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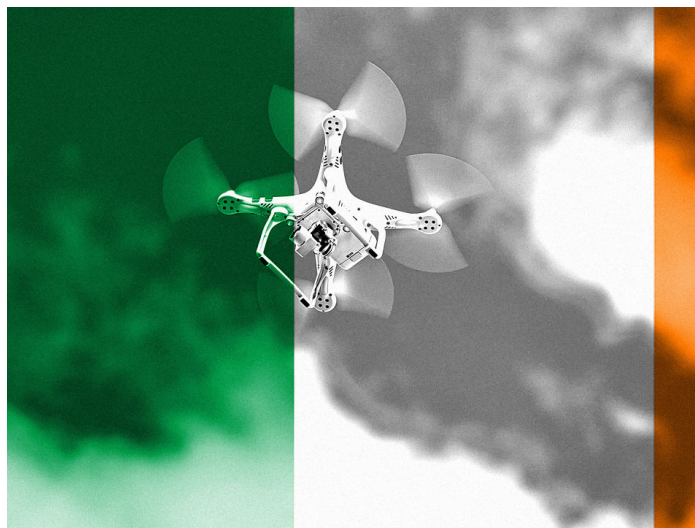
# The Abortion Drone's Next Flight Will Be Across The Irish

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## At the end of May, abortion activists

Women on Waves flew abortion pills across the German border into Poland to protest against changes to Poland's already-strict abortion laws. Now on Tuesday, they will conduct another flight, this time into Northern Ireland.

Like Poland, both Ireland and Northern Ireland are strongly Catholic, and therefore share the same belief that the state has the right to decide what's best for women's bodies. The activists will carry pills across the border and use the flight to bring attention to the differences in laws between women in Ireland and the rest of Europe.

"The action is an act of solidarity from the south, where abortion is criminalized," Rita Harrold from Irish abortion activist group ROSA told the *Guardian*, "with women in the North, where abortion is also criminalized and unfortunately there have recently been a number of prosecutions."

The pill-carrying drone will take off from Omeath in County Louth and fly to County Down. When it lands, several women will take the mifepristone and misoprostol pills it has on board.



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"Obviously there have been prosecutions and the threat looms large," Harrold told the *Guardian*, "but the women who will be taking the pills won't be pregnant at the time. This is an act of protest against the eighth amendment in the south and the lack of abortion rights in the North."

It might seem like a cop-out not to have actual pregnant women taking the drugs, but the penalties involved are stiff—the maximum penalty is life imprisonment in Northern Ireland and a potential 14-year jail term in the Irish Republic.

Legally, the drone flight itself should be fine. "As the abortion drone is not used for any commercial purposes, will stay within the sight of the person flying it, and does not fly in controlled airspace, no authorization is required under UK or Irish law," writes Women on Waves, the group behind the Polish drone flight.

After using the flight to draw publicity, the group will protest at Belfast's Court of Appeal. Last year, Northern Ireland's High Court ruled that the country's abortion laws breach the European Convention on Human Rights. The appeal will be heard on June 21, the same day as the flight.

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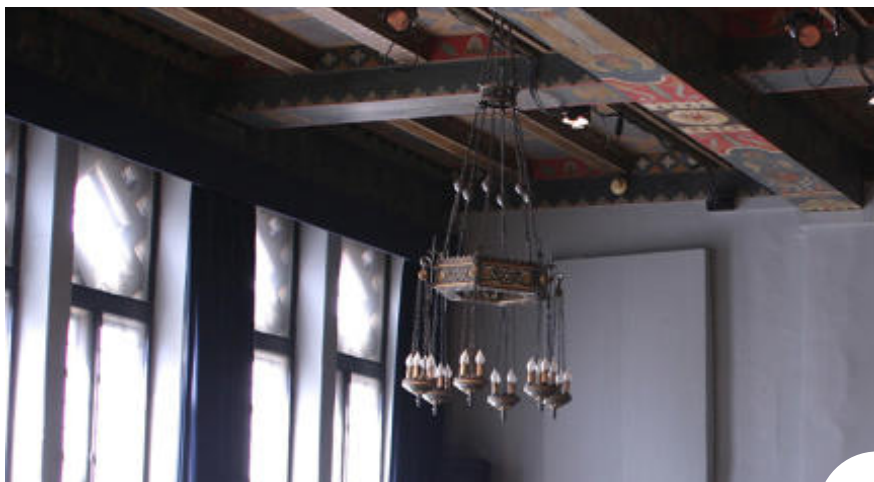
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**01 / 07** The 92Y created a 360-degree virtual reality tour of how their co-part of their space before.



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**The 92nd Street Y might be a 143-year-old** organization housed in a nearly 100-year-old building in New York, but they think globally, launching civic-minded movements like #GivingTuesday, Seven Days of Genius, and the Social Good Summit. (As of May, their Center for Innovation and Social Impact is now called the Belfer Center, in honor of the family behind a \$15 million grant that will help them continue that mission.)

Now, to re-think how their brick and mortar space might better serve the local community, the center has made the building itself a tech test case. They've partnered with Click 3X, the digital creative studio that's done work for Grey Goose, Geico, and LEGO to create a 360-degree virtual

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reality tour of how their complex could be redone. "A lot of the way we use digital helped us become more global," says executive director Henry Timms. "Now we've started to think about how digital can help us become more local."

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To do that, the group first asked people actually using their space what was missing or should be improved. Answers ranged from more ergonomic seating and task lighting, to a proper place to host events, which led to the thought of converting an unused fourth floor terrace into a mini High Line Park. Click 3X shot the current space using a Nokia OZO camera, and then layered in animations of futuristic conversions populated by people they shot against a green screen. The interactive video is only available in-house, and requires Oculus Rift to view, but here's a preview of the non-immersive view of the experience from just one angle:



Timms considers this exercise similar to author Peter Sims philosophy about making little bets —Sims actually wrote a book called *Little Bets* about the joy of taking small risks that yield unexpected payoffs. "These are all experiments about how to think differently about creating community and connecting with people," Timms says. It's still low stakes. While the building probably needs to be remodeled, there's no capitol campaign for that just yet. Instead, Timms has taken the what-if blueprint and shown it to board members and their emerging leadership council as a new kind of conversation starter. As the feedback is incorporated into the next vision, and the next one, he expects people will become even more excited and build on each other's ideas. "It's helped people imagine us in a new way," Timms says. "It kind of reset our possibility of what is next."

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*thoughtful, we may publish your response.*

*Reimagined Spaces: Click 3X. Other Photos: 92Y*

*Correction: This article originally stated that 92Y's headquarters was 143 years old. It's old, but not that old: The building was constructed 86 years ago.*

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