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Drone delivers abortion pills to women in Northern Ireland

In [News](#) by [Jamie Peck](#) / June 21, 2016

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[Women on Waves](#) is a badass organization that [helps women terminate unwanted pregnancies](#) in countries where access to abortion is restricted. On Tuesday morning, they delivered the pills needed for a medical abortion to Northern Ireland by drone.

In [a press release posted to their website](#), Women on Waves — which acted in coalition with pro-choice groups Alliance For Choice, Rosa, and Labour Alternative — notes that they flew a drone carrying the pills from the Republic of Ireland to Northern Ireland to protest strict abortion laws in both countries. In the Irish Republic, procuring an abortion is a crime punishable by up to 14 years in prison; in Northern Ireland, the maximum penalty under the Offences Against the Person Act of 1861 (!) is life in prison. Just this past April, a Belfast woman [was given a suspended sentence of three months](#) for inducing a miscarriage with drugs she bought online because she couldn't afford to travel to England, which is where women from Ireland must currently go if they want to obtain safe, legal abortions.

The organization says the drone delivery was legal due to differences in laws between the two countries, as well as laws protecting symbolic acts of speech.

Via [Women On Waves](#):

Courtney Robinson of Labour Alternative and one of the women who swallowed the pills states: “Information whether I am pregnant or not is protected by my right to privacy. The right to safe abortion should be a private matter but by criminalizing it has instead become a political issue. I have the human right to access and use these medicines. Everybody who supports this is welcome at the protest at the

High Court in Belfast at 2.30 today.”

Rita Harrold from Rosa states: “Abortion is criminalised in both Northern Ireland and the Republic. We sent the pills across the border today as an act of solidarity with women in NI who are currently facing prosecutions. This is outrageous. Today’s action is a clear message of intent – North and South we will build an unstoppable movement of women and young people until women have the right to control their own bodies.”

Robinson [added to the Belfast Telegraph](#): “The reason we are doing this is to highlight that these pills are available to women who are not able to travel outside of Northern Ireland for an abortion.”

The police watched carefully but did not interfere, [to the chagrin of anti-choice news outlets](#).

The delivery of the pills was planned in tandem with a protest outside the Belfast High Court on Tuesday afternoon, when the court would take up an appeal to a previous decision that ruled Northern Ireland’s near total ban on abortion to be “[incompatible with human rights](#).” If you happen to be in downtown Belfast today, you can march on down and show your support.

[\[The Belfast Telegraph\]](#)

Tags: [Abortion](#), [ireland](#), [women on waves](#)

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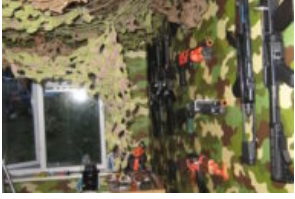
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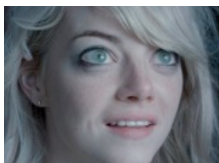
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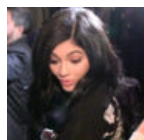


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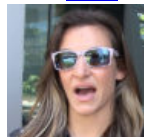
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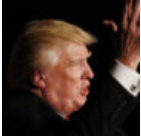
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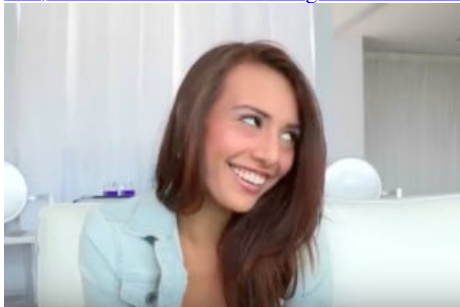




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