls have come from all over the country- from Roscommon, west Cork, the Midlands, everywhere. We've been overwhelmed."

Sculpture Society Ireland Newsletter September/ October 2001/24:

"The extensive calendar of events around the ships visit included a presentation by Irish artists, who were invited to address issues such as fertility and sexuality in the context of their work. In her introduction to the presentations artist Louise Walsh spoke of the need for a move towards concillience of Science and new media in art. She emphasized

that now, just as they did in the 60's, artists could use conceptual and performance art to catalyze social change, to highlight violations of human rights. The question, she argued, is not: Is it art? But rather: How can art be used to add to society? This activity, she concluded, "is more than aesthetics beyond aesthetics" ...The Women on Waves organization, in inviting these artists aboard to present their work, has acted as a catalyst for change in our society, and has succeeded in bringing the issue of basic human rights to prominence once again. Perhaps Irish artists today, through their work, can continue to condemn the social, moral and political paralysis that Joyce decried in Dubliners, and which, nearly a century later, continues to pervade our society."

CNN online opinion poll. Of the 16,500 participants, 49% are in favor of the ship's activities.

Ms. Magazine awarded Rebecca Comper as one of the Women on the Year 2001 for hatching a heroic and ingenious plan to provide reproductive health services around the world.

Negative press

Ireland on Sunday, 17-6-01 "Mission Aborted"

Irish Independent, 16-6-01 "Publicity stunt claims rejected as abortion ship sails into disaster"

Irish Independent, 16-6-01 "Dutch activists renege on abortions promise"
News of the World 17-6-2001 "Abortion stunts are all at sea"

Guardian 16-6-2001 "Stormy forecast for abortion ship"

"Lack of license wrecks plans for Irish operations 12 miles offshore...But for dozens of women facing unwanted pregnancies in the Irish republic, where abortion is illegal, the floating termination clinic seemed the answer to their prayers. Those hopes were dashed yesterday when it transpired that the doctors on board, who had planned to carry out abortions 12 miles offshore in international waters, where the ship is subject only to Dutch law, did not have the correct paperwork...Other counseling services have been inundated and there were reports that some women had cancelled appointments for private abortions in England in the hope they could get terminations for a nominal fee on board the Aurora"

USNews, 25-6-01 "But after running afoul of Dutch medical licensing laws and Irish ferry regulations soon after arriving there, the voyage began to look more like a clumsy PR exploit than a mission of mercy-though that was denied by its organizer Rebecca Comper. Said the Dutch gynecologist "Do you think we would have gone to so much effort if this were a publicity stunt?" ...Though rankled by the ship's arrival, the anti-abortion lobby in this staunchly Roman Catholic country kept its response as muted as muffled oars, reluctant to further fuel publicity for a trip that has already captured wide attention. "We have not taken this seriously," said Ronan Mullen, spokesperson for the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin." This confuses the issue: it's more about headlines than help. It's a cuss way of dealing with human tragedy"

Emails We received thousands of emails in response to the project. Here follows a selection of the reactions, some condemned the project and some praised it.

Negative emails "What a viciously cruel thing you did to 100 desperate women in Ireland."

"You don't care about women any more than the icy cold male doctors cared about us 30 years ago, before abortion was legal here in America. You're worse then they because you "pretend" to care. CRUEL USERS."

"Stop making money by killing hundreds of thousands of innocent people who will never see the light. Hitler was a little baby in comparison to you. You should be happy that your mothers haven't aborted you."

"How dare you come to Ireland and take women to get abortions.

Shame on you. The blood of the babies in on your hands. Just so you know, I am praying and asking everyone I know to pray that your boat will sink with all you murderers aboard."

"I cannot believe you damn liberals! You can disrespect a country's laws that already has enough problems of its own, and you have the guts to kill an innocent human! You will all burn in hell!"

"I see the Huns have gone Viking again. What? Have the men lost their balls that they now have to send their women to kill Irish children? At least in the old days, the Vikings were honest killers."

