



# *the* **ABORTION REFERENDUM**

KNOW WHAT YOU ARE VOTING FOR ON 19TH MARCH  
*Some facts about what this referendum means.*

On 19th March, we are being asked to vote in a referendum which is of grave importance. It will affect our children and our children's children for generations to come. It is essential that we decide how to vote based on the facts.

# Did YOU KNOW?

Gibraltar's existing law already protects women where the life of the mother is 'at risk'. The proposed new abortion law is not necessary to protect women's lives.

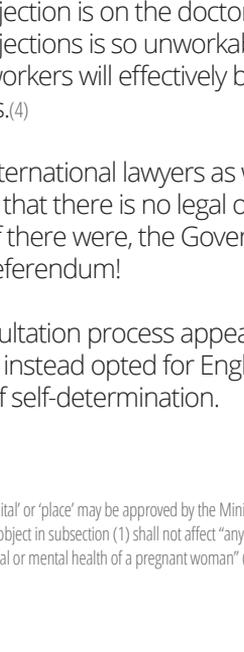


The proposed law (Crimes (Amendment) Act 2019 Additional Sections on Children Destruction & Abortion) will mean abortion will be available throughout the full nine months of pregnancy not just in the first 12 weeks. Under the Act there is in practice no meaningful time-limit for ending the life of the unborn child. (1)

In England and Wales, the exact same wording has led to 'abortion on demand'. In 2018, 97.7% of abortions were performed under the 'unspecified mental health' grounds.(2) The same will inevitably happen in Gibraltar.

(1) The reference to 12 weeks in the Act appears only in Section 163(1)(a), under Additional Sections Child Destruction & Abortion, and is left out of the remaining 163(1)(b), (c), and (d). (2) Department of Health, Abortion Statistics, England & Wales.

- The proposed grounds for abortion are ill-defined. In practice they can be applied to all pregnancies. Reasons include the pregnant woman's "actual or reasonably foreseeable environment". This leaves the door wide open to abortion in any circumstance.
- There is no lower age limit mentioned in the law. If the established GHA policy of the Sexual Health Clinic applies here, our daughters or granddaughters (as young as 13) could undergo an abortion with no obligation for parents to be consulted or informed!
- Abortions will be permissible in private abortion clinics in Gibraltar.<sup>(3)</sup>



***In practice it will be possible to end the life of disabled babies. In England and Wales, these laws have led to 90% of babies diagnosed with Down Syndrome in the womb being killed before birth. This does not reflect our values as a community.***

- The procedure for conscientious objections for doctors and nurses is granted but under threat that "in any legal proceedings" the burden of proving conscientious objection is on the doctors and nurses! The procedure for conscientious objections is so unworkable as to be meaningless in practice. Our healthcare workers will effectively be forced to perform abortion or face legal proceedings.<sup>(4)</sup>
- Many eminent international lawyers as well as prominent local lawyers and academics agree that there is no legal obligation on the Government to change the law. If there were, the Government would not put the question to the people in a referendum!
- The lengthy consultation process appears to have been ignored and the Government has instead opted for English style legislation with no regard for Gibraltar's right of self-determination.

<sup>(3)</sup> Section 163(A)(3) & (4) states that a 'hospital' or 'place' may be approved by the Minister For Health. Neither are defined in the Act

<sup>(4)</sup> Section 163(C)(2) states that the rights to object in subsection (1) shall not affect "any duty to participate in treatment which is necessary to save the life or to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of a pregnant woman" (emphasis added)



#SAVEBABIESVOTENO



**Vote** **NO**  
ON 19TH MARCH

It's time to stop and think.  
**Let's work to support our mothers and vulnerable families and save the lives of our defenseless babies.**  
Let's protect Gibraltar's values.



@GibProLife



@GibraltarProLifeMovement



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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE  
PROPOSED LAW SEE **[WWW.CHOOSELIFE.GI](http://WWW.CHOOSELIFE.GI)**

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