

ROSA 15-POINT PROGRAMME

For Reproductive Rights

1 Repeal the 8th Amendment and legislate for a woman's right to choose. Abortion should be provided through the health service, without cost and shame, for all who need it

2 Banning abortion not only endangers women's lives and health, but it also serves to restrict women's freedom, sexual and personal. It's a human right to have control over your own body

3 Fully free and available contraception and sexual health services including access to IVF on the public health service

4 Programme of secular & progressive sex education in schools

Against Oppression

5 For full LGBTQ equality. Challenge rigid gender norms and heteronormative culture. Invest in housing and health services tailored for LGBTQ youth including physical and mental health services for *trans people freely available on the public health service

6 Separate church and state. Independent, representative and non-denominational schools and hospital boards

7 Solidarity and struggle: We stand in solidarity with all the victims of capitalism and oppression. People power movements are key to social change

8 No to war and terror. End all racism and Islamophobia

Sexism

9 No to the objectification of women's bodies; end the social ills of macho culture, street harassment, sexual violence, male violence against women and victim-blaming

10 No to "slut-shaming" and all attempts to denigrate women's sexuality

11 Equal and decent pay in good jobs, ban zero hour contracts and increase the minimum wage. Free education and free childcare are vital to give women real choice

& Austerity

12 Develop quality, comprehensive community and workplace based childcare, including after-school care, provided free by the state. A living wage and full training for childcare workers

13 Reverse all cuts to domestic violence and rape crisis services. Reverse all cuts to lone parent allowance and Maternity benefit. Reverse austerity and invest in a major expansion of public services. Tax the rich & profits to fund public services

14 For massive state investment in a public house building project to provide affordable homes for all to rent or buy. Housing is a human right - eliminate the profiteering

15 Feminising the ruling elite is not real change. Build a socialist-feminist movement to challenge all oppression and inequality. For a mass movement of women, workers and all the oppressed to challenge capitalism's rule of the 1% super-rich

New ROSA activists on why they got involved:

"I discovered ROSA on Facebook, went to the meeting by myself and never looked back! Such an engaging and inspiring meeting and organisation. Rape culture, sexism, LGBTQ and abortion rights need to be addressed and ROSA will make a change."
- Aoife



"When I moved to Ireland from India, a country where abortion is legal but a country that still has a long way to go before it achieves gender equality, I was appalled that abortion is illegal in Ireland. During the Pride parade I came across the ROSA stall and I knew I wanted to be a part of this incredibly passionate group of people that was fighting vehemently for abortion rights. The decision to join ROSA was one of the best decisions of my life and I finally feel that I am doing my bit for human rights."
- Aishwarya



"In ROSA, I found the dynamics and positivity I was looking for. I like the way abortion rights is not perceived as something you have to beg for, but as a legitimate human right."
- Laure

Join ROSA today!

Text "ROSA" + your name & area to 087 299 54 84

ROSAwomen2014



Autumn 2016

Bread & Roses

Newsletter of ROSA (for Reproductive rights, against Oppression, Sexism & Austerity)

- Only citizens' assembly we need is a repeal & referendum now
- Women's rights are non-negotiable - pro-choice legislation & nothing less

REPEAL THE 8TH

By Laura Fitzgerald

Maser mural, 'REPEAL' jumpers, pro-choice Sydney Rose of Tralee all reflect the mood and the potential for a mass movement from below for abortion rights. The youthful, vibrant spirit of the March for CHOICE, rather than a march for a tweaking of the 8th amendment, or a repealing of the 8th amendment to be followed by restrictive legislation, if built upon and organised, will be the means by which we can win abortion rights.

The overwhelming majority of ordinary people oppose Ireland's archaic abortion ban, and there is a growing pro-choice sentiment, as poll after poll has shown.

Backward political establishment

Meanwhile, despite up to 90% of people supporting choice in the unbearably tragic case of Fatal Foetal Abnormalities (FFA), only 45 out of 95 TDs voted in favour of recent proposed legislation on this issue. This includes a measly 5 out of 44 Fianna Fail TDs, who all had a free vote. The pro-choice movement must absorb the lessons here fully - the political establishment is utterly backward, is aeons behind ordinary people, and cannot be trusted.

FG politicians, like Varadkar in Fine Gael (alongside the Labour Party) who brought in legislation just 3 years ago that criminalised women with the threat of 14 years in prison for having an illegal abortion in Ireland, have had the gall to say that there can't be a swift referendum as people are 'not ready'.

In fact, it's a testament to the level of pro-choice sentiment, that the political establishment has been forced to reflect it, as shown by the establishment of the Citizen's Assembly delay tactic.

...Continued overleaf



RALLY FOR REPEAL & A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

7.30pm Wed 28 Sept
Wynns Hotel, Abbey St. D1

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Rebecca Gomperts - Women On Web founder & pioneering pro-choice activist & doctor, **Ruth Coppinger TD** - proposer of AAA / PBP October Bill for a Repeal 8 Referendum, **ROSA activist** & more



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Only citizens' assembly we need is a repeal 8 referendum now

A Citizen's Assembly of 100 random, unelected citizens (and let's not forget, the 8th especially effects non-citizens who can't travel) for yet more pontificating about women's private decisions is verging on farcical. The only citizens' assembly needed is an immediate repeal 8 referendum. What we have to be particularly vigilant about is the concerted approach by the political establishment to focus only on FFA. The right to health that Savita was denied under the 8th that resulted in her death, has been obscured. The 1995 divorce referendum changed the constitution to allow for divorce, but kept a constitutional restriction on divorce that pertains today.