"Why do you support such bloodshed Satanist? Someday, God will save the souls of the innocent unborn. I hope at least you are holding those little babies as they squirm and die. You are heartless and lost, may God have mercy on you."

"It is my sincere hope that your vessel sinks and you die a cold and painful death, similar to the murders you are perpetrating on the vessel"

"Who cares if those baby-killing whores die while having their wombs scraped out? They deserve every hemorrhage and infection possible for that most heinous of all crimes, infanticide!"

Positive emails "No question -- just enormous gratitude for your efforts! Thank you!"

"Sorry about the recent news about licensing problems at home, hopefully they will be resolved soon. thanks for your courageous work."

"My heart is full of joy, and love and prayer for you, may you continue to do the good and wonderful work - with gratitude I will spread the word of your mission. Holding you in the Light."

"PLEASE be safe!!! Never let your guard down. Anti-abortion terrorists will stoop lower than any sane individual would imagine, they call it 'divine intervention' (aka. self righteous intolerance.) Stay Happy. Healthy and Safe ~~~"

"As an Irish Catholic Pro-Life person...keep it up. Women should have a right to make a choice...and be guaranteed safety. Your courage inspires me. I also hope you do contraception education and delivery as well. As a woman.....a big thank you."

"I live in the United States, and recently had an unplanned pregnancy. Thankfully I live in a nation where I have options. Thank you for bringing choice to women, who without you would have none."

"I saw the CNN report on your endeavor as I was working out in the gym. It was all I could do to not stand up and cheer for your brave efforts. Women deserve and should demand reproductive freedom throughout the globe. I admire, support, and salute your commitment!!! RIGHT ON!!!"

"A short note just to offer support for the great work you are doing and the help and advice you are providing for all us women around the world!"

"I just wanted to say thank you for your bravery and willingness to put yourselves at the forefront of this important issue for women to own their own bodies and to have real choice about birth options."

"My mom was Irish and she would be proud of you for coming to Ireland and helping the women of that country."

"Having had a safe and legal abortion in Chicago, and having seen my sister-in-law become sterile after an unsafe abortion in Spain, I applaud you a million times for your work and thank you very very much. I am currently not working because I am at home with my baby boy, but when I start working again, I promise I will contribute financially what I can."

"Just a short note to say 'thanks' & "good luck" on your sailing trip today. Hope all goes well and more Irish women sit up and take note of our right to choose."

"I am moved immeasurably, don't give up!!!"

Thanks This page should have been filled with the hundreds of names of individuals and organizations whose generosity and commitment made our first voyage a reality. To everyone who dedicated time, energy, resources, advice and services we express our heartfelt.

Unfortunately, some of those opposed to a woman's right to choose are violent. We do not want our supporters to be harassed or their lives put in danger. For this reason, we decided not to list them here by their name. While they know who they are, you should nevertheless know that:

- 9 Medical, political and women's rights organizations in Ireland supported the project
- 10 Foundations provided grants
- 12 Private philanthropists gave very generous donations
- 14 Organizations and businesses gave in-kind donations
- 15 Lawyers and legal institutes gave judicial advice
- 16 Medical doctors and institutes donated equipment, advice and services
- 25 Irish artists and writers gave workshops and lectures on board the ship
- 34 Organizers in Dublin and Cork made everything possible
- 52 Humanitarian, medical, political and women's rights organizations from all over the world supported the project
- 198 Private donors gave financial help

More than 200 volunteers, friends, family members and supporters from all over the world believed in the cause and all helped in so many different ways. To all of you our thanks

