



To the people of Gibraltar

Don't make the same mistake Ireland did. Vote No this Thursday.

As TDs and Senators of Ireland's Oireachtas, we are writing to encourage you to vote to protect both lives in pregnancy in your referendum on abortion this week.

We encourage you to vote No, not just because it is the compassionate thing to do, but also in light of the experience of Ireland since our referendum in 2018.

In the space of just three years, our new abortion laws have already left a trail of destruction, with tragic consequences for the most vulnerable in society.

The number of abortions in Ireland has skyrocketed since the new law came into effect on 1st January 2019 despite commitments from the Government that this would not happen. 6666 deaths of unborn babies occurred in the year one alone (1).

It is equally horrifying to report that the supposed safeguards in our law haven't worked or been followed properly. In a highly publicised case, doctors mistakenly and illegally aborted a perfectly healthy baby when it was thought to have had a very serious disability - which was subsequently found to be a misdiagnosis.

The recent Irish experience has also been documented in a chilling report published in the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (2). The study revealed that some babies are being born alive after late term abortions and left to die unaided, and some of the doctors' comments reveal the true nature of the act of carrying out abortions - which they described as 'brutal', 'awful' and 'emotionally difficult'.

Sadly, once the referendum passed, legislators were not given any meaningful chance by the Government to curb the excesses of the new law - even our humane amendments to the Bill (like requiring pain relief to be administered to an unborn child before a late term abortion) - were dismissed.

In Gibraltar, you still have a chance to stand up for the most vulnerable, and oppose this proposed change in the law. Our referendum, like yours, was not about healthcare - but about deliberately and intentionally depriving unborn children of their right to life.

The tragedy of the Irish experience is that in an era where we are rightly promoting and expanding human rights around the world, we have removed the right to life from a whole category of human beings - the most vulnerable.

A just society demands respect for all people no matter who they are - born or unborn. Don't make the same mistake Ireland did. Vote No this Thursday.

Signed

Deputy Carol Nolan, TD

Deputy Peter Fitzpatrick TD

Deputy Peadar Tóibín TD

Deputy Noel Grealish TD

Deputy Michael Collins TD

Deputy Mattie McGrath TD

Senator Rónán Mullen

Senator Sharon Keogan

1. <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b410b-health-regulation-of-termination-of-pregnancy-act-2018-annual-report-on-notifications-2019/>

2. British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, March 2021, 128(4):676-684.

Note: For verification purposes, contact the offices of Senator Rónán Mullen

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