

Overcoming restrictions to access abortion and making it visible.

Rebecca Gomperts, MD, MPP, PhD

gomperts@womenonweb.org



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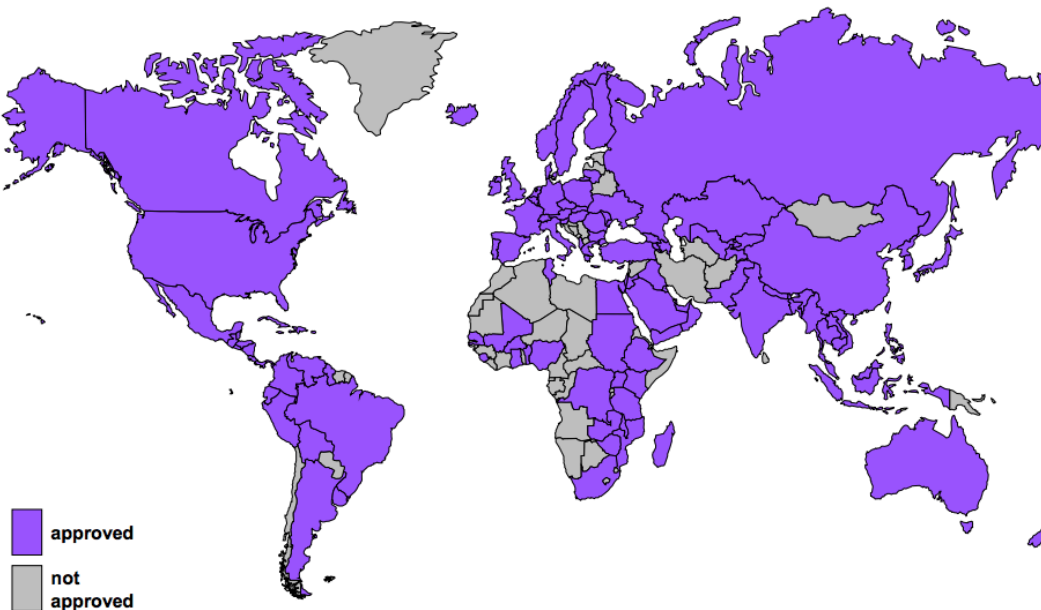
Restrictions:

- Abortion is legally restricted
- Access to abortion is restricted because of other reasons for many women. This can be:
 - financial (abortion care not for free for all) (Australia (also legal restrictions), Japan; (also medication abortion not available), Hong Kong, Singapore, Spain)
 - logistical and procedural (abortion care concentrated in urban areas/clinics or other obstacles, contentious objection) (Italy, United Kingdom, Turkey and Hungary (mifepristone also not registered))
 - social; childcare, work absence
 - confidentiality, stigma
- Access to abortion care is legal but restricted due to the woman's circumstances; domestic and family abuse, religious reasons, mental health (almost all countries where abortion is only available in clinics)
- Abortion is legally available by special provides but access is restricted because the women's prefers to do her own abortion.



Misoprostol Approved

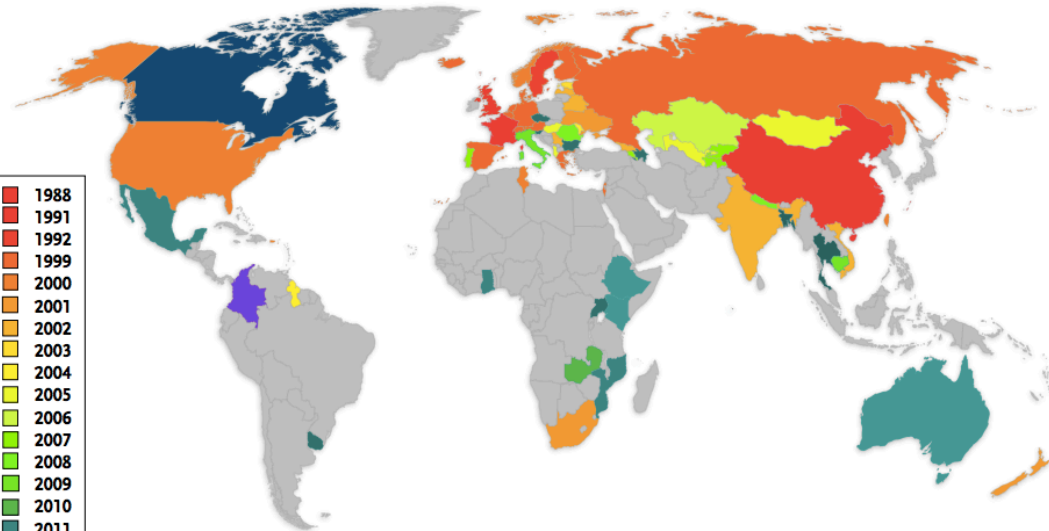
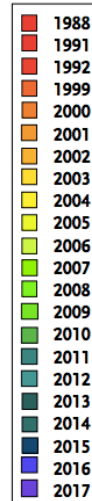
Mifepristone Approved



