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Abortion Rights Protesters Appear To Have Taken Abortion Pills In Front Of Police In Northern Ireland

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Women in Belfast have taken what they declare have been abortion drugs in entrance of police throughout a protest about Northern Ireland's strict abortion regulation.

Abortion is unlawful in Northern Ireland in virtually all circumstances, as a result of the 1967 Act, which permits abortion in the remainder of the UK, was by no means prolonged there.

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Three ladies, who want to stay nameless for authorized causes, took the drug mifepristone, which is utilized in early medical abortion, outdoors Belfast Laganside Court on Thursday as a part of an illustration organised by abortion rights group ROSA (Reproductive Rights Against Oppression, Sexism and Austerity).

Taking abortion drugs in Northern Ireland can carry a jail sentence of as much as 14 years.

"The main purpose is to prove that the law here is unworkable," Cerys Falbey, a ROSA activist informed BuzzFeed News.

The drugs have been delivered to protesters by a robotic provided by Women on Waves, a charitable organisation who together with Women on Web ship abortion drugs to ladies in nations the place they don't seem to be accessible legally.

Since final yr, ladies from Northern Ireland have been in a position to entry NHS abortion companies in England freed from cost, though many are thought to order abortion drugs on-line in an effort to keep away from costly journey prices, and in order that they will perform the process at residence.

"Women in Northern Ireland are accessing abortion pills online every single day," Falbey continued.

"The whole point is to say that they cannot ignore us anymore and they cannot brush us under the carpet. Women are doing this."

Falbey mentioned that police took the demonstrators away for questioning, in addition to confiscating the drugs, however that no arrests have been made.

Since final week's landslide vote to chill out equally strict abortion legal guidelines within the Republic of Ireland, calls to increase abortion rights to Northern Ireland have been renewed.

Prime Minister Theresa May, nevertheless, has mentioned that abortion is a devolved matter to be resolved by Northern Ireland's legislative meeting, however the meeting has not sat at Stormont since energy sharing talks collapsed in January 2017. leaving Northern Ireland and not using a authorities

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"Women every day in Northern Ireland are using these pills – as long as we don't talk about it, as long as we act like it is a secret, politicians are not under pressure to legislate on this," ROSA activist Eleanor Crossey Malone informed Sky News's Darren McCaffrey, who was on the scene.

The abortion capsule protest was considered one of a collection of demonstrations by ROSA as they drove an abortion capsule bus round Northern Ireland on Thursday. Several activists have been dressed as handmaids from the TV adaptation of Margaret Atwood's dystopian novel about reproductive rights, *The Handmaid's Tale*.

In 2017, ROSA's department within the Republic of Ireland drove an abortion capsule bus across the nation amidst requires a referendum on stress-free Ireland's strict abortion regulation.

"These acts of civil disobedience supplied pregnant people with safe but illegal abortion pills, but they were also instrumental in shifting the debate on abortion," Socialist Party TD Ruth Coppinger, who has campaigned alongside ROSA, and was in Belfast with the group on Thursday, mentioned of their earlier motion.

Falbey mentioned the group obtained a constructive response from members of the general public for his or her demonstrations on Thursday.

"Outside the court people were cheering us on," she mentioned. "Regardless of how you personally feel about this, it's happening anyway, so stop criminalising women."

On Saturday, abortion rights campaigners will march in solidarity with LGBT campaigners on the March for Equality in Belfast. Same-sex marriage can be prohibited in Northern Ireland, regardless of being authorized in the remainder of the UK, and each teams are pushing for change on each points.

"This is just the start of it," Falbey added. "We're not planning on backing down and this isn't a one off."

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