Program

- June 11, Afternoon Departure from the Netherlands
June 14, Evening Arrival in Ireland
June 15, Day Press conference, all day media, interviews
June 15, Evening Artists and invited guest wine and cheese welcome
June 16, Lunchtime Writers workshop
June 16, Evening Legal workshop
June 17, All day Morning after pill distribution
June 18, Day Open ship
June 18, Morning Community workers workshop
June 19, Afternoon Artists and art school workshop
June 19, Evening Medical professionals workshop
June 20, Afternoon Trade Union Workshop
June 20, Evening Goodbye party for volunteers
June 21, Afternoon Departure from Dublin
June 22, Afternoon Arrival Cork
June 23, Morning Medical workshop
June 23, All day Quayside entertainment, artists
June 24, All day Open ship
June 24, Morning Legal workshop
June 24, Afternoon Meeting organized by Cork Women's Political Association
June 25, Afternoon Departure for the Netherlands
June 28, Morning Arrival in the Netherlands

Text: Rebecca Gomperts

Editors: Petra Blaisse, Don Hara, Julie Kay, Gunilla Kleiverda

Photos: Rudi Gomperts, Thomas Levin, Arjen van de Merwe, Mary O'Connor

Translations: Juul Böckling, Marleen de Vries

Book design: Kees Ruyter

Printer: drukkerij SSP

© Published by Women on Waves
January 2002

Women on Waves

P.O.Box 15683

1001 ND, Amsterdam

The Netherlands

Giro: 3316

Email: info@womenonwaves.org

www.womenonwaves.org

ISBN 90-806830-1-9

after you've gone?... (will i?) i am very unsure of what i should do. have heard lots of talk but nothing really solid. please send me any information. thank you."

"Hello I am a 19 year old student, I got pregnant and I cannot have the baby. I tried everywhere for help but did not manage to. I saw your sight on the Internet and I really would like you to help me. I live in a small island in the Mediterranean called Malta and as you know abortion here is illegal.I heard that your ship Aurora comes to Malta but I do not know when. I would really be pleased if you could give me all the information needed so that I will be able to find you here in Malta.Or else any other information or contacts so that I will have this abortion. Please you are my last hope and I am sure you can help me, please I beg you."

"Can you please tell me what country I can go to to have a legal abortion since that I live in the Philippines and it is illegal here."

"I am living in Oman and abortion is illegal in Oman. Can I come to Holland for Abotion? Pls "
"I found your web page this evening and do not



know if you may be able to help me, however desperate circumstance require me to ask. I am an American student living in Egypt who is faced with an unwanted pregnancy. Being in a muslim country and having few financial resources, I don't know where to turn."

"I'm 19, I live in Poland. Few days ago I have passed my enter exams and now I'm a student of University. Today I went to the doctor and I know that I'm pregnant (it's 5th week). I was supposing that I'm pregnant for few weeks and I have been thinking what to do for a long time. Now I'm sure that I'm not ready to be mother, to give love and home, take care and responsibility for other human being. That's why I and my boy friend decided that the best way is abortion. But in my country it's illegal and I need your help. Could you send me some informations about places in Poland or Germany, Czech Republik, Slovakia where I could make an abortion. I'm also waiting for information about possibilities to get a help from your organisation (maybe join "The Aurora"). I don't have much time and I need your help. I'm waiting !!!!"

I hope you can help me, I tried to ring the contact number but the message box was full. I have lots of questions to ask you, here are some of them I really hope you can help me. please reply soon. Will the ship be here on Thursday the 14th June and how long will it be staying for? If someone is about 7-8 weeks pregnant can you just tell me how long it takes to make an appointment and what happens? do you take a pill or do you have an abortion or what happens if I don't understand it and I'm afraid to talk to anyone about it. How much does it cost? Are there any health risks involved? how long does it take? Will there be TV cameras there? I hope you can answer my questions, please do. Thanks"

could you please E-mail me and let me know how long it will take to get to the ship and how long the Aurora is going to be in Cork and how long the ship is going to be in Cork and which days (if any) you will be going to International waters to perform abortion. If the procedure is available, should I make an appointment before travelling to Cork?" I'd like to let you know that I believe this is a great thing that you are doing and hopefully it will make the