Gynuity Health Projects tracks formal drug registration and government approval of misoprostol throughout the world. This map reflects our latest information. If you become aware of registration or approval in new countries, please write to pubinfo@gynuity.org.

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Updated February 2015



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Updated March 2017

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Access:

- Regular pharmacy with prescription
- Black market (where abortion is illegal)
- In special clinics/hospitals (almost all of Europe and US)
- Online (worldwide)



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Women on Web, a telemedical abortion service was launched, 2005



I need an abortion

Do you have an unwanted pregnancy? This online medical abortion service helps women gain access to a safe abortion with pills in order to reduce the number of deaths due to unsafe abortions. [Read more »](#)



I had an abortion

Every year 42 million women have an abortion. Show your face, share your story, donate your money and help women around the world get access to safe abortions. [Read more »](#)



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The Safe Abortion App: information about safe abortion options in every country around the world and to bypass censorship

The image displays the Google Play Store listing for the 'Safe Abortion' app by Women on Waves. The app is categorized under 'Education' and is currently 'Unrated'. A warning message states, 'You do not have any devices'. The app icon features a stylized crown or wave shape in orange and pink on a dark blue circular background. Below the main listing, three mobile device screenshots are shown: the first is the 'Choose your language' screen with a search bar and the word 'العربية' (Arabic) visible; the second is the 'Home' screen with a menu icon and the text 'I need an abortion with pills'; the third is a chat interface titled 'Did you take a pregnancy test?' with three response options: 'Yes, and I am pregnant.', 'No, I did not do a pregnancy test.', and 'No, but I did an ultrasound and I am pregnant.'

Google Play Search Rebecca

Safe Abortion
By Women on Waves
Open iTunes to buy and download

Safe Abortion with pills
women on waves Education
Unrated
You do not have any devices

Install

Choose your language
3:05 PM
العربية

Home
3:05 PM
I need an abortion with pills

Did you take a pregnancy test?
Yes, and I am pregnant.
No, I did not do a pregnancy test.
No, but I did an ultrasound and I am pregnant.

Overcoming and Making visible legal restrictions to access abortion visible.

- Ship campaigns Guatemala and Mexico 2017
- Abortion drone (Poland 2015, Ireland 2016)
- Abortion Robot (Northern Ireland 2018)
- Abortion pill Protest South Korea (2018)





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Last abortion ship campaign in Mexico 2017



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Taking the Abortion Pill in Public as Protest

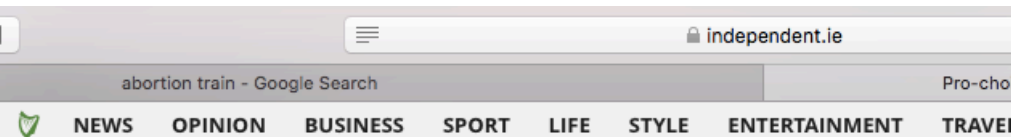


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28 October 2014 – Ireland: Abortion Train



Defiant pro-choice activists re-created the landmark contraceptive train of the 1970s earlier today by travelling to Belfast to bring back illegal abortion pills.

Up to 30 women and pro-choice TDs travelled the 'abortion pill train' and took the tablets to a rally in Dublin on their return.



Irish politician to take abortion pill in Dublin in defiance of republic's ban

Socialist TD Ruth Coppinger, along with 30 other pro-choice activists, to receive pills in defiance of country's laws



▲ Pro-choice supporters hold placards in front of the Irish parliament building in Dublin. Photograph: Peter Muhly/AFP/Getty Images

An Irish parliamentarian is to take an illegal abortion pill in Dublin to defy the continued ban on most terminations in the Republic.

