

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**Presentation to the Citizens' Assembly  
on the Eighth Amendment**

**5 March 2017**

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Amnesty International is a global membership-based human rights organisation. In Ireland we have 20,000 members. We are independent of any political, religious or other ideology.

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The international human rights legal framework was created by states, including Ireland.

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Women and girls have a  
**human right** to access **safe**  
**and legal** abortions.

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International human rights law does not apply before birth - but states are entitled to protect foetal interests.

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**Abortions will always be needed – abortion bans do not actually stop abortions.**

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**There is no conflict between  
women's rights and others'  
freedom of religious belief or  
conscience.**

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**We need to start trusting –  
and empowering – women to  
make decisions about their  
own reproduction.**

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**What is a human rights  
compliant abortion  
framework?**

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**Abortion should be  
decriminalised.**

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**Legislation framed around  
'minimum grounds' to access  
abortion will not guarantee  
effective access.**

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**Look to the emerging  
consensus on best practice  
models for human rights  
compliant abortion provision.**

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**States may regulate abortion  
in later stages of pregnancy.**

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**Conscience-based refusal  
must be regulated so it does  
not jeopardise women's and  
girls' rights.**

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**Context: historical  
suppression and control of  
women's sexuality and  
reproduction**

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**Conclusion: The Eighth  
Amendment must be  
repealed ... not amended**

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