

# Challenge the Welsh government's proposal to allow women to take abortion pills at home

## What has happened?

The Welsh government has announced that it is looking at how the law can be amended to allow women in Wales to take abortion pills at home. Currently it is illegal to do so, meaning that the course of two pills three days apart has to be taken in a clinic.

## What should you do?

**Please write to your Welsh Assembly Members immediately, asking them to contact Vaughan Gething, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, to demand that he abandons these proposals.**

*These are some of the points you can make in your letter:*

- It is wrong to trivialise abortion in this way. Abortion is not like any other medical procedure because it involves the deliberate ending of a human life.
- Abortion pills are a threat to women's physical health. Ectopic pregnancy is a clinically significant outcome after medical abortion.<sup>1</sup> High levels of pain are experienced by women in the days following medical abortions.<sup>2</sup>
- Abortion is a threat to women's mental health. Numerous studies have identified emotional distress immediately after abortion and in the months following. Women experience a range of emotions after abortion, including sadness, loneliness shame, guilt grief, doubt and regret.<sup>3</sup> A woman's home should be a place of safety, and should not be the scene of an abortion.
- The Abortion Act 1967 still applies in Wales. This states that an abortion must be performed in facilities registered for this purpose. A woman's home is not a suitable classification of a place at which an abortion can take place.
- Vaughan Gething, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services has said, 'a woman's right to choose must be respected'. But the Abortion Act does not allow women to 'choose' abortion. If followed correctly, the Abortion Act only allows abortions to be carried out in certain circumstances.

Please write to your Assembly Members at:

**National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA**

Please send copies of any replies you receive from your Assembly Members to:  
SPUC, 3 Whitacre Mews, Stannary Street, London SE11 4AB.

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, 3 Whitacre Mews, Stannary Street, London SE11 4AB.  
Tel: 020 7091 7091. E-mail: [information@spuc.org.uk](mailto:information@spuc.org.uk) Web: [www.spuc.org.uk](http://www.spuc.org.uk)

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<sup>1</sup> Pike G (2017) Abortion and Women's Health 10

<sup>2</sup> Saurel-Cubizolles MJ, Opatowski M, David P, Bardy F & Dunbavand A (2015) Pain during medical abortion: a multicenter study in France, European Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Biology 194:212-217.

<sup>3</sup> Fergusson DM, Horwood LJ & Riddler EM (2006) Abortion in young women and subsequent mental health. Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry 47(1):16-24.