The Socialist party's TD Ruth Coppinger travelled to Northern [Ireland](#) on Tuesday along with 30 other pro-choice activists to receive abortion pills from the pro-choice organisation Women on Web.



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over the Catholic country's abortion laws.

The pills were collected and swallowed by two women as part of a stunt organised by Dutch pro-choice group Women on Waves.

The country, whose population is 90 per cent Catholic, only allows abortion within 12 weeks of pregnancy in cases of rape or incest.

Scroll down for video



June 2016: Collaboration with ROSA: Abortion drone



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October 2016 and May 2017 publication scientific articles about women from Ireland using Women on Web

≡ thebmj

BJOG An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

[Explore this journal >](#)

Research

Self reported outcomes and adverse events after medical abortion through online telemedicine: population based study in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland

BMJ 2017 ; 357 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.j2011>

(Published 16 May 2017)

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2017;357;j2011

Original Article

Experiences and characteristics of women seeking and completing at-home medical termination of pregnancy through online telemedicine in Ireland and Northern Ireland: a population-based analysis

ARA Aiken , R Gomperts, J Trussell

First published: 17 October 2016 [Full publication history](#)



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December
2017

Ellen Coyne

December 14 2017, 12:01am,
The Times

Politics

Global politics

UK politics

Health

Women buying illegal pills swayed abortion decision



As campaigners on both sides made their views known, politicians on the Oireachtas committee spent three months considering expert evidence

LEAH FARRELL/ROLLINGNEWS

Civil disobedience won the politicians over. Twenty-one Irish TDs and senators spent three months poring over reams of expert evidence and testimony on the state's anti-abortion laws. By the time the Oireachtas committee held its last meeting yesterday, more than half supported a fully pro-choice law allowing access to abortion up to 12 weeks' gestation for all women.

For the politicians who changed their mind, one of the most compelling pieces of evidence was the number of Irish women who are taking illegal abortion pills bought online. The committee heard that the use of pills bought online had tripled since 2010, when 548 women in Ireland contacted an a website. Last year



JUNE 2018: ABORTION ROBOT NORTHERN

Three women take abortion pills at pro-choice rally outside court

Tablets and robots also seized by police as campaigners demand change in law



Activist Eleanor Crossey-Malone takes what appears to be an abortion pill

By Victoria Leonard

June 1 2018



Police have seized two robots that pro-choice activists had planned to use to deliver abortion pills during a highly-charged demonstration outside Belfast's High Court yesterday.

AND

Activists Are Using Robots to Send Abortion Pills to Northern Ireland



Melanie Ehrenkranz

Wednesday 5:50pm • Filed to: ABORTION ROBOT

6.3K 57 5



Photo: Women on Waves

Activists say they will use [robots to deliver abortion pills](#) to Northern Ireland, where abortion is only legal if the life of the woman is endangered. While it's illegal in the region for a pregnant woman to have a medical abortion in nearly all cases, the organizations operating the robots said on Wednesday that they are not breaking any laws because the robots will be operated abroad, from the Netherlands.