It's absolutely possible that the Citizens' Assembly will be used as to lever a rotten compromise - a referendum that allows for abortion in limited circumstances but continues to police women's bodies in the constitution. This would preclude pro-choice legislation, necessitating a campaign for another referendum. We need a pro-choice movement that is vocal and active NOW to prevent this.

A grassroots movement can win

Flowing from the March for Choice, we need pro-choice repeal action in cities, towns, colleges and communities, all that are actively building up the pressure for a repeal 8 referendum, including to support AAA-PBP's October Repeal 8 Bill, but are also patiently but confidently building support for the simple idea - we have to trust and enable women to make decisions about their own bodies, not the church or state.

A grassroots mass movement could seek to turn the distribution of the abortion pills (safe, illegal abortions from womenonweb.org) into a grassroots movement in and of itself, such that the majority of women no longer have to travel to get an abortion, but are getting safe, illegal ones in Ireland itself. This could break through the stalling of the political establishment, turning the tide inevitably in our favour.

School Students for Sex Education & Secular Schools

By Grace Gageby
School Student & ROSA activist

Central to the struggle for reproductive rights in Ireland is the need for separation of church and state.

In a country where schools are primarily under Catholic Church patronage, 77% of 17-24 year olds in an Irish Times survey from July 2015 say they did not receive adequate sex education in school. Separation of church and state would create a school environment in which abortion and reproductive issues could be discussed without shame or harmful misogynistic sentiment that could damage the self-esteem of young people.

For real sexual and personal choice to exist, it is crucial that young people are provided with accurate sex education and free contraception. Real sex education includes resources and information for members of the LGBT+ community, and rejects heteronormativity. Real sex education should not solely comprise contraceptive education. Issues of consent, effective communication, and body image should be central to help young people develop a healthy sexuality.

ROSA wants to have school students at the forefront of the pro-choice struggle - a movement that has to put the separation of church and state and the right to sex education and free contraception firmly on the agenda.



LGBTQ & Women's Struggles - Inextricably Linked



By Rita Harrold

In 2015 we won an historic victory for equal rights with the marriage equality referendum - an inspiring social movement that mobilised and politically engaged LGBTQ people, sections of women, the working class and young people who were all a central impetus behind the resounding Yes vote.

The fight must continue for trans rights, inclusive sex-ed, to sweep away further homophobic laws, discrimination in the workplace, and to separate church and state. The pro-choice movement must ally itself with this fight. We are stronger together in rejecting rigid gender norms and macho culture.

We also need solidarity and struggle against mental health cuts and for public investment in housing and healthcare. LGBTQ youth homelessness and the dangers for women affected by intimate partner violence make the housing crisis especially lethal for women and LGBTQ people.

WomenOnWeb, the Abortion Pills & Breaking Unjust Laws

By Aisling Grace

Doctors through womenonweb.org supply women around the world with abortion pills through the post, to use at home after an online consultation. They can be used up to 10 weeks into pregnancy and the procedure is like an early miscarriage - cramps, heavy bleeding etc.

ROSA has organised many actions with WomenOnWeb.org such as the abortion pill train and bus to highlight the availability of abortion pills as a safe and more affordable alternative to travelling for an abortion. By helping women access safe, illegal abortions with pills, ROSA is breaking unjust laws, and is showing that women will continue to exert bodily autonomy - any attempt to block or obstruct repeal or to bring in restrictive legislation if we achieve repeal will be futile!

Currently the law in Ireland criminalises anyone who procures an abortion in this country and threatens 14 years' imprisonment. ROSA's Abortion Pill Bus that very publicly helped over 20 women access safe, illegal abortions with pills shows that this vile law, brought in by Fianna Fail and Labour



only 3 years ago, simply cannot be implemented due to the mass support for abortion rights in society.

Taking the abortion pill at home is statistically 16 times safer than continuing a pregnancy to childbirth. Ideally abortions should be procured under medical supervision, but until the 8th Amendment is repealed, this is an important choice available to women in Ireland.

Solidarity & Struggle - Reproductive Rights Around the World



By Joanna Fuentes Orr

Struggle has been a central part of the path to abortion rights worldwide.

Women in Britain had been building movements - meetings, campaigns, pickets, protests and also mass demonstrations in conjunction with the Labour movement - since the 1930s to gain the rights won by the 1967 Act, while the 1960s and 1970s saw major

struggles which enshrined abortion rights in North America and the majority of Western Europe. However, while living under the profit-system which does not prioritize reproductive rights, these are under constant threat. Continued struggle is required to protect and advance hard-won successes.

Attacks on abortion rights are actively being fought against today worldwide, and have been successfully defended in places such as Spain. An attempt was made by the government in 2012 to bring restrictions into abortion law. A mass movement of thousands opposed this, and joined a number of huge anti-austerity protest movements to show that abortion rights are non-negotiable. In Poland, a vibrant and inspiring pro-choice movement has come out in response to a heinous threat to ban abortion.

In Chile, through years of activism and pressure from below, a law is currently in the process of being passed which will liberalise one of the harshest abortion laws in the world. As socialist feminists, we stand in solidarity with all those fighting for reproductive rights around the world and are fighting for a society in which all women, men, non-binary people have fundamental rights.