

NC10 Briefing – 9th July 2019

Amendment to the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation and Exercise of Functions) Bill

BPAS fully supports the cross-party Amendment NC10 and urges MPs to VOTE IN FAVOUR from 16:50 today (Tuesday 9th July 2019)

New Clause 10 Amendment

NC10 has been laid to Northern Ireland legislation before the House on 9th July 2019.

This amendment would force the government to decriminalise abortion in Northern Ireland by 21st October 2019 by requiring them to bring forward regulations to comply with the findings of the report by the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women.

This amendment would force a change on the law on abortion in Northern Ireland.

Supporters

NC10 is proposed by 80 MPs from 8 different parties.

It has been proposed by Stella Creasy. Supporters include Crispin Blunt, Diana Johnson, Hannah Bardell, Ed Vaizey, Jo Swinson, Heidi Allen, Dr. Sarah Wollaston, Anna Soubry, and Caroline Lucas.

The Conservatives, Labour, the Liberal Democrats, and the SNP have all committed to giving their MPs a free vote on amendments related to abortion.

Background

In England, Wales, and Northern Ireland today, any woman who ends her own pregnancy at any stage can be sent to prison for life under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 – a law created before women could even vote. At least three women have been prosecuted in recent years for ending their own pregnancies or helping others to end their pregnancy.

With the Supreme Court stating that the current situation regarding the lack of access to abortion for women in Northern Ireland to be a breach of human rights, Members of Parliament and campaigners have been calling for the UK Government to intervene to protect the rights of the people of Northern Ireland.

66% of people in Northern Ireland believe Westminster should act to change the abortion law.

The Now for NI campaign

The Now for NI campaign is run by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service. In conjunction with Amnesty Northern Ireland and Alliance for Choice, we are campaigning to repeal and reform this law, decriminalising abortion in Northern Ireland, England, and Wales.

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