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(http://feministing.com)

Think You're Pregnant?



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A first in reproductive rights history is going down (pun intended) this weekend, when <u>a drone delivers abortion pills from Germany to Poland</u> (<u>http://www.womenonwaves.org/en/page/5636/abortion-drone--first-flight-to-poland</u>).

On Saturday June 27th the Abortion drone will fly for the first time packages of abortion pills from Frankfurt an der Oder in Germany to Słubice in Poland.

The campaign is a collaboration between Women on Waves; Cocia Basia, a Berlin based abortion support group for Polish women; Feminteka Foundation from Warsaw and the 8th of March women's rights informal collective "Porozumienie kobiet 8 marca".

The Abortion drone will mark the different reality for Polish women to access to safe abortion services compared to other women in Europe. In almost all European countries abortion is legal, only in Poland, Ireland and Malta abortion is illegal and women's rights are still violated.

Women on Waves, <u>you'll probably recall (http://feministing.com/2015/01/14/watch-the-new-doc-on-one-doctors-quest-to-offer-safe-abortion-where-its-illegal/</u>], has a long history of finding creative ways of providing safe abortions to those in countries where it's outlawed-from dispensing abortion pills from an "abortion ship" in international waters to the more <u>practical method of mailing them (https://www.womenonweb.org/</u>] that makes up the bulk of their work.

Founder Rebecca Gomperts <u>describes (http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/prochoice-womens-group-will-drop-abortion-drone-stocked-with-pills-on-polish-town-10338282.html)</u> the goal of the drone trip as both to get the pills on the ground in Poland and to raise awareness about the country's strict abortion laws. It's estimated that at least <u>50,000 people (http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/international-abortion-laws-the-map-that-shows-the-state-of-abortion-worldwide-10245018.html)</u> in Poland are forced to resort to underground abortions-some of which are likely not as safe as the ones Women on Waves provides-and thousands more fly to England to end their pregnancies each year.

"Like all of our work, the drone project is a combination of raising awareness and actually delivering the services which are needed," Gomperts <u>says</u> (<u>http://www.newstatesman.com/sci-tech/2015/06/meet-woman-sending-abortion-drugs-poland-drone</u>). "And women are entitled to that worldwide attention-for the violation of their rights, and the enormous social injustice they're experiencing."

And while Women on Waves only operates in countries where abortion is outright illegal in most cases, there are ever-growing <u>swaths</u> (<u>http://feministing.com/2014/07/03/the-rise-of-the-diy-abortion/) of (http://feministing.com/2015/06/09/court-upholds-restrictions-that-would-leavetexas-with-only-7-abortion-clinics/) the (http://feministing.com/2015/02/25/the-cost-of-getting-an-abortion-is-higher-if-youre-poor/) US (<u>http://feministing.com/2011/06/13/new-abortion-fund-report-highlights-the-limits-of-access/</u>) that could use a project like this too. As Robin Marty writes, "<u>Send in the drones. (http://www.damemagazine.com/2015/06/22/can-we-please-get-abortion-dronel</u>"</u>

Header image credit: Women on Waves (http://www.womenonwaves.org/en/page/5636/abortion-drone--first-flight-to-poland)

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ATLANTA, GA

Maya Dusenbery is an Executive Director in charge of Editorial at Feministing. Maya has previously worked at NARAL Pro-Choice New York and the National Institute for Reproductive Health and was a fellow at Mother Jones magazine. She graduated with a B.A. from Carleton College in 2008. A Minnesota native, she currently lives, writes, edits, and bakes bread in Atlanta, Georgia.

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There is little less cute than Catholic Church decor during the Bush administration. Especially when the theme is abortion.

I'm talking specifically of the poster that hung at the back of our warehouse of a church when I was a chubby, tan kid. Glossy, accusatory, and dark, it featured a photograph of a tragic-looking woman, face obscured by shadow. "Abortion burned a hole in my soul and changed me forever," it proclaimed to all passerby with uteruses, hands-down winning the most-shamey-Catholic-poster award.

My lapsed-Catholic, Gore-and-Kerry-voting, loud-and-proud feminist, *Our Bodies, Ourselves* mother (went to mass every week; still shunned by nun for opposing War in Iraq, because that makes sense) taught us to be pro-choice like we were anti-war: It was the right thing.

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Pregnant, Parenting, and Pro-Choice

<u>(HTTP://FEMINISTING.COM/2015/06/15/NEW-FAVORITE-TUMBLR-PREGNANT-PARENTING-AND-PRO-CHOICE/)</u>

NARAL Pro-Choice America's president Ilyse Hogue is pregnant with twins, which is apparently mind-boggling to anti-choicers.

Honestly, I always thought when abortion opponents <u>portray (http://thinkprogress.org/health/2014/04/21/3428970/chelsea-clinton-pregnancy-abortion/</u>) supporting reproductive rights as at odds with having a child it was just a cheap act — feigned disbelief meant to perpetuate the idea that having an abortion is something only heartless child-haters, not *normal* women, would do. But according to a <u>recent Washington Post profile</u> (<u>http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/fighting-for-abortion-rights-with-twins-on-the-way/2015/06/07/72e506b6-0a04-11e5-95fd-d580f1c5d44e_story.html</u>). Hogue's pregnancy has been greeted with dropped jaws, even privately, by some anti-choice advocates on the Hill.

In reality, of course, <u>61 percent (http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_induced_abortion.html)</u> of those who have an abortion already have at least one kid, and the vast majority of the rest will go on to have one someday. As ...

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Yesterday, Kansas became the first state to <u>ban the most common procedure for a second-trimester abortion</u> (<u>http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/08/us/kansas-bans-common-second-trimester-abortion-procedure.html</u>).

A bill signed into law by Gov. Sam Brownback, a Republican and longtime abortion opponent, outlaws what it calls "dismemberment abortion," defined in part as "knowingly dismembering a living unborn child and extracting such unborn child one piece at a time from the uterus."

The law does not use medical terminology, and its practical impact is uncertain, some experts said. But it appears to ban or require alteration of the method known as dilation and evacuation, which is used in nearly all abortions after the 12th to 14th week of pregnancy ...

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