

IBO Business School

De praktijkgerichte Business School voor ambitieuze professionals

Durf jij het aan?

Poland votes down an extreme abortion ban after thousands of women go on strike

Updated by Emily Crockett · @emilycrockett · emily@vox.com · Oct 6, 2016, 12:41p

TWEET

SHARE



(AP Photo/Czarek Sokolowski)

In Poland on Monday, **thousands of women** in 60 cities went on strike, dressed in all black, and protested in the streets against a proposal to ban all abortion in Poland with no exceptions.

And on Thursday Poland's parliament **voted down** the controversial bill, 352 to 58.

Remarkably, the Guardian **reported Wednesday**, the so-called "Black Monday" protests seem to have really worked in convincing Poland's conservative government to reject the ban. Jarosław Gowin, Poland's minister of science and higher education, said that the protests had "caused us to think and taught us humility."

It's important to note that in Poland, abortion is already mostly illegal. The only exceptions are for rape, incest, danger to a woman's life or health, or a serious fetal abnormality — and many doctors still refuse to perform abortion even in those limited circumstances.

Poland's existing laws are so restrictive that last year, the international abortion rights organization Women on Web launched the first-ever **"abortion drone"** to deliver abortion medication from Germany to Poland in a way that circumvented Poland's laws. It was mostly a publicity stunt and a proof of concept, but it also called attention to the fact that most women in Poland have no safe, legal abortion options in practice.

But the proposed total ban in Poland would have been much worse. It would criminalize abortions in all cases with no exceptions — and it would also threaten women with jail if they seek abortion, which isn't currently the case in Poland.

In practice, that would also mean throwing women in jail for **miscarriages** — which is already the case not just in countries like **El Salvador**, where abortion is banned, but **also occasionally in America**, where abortion is supposed to be legal.

Especially when they're induced by medication, abortions are medically similar to a miscarriage. So if law enforcement suspects that a woman who had a miscarriage really gave herself an abortion, there isn't a lot she can do to defend herself.

Reproductive rights advocates have been fighting hard against severe abortion bans abroad — especially in Latin American countries **afflicted with the Zika virus**, which causes serious birth defects. In some of those countries, Zika has led to an **increase in women seeking self-induced abortions** — but efforts to relax local laws haven't been too successful.

So it's pretty remarkable that the protest in Poland has had such an immediate, decisive impact.

Was this article helpful? 

Next Up In IDENTITIES

3 ways to learn about Nat Turner besides watching Nate Parker's *The Birth of a Nation*

Essential structures that historically were the opposite of what they are today



TWEET

SHARE

Fox News fit an impressive number of offensive Asian stereotypes into 5 minutes

Tim Kaine really didn't give the VP debate's female moderator the respect she deserved

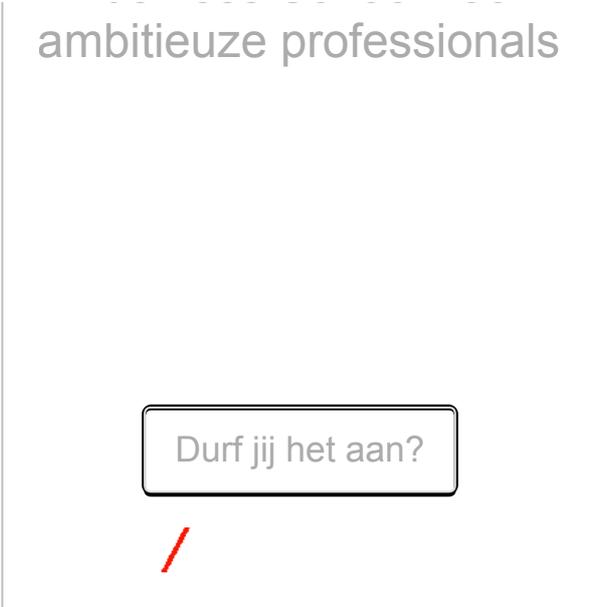
Kid Cudi's announcement that he's checking into rehab is a powerfully honest blow to mental health stigma



Vox

TWEET

SHARE



READY FOR SOME FUN?

**ACTIVATE YOUR
€100 BONUS!**

CONTINUE

Recommended



Donald Trump made it 6 minutes into the VP debate before tweeting

A New York lawyer saw something, said something. Now he's an internet

Trump responds to claims that he fat-shamed a Miss Universe

Ordinary Person Becomes Model of Great Success
Sponsored by Easy

How a man from a poor background, became one of the wealthiest men in the

How To Track Any Object, Vehicle Or Person Anywhere, Anytime

Vox

TWEET

SHARE

Recommended by

The Latest

Hurricane Matthew is a serious threat to Florida. Here's what we know.

Updated by Brad Plumer · @bradplumer · Oct 6, 2016, 4:25p

Vox

TWEET

SHARE

A very basic guide to how hurricanes form

Updated by Brad Plumer · @bradplumer · Oct 6, 2016, 4:20p

3 ways to learn about Nat Turner besides watching Nate Parker's The Birth of a Nation

Updated by Victoria M. Massie · @vmmassie · Oct 6, 2016, 3:50p

Vox

TWEET

SHARE

A British politician punched another one so hard that he caused a brain injury

Updated by Zack Beauchamp · @zackbeauchamp · Oct 6, 2016, 3:30p

2016 National Book Award shortlist: Colson Whitehead, Congress member John Lewis, and more

Updated by Constance Grady · @constancegrady · Oct 6, 2016, 3:10p

Vox

TWEET

SHARE

Settlers are taking over East Jerusalem one house at a time

Updated by Johnny Harris · @johnnywharris · Oct 6, 2016, 3:00p

Start Your Online Store in 60 Seconds!

- 24/7 Phone Support
- 60+ Designer Templates
- Sell in Facebook & Mobile Devices
- 30 Day Money Back Guarantee

START NOW

from **\$19⁹⁹**



3dcart Sell Everywhere, Multi-Channel Selling.

amazon.com **ebay** **Facebook**

Start Now

Vox

[Terms of Use](#) • [Privacy Policy](#) • [Communications Preferences](#)

[Contact](#) • [Send Us a Tip](#) • [Community Guidelines](#) • [Masthead](#)

All Systems Operational

[Check out our status page for more details.](#)



[Advertise with us](#)

[Jobs @ Vox Media](#)

© 2016 Vox Media, Inc. All Rights Reserved



[TWEET](#)

[SHARE](#)