

Northern Ireland Women Protest Abortion Ban by Taking Abortion Pills

Northern Ireland is the last place in the UK where abortion is illegal.

by [HANNAH SMOTHERS](#) JUN 1, 2018

 



Pro-choice activists in Northern Ireland protested the country's abortion ban by taking what they said were abortion pills outside local courts on Thursday. As reported by *the Guardian*, officers attempted to remove at least one woman who took a tablet in front of the country's high court building, but other protesters surrounded her and demanded she not be

 

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While the Republic of Ireland celebrated a groundbreaking victory just days ago when an election repealed the country's longstanding abortion ban, abortion is still illegal in Northern Ireland under the country's Victorian-era law. Northern Ireland is the only part of the United Kingdom, and one of only two places in Europe, where abortion is not legal.

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Taking an abortion pill with the intent of causing a miscarriage is illegal in Northern Ireland, but as *the Guardian* reports, the women who took the supposed abortion pills outside the courts Thursday didn't reveal whether or not they were pregnant. Similar to other recent abortion rights protests in the United States, the activists in Northern Ireland dressed as handmaids in red robes and white bonnets during the protest.

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According to Bloomberg, the UK Supreme Court will rule next week on whether Northern Ireland's abortion ban is "incompatible with human rights." Abortion was made legal throughout the rest of the UK in 1967 under an Abortion Act that was never extended to Northern Ireland.

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