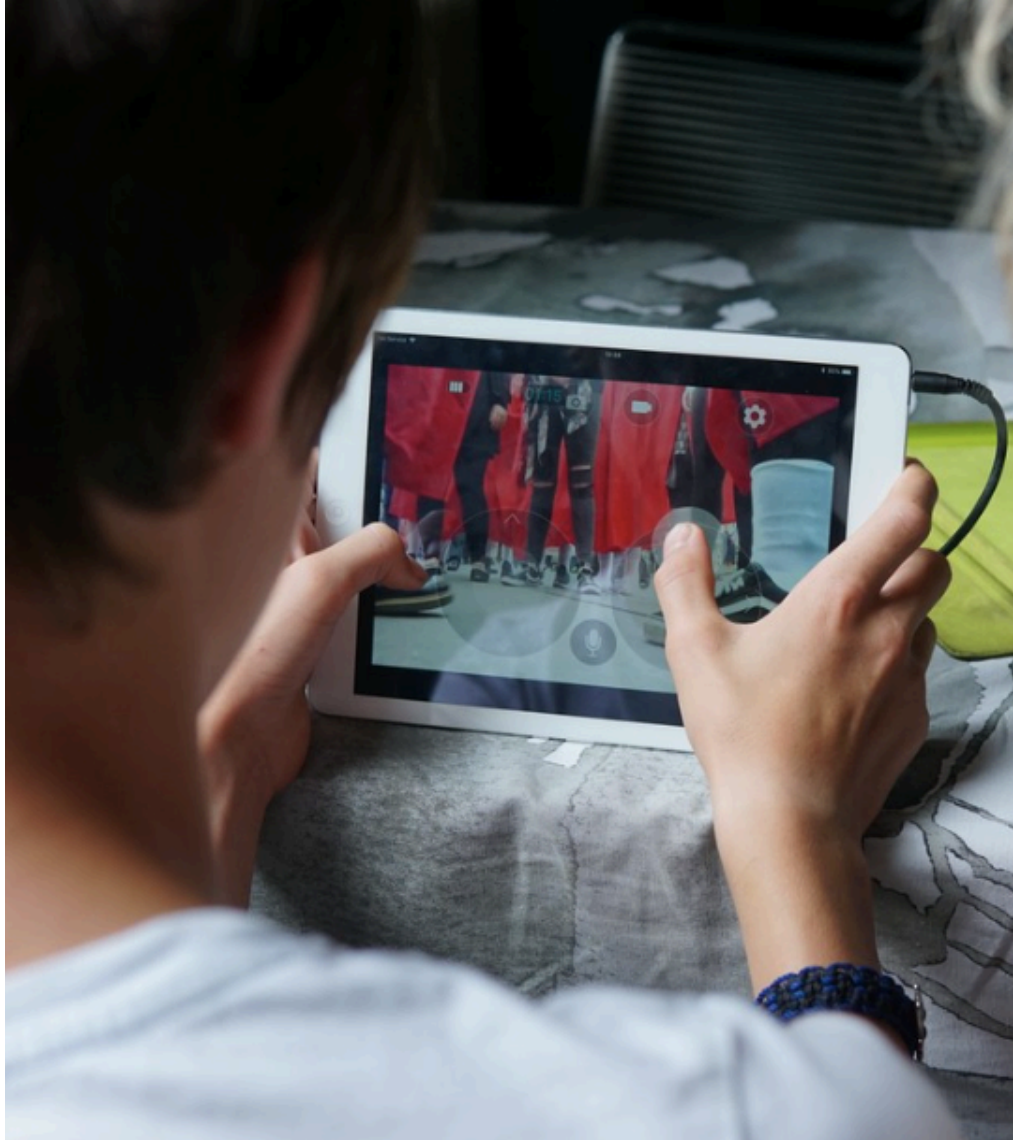
The initiative is the result of a collaboration between pro-choice nonprofit Women on Waves, online medical abortion service Women on Web, and socialist feminist movement ROSA Northern Ireland. The robots will not solve the region's restrictive abortion laws, but they serve as a signal to those watching that there are people fighting for stronger reproductive rights.



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2018 SOUTH KOREA: 125 women swallow the abortion pill in protest to restrictive abortion laws



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125 Women Take "Abortion Pill" in Protest of Anti-Abortion Law

Posted on August 27, 2018 by Korea Bizwire in Culture & Society, Editor's Picks, Most Viewed, Social Affairs, Top News with 1 Comment



(Image: Yonhap)

SEOUL, Aug. 27 (Korea Bizwire) – Women activists calling for the repeal of current anti-abortion laws took to the streets in black yesterday, putting on a performance in which they took illegal abortion pills.

Female activist groups carried out the demonstration yesterday in front of the Bosingak Pavilion in Seoul's Jongno district, asking that the government legalize abortions.



Making other types of restrictions to access abortion visible.

Research online consultations telemedical service Women on Web

- In UK
- USA
- Hungary



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Women on Web website. It includes the logo (a pink circle), the text "Women on Web", a language selector set to "English", a search bar, and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, and Pinterest. Below the navigation bar are two main content sections. The left section features a pink background with images of a white pill, four white hexagonal pills, and two white hexagonal pills. Below these images is the heading "I need an abortion" and a paragraph of text: "Do you have an unwanted pregnancy? This online medical abortion service helps women gain access to a safe abortion with pills in order to reduce the number of deaths due to unsafe abortions. [Read more >](#)". The right section features a pink background with a grid of 24 small portrait photos of diverse women. Below the grid is the heading "I had an abortion" and a paragraph of text: "Every year 42 million women have an abortion. Show your face, share your story, donate your money and help women around the world get access to safe abortions. [Read more >](#)".



