

We need a new  
abortion law,  
not a ticket to  
✈ England ✈



THINGS  
THAT  
BELONG IN  
A UTERUS:

- IUDs
- babies
- hormones



THINGS  
THAT DO  
NOT BELONG  
IN A  
UTERUS

- religion
- laws
- men
- "persons"
- misplaced  
moral outrage

# Trust Women

to make decisions for themselves

## Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights in Northern Ireland

# WHY?





# A Trade Union Issue?

From the **1960's** access to the contraceptive pill and access to abortion have transformed women's lives!

Increasing control over when, and if, to have children has improved women's employment and education prospects, incomes and opportunities.

Barriers to reproductive rights are barriers to full social, economic and political equality, which makes the right to access abortion a clear Trade Union issue.

# Is Abortion an issue for Workers?

- Stigma means lying
- Getting time off work before and after
- Loss of earnings
- Money required to travel and pay for termination
- Post op medical check ups
- Religious ethos of workplace e.g. schools, hospitals







# I HAD AN ABORTION BECAUSE

Y



I DON'T  
WANT  
CHILDREN



MY  
CONTRACEPTION  
FAILED



TWO  
KIDS WAS  
ENOUGH



I CAN'T  
AFFORD A  
CHILD  
RIGHT NOW



IT WAS  
MEDICALLY  
DANGEROUS  
TO CARRY  
PREGNANCY  
TO TERM



UMM,  
I'M NOT  
OBLIGED TO  
TELL YOU!



# Am I Pro Choice

It is challenging to work out how we feel about abortion provision, given the emotional nature of the discussions that take place in Northern Ireland, but we're here to help. If you answer yes to any of these statements below then you can say that you are pro choice.





# Legislation

- Abortion in Northern Ireland is governed under the **1861** Offences against the person Act (before the light bulb was invented)
- The **1967** Abortion Act was never extended to Northern Ireland
- Any access to abortion in Northern Ireland?
- What does the most recent judgment mean for abortion in Northern Ireland?



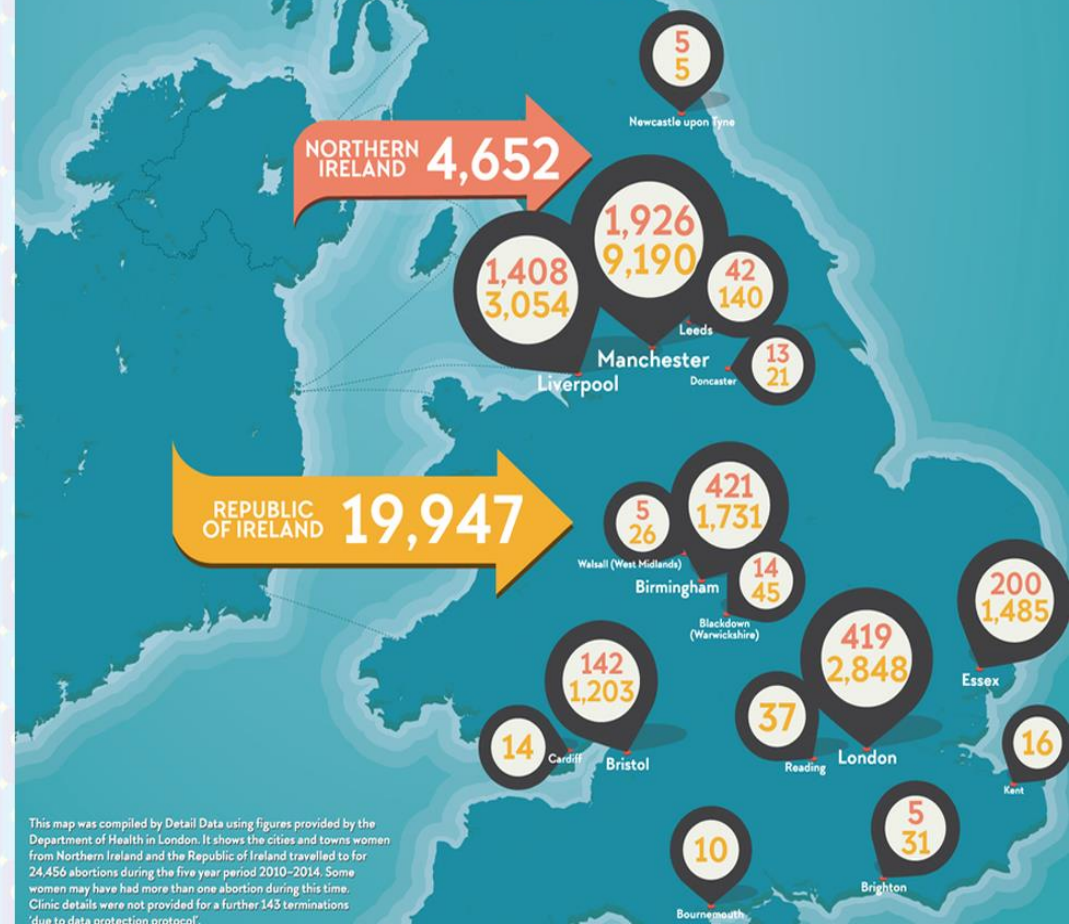


# What happens to women?

- Unsafe, illegal abortion pills – purchased on internet
- **1000** women from NI, **4,000** from Republic (to UK) Others travel to the European mainland
- Cost - £2000
- An unknown number of women are forced into continuing with a pregnancy that they can't cope with.
- Women face life imprisonment for having an abortion. (FPANI)

# ABORTION EXPORTED

2010-2014



This map was compiled by Detail Data using figures provided by the Department of Health in London. It shows the cities and towns women from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland travelled to for 24,456 abortions during the five year period 2010-2014. Some women may have had more than one abortion during this time. Clinic details were not provided for a further 143 terminations 'due to data protection protocol'.



# Abortion affects women as workers

- Stigma means lying
- Getting time off work before and after
- Loss of earnings
- Money required to travel and pay for termination
- Post op medical check ups
- Religious ethos of workplace e.g. schools, hospitals



# Trade Unions' positions on abortion

**ICTU** support the Trade Union Campaign to Repeal the 8th Amendment to the Irish Constitution - **SIPTU**, **UNITE**, **TUI**, **Mandate**, **INTO** and **NUJ**

**UNITE:** the union support a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion – supports Alliance For Choice

**UNISON:** believes that a woman's right to choose with regards to abortion is fundamental to her political, social and economic equality.

**NIPSA:** 1996 motion passed to Extend the 1967 Act  
**CWU** – Very developed position which includes NI



# What we do

- Activism – Stall, rallies, protest and celebration events
- Legal and Lobby – Respond to documents (CEDAW, DoJ consultation)
- Education – Women's guide to 21st Century
- Engagement with civic society
- Practical support – MS escort service
- Media – responding to stories etc.



# Trust Women Campaign

- Our campaign will keep the issue of abortion firmly on the political agenda in the North.
- We are asking MLAs and MPs to:
- Trust women to make decisions about their own lives
- Support Legal Change to allow greater abortion access
- Push political parties to adopt a free vote on any progressive change



# Trust Women Campaign

What can you do? (We can help!)

- Talk to fellow trade unionists
- Invite us to your branches
- Motions at Conferences
- Lobby your MLAs
- Talk to Churches
- Talk to Community members
- Social media – Facebook and Twitter
- Local Giving – donate to campaign