

Statement from FIAPAC on the prosecution of women in Northern Ireland for offences relating to abortion

FIAPAC, the international association of professionals involved in contraception and abortion care, is appalled by the prosecution of women in Northern Ireland for taking medication to bring about their own miscarriage in circumstances when the law prohibits the safe legal abortion service that our members may provide throughout the world. The Association finds it incomprehensible that abortion is not legal and accessible to women in NI as it is to women throughout the rest of the UK.

The Association calls on members of the health care professions of Northern Ireland to demand an end to the prosecution of women who take steps to end an unwanted pregnancy and on politicians urgently review their archaic law to legalise abortion

FIAPAC believes that while it is right and proper that democratically elected politicians should determine laws about abortion, decisions about clinical practise must be left to clinicians in consultation with their patients.

All medical care is based on well-established underlying ethical principles of beneficence, autonomy and justice. Beneficence implies providing the best care possible for each patient. Autonomy means that patients are free to choose their treatment based on fully informed consent. Justice implies equitable access to care.

It is wrong for politicians to intrude into the relationship between a doctor and patient by insisting that clinically recommended practices are outlawed for political reasons.

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Improving women's journeys through abortion
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