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September 2017 **Barriers to accessing abortion services and perspectives on using mifepristone and misoprostol at home in Great Britain**

[Abigail R.A. Aiken](#) , [Katherine A. Guthrie](#), [Marlies Schellekens](#), [James Trussell](#), [Rebecca Gomperts](#)

The study looks at the demographics and circumstances of all women requesting early medication abortion through the online telemedicine initiative Women on Web (WoW) over a 4-month period and analyzed a sample of their anonymized emails to the service to explore their reasons for seeking help.

During that time, 180 women reported 209 reasons for seeking abortion outside the formal healthcare setting. Nearly half the reasons – 49 percent – were access barriers, Thirty percent were privacy concerns, including lack of confidentiality of services, perceived or experienced stigma and preferring the privacy and comfort of using pills at home. Eighteen percent were controlling circumstances, including partner violence and partner or family control.



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Decriminalise abortion, says body representing childbirth doctors

By [PRESS ASSOCIATION](#)

PUBLISHED: 07:35 BST, 23 September 2017 | **UPDATED:** 07:35 BST, 23 September 2017



Abortion laws that punish women who have illegal terminations with life in prison should be scrapped, a body representing many of the UK's childbirth doctors has said.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) said its council had voted strongly in favour of removing criminal sanctions associated with abortion as it should be treated as a "medical issue".



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In 2011, the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) brought a legal challenge against the Department of Health in an attempt to allow for home administration of misoprostol. Unfortunately the High Court judgment confirmed that the Secretary of State has “*the power to approve a wider range of place [for the administration of abortion medications], including potentially the home*”. This only happened after the publication of the study in 2017

Abortion

Use of second abortion pill at home to be allowed in England

Government says home use of misoprostol will be legalised by end of 2018

Haroon Siddique

Sat 25 Aug 2018 08.43 BST



1,673



Hungary

Eur J Contracept Reprod Health Care. 2017 Oct;22(5):360-362. doi: 10.1080/13625187.2017.1397112. Epub 2017 Nov 22.

Experiences of women living in Hungary seeking a medical abortion online.

Les K¹, Gomperts R^{1,2}, Gemzell-Danielsson K².

⊕ Author information

Abstract

OBJECTIVE: The aim of the study was to analyse the characteristics and experiences of women living in Hungary who accessed a medical abortion through the telemedical service Women on Web.

METHODS: We examined the characteristics and experiences of 136 women who requested a medical abortion from Women on Web between June 2013 and February 2017. The main outcome measures were acceptability and satisfaction with the service.

RESULTS: Of the 136 women who completed an online consultation, 118 requested a medical abortion package. Follow-up information was provided by 73 women (61.9%), of whom 49 completed the follow-up survey and 24 provided follow-up information via email. Of the 59 women who went ahead with a medical abortion, five (8.5%) had a surgical intervention afterwards. All women who completed the follow-up survey reported that they found a home medical abortion to be acceptable.

CONCLUSION: The lack of availability of medical abortion in the public health sector in Hungary and compulsory biased counselling make medical abortion at home through telemedicine a good alternative for Hungarian women.

KEYWORDS: Abortion; Hungary; abortion policy; medical abortion; pregnancy termination



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ARTICLE

Motivations and Experiences of People Seeking Medication Abortion Online in the United States

By Abigail R.A. Aiken , Kathleen Broussard, Dana M. Johnson, Elisa Padron

A major barrier for participants living in states with restrictive laws was the high cost of clinical care. Other participants described major logistical challenges resulting from state abortion laws, such as waiting periods and ultrasound requirements. Other access barriers were long distances to clinics, lack of transportation and difficulty finding information. Another reason for considering ordering medications online, was that some people preferred doing their own abortions at home instead of seeking care within the formal health care setting because of convenience, privacy and the comfort and familiarity of one's own home.



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Regulations in most countries that do not accommodate a women's preference to obtain abortion pills herself and do it at home are as much a barrier to abortion access as restrictive abortion laws

