

**Green Feminism**

**ABORTION RIGHTS  
IN EUROPE**

## ABORTION RIGHTS IN EU

- Some EU Member States still have highly restrictive laws prohibiting abortion except in strictly defined circumstances
- This results in women having their sexual and reproductive health and rights denied
  - ➡ a form of **gender based violence**

“The European Parliament needs to **protect the right and freedoms of its citizens**, and strongly condemn Member States that are limiting the access to free abortions, limiting LGBTQI-rights, and ban trans people from access to healthcare and support. **We cannot let the ever growing influence of anti-human rights organisations and right-wing and nationalistic politicians stand in our way.**”

Alice Kuhnke

MEP

Greens/EFA coordinator of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

# EXAMPLE OF REGRESSION: POLAND



- In autumn 2020, the Polish constitutional tribunal ruled that the section of Polish abortion law (legislated in 1993) which allowed abortion due to foetal defects, is unconstitutional.
- This decision led to adoption of more restrictive abortion law in 2021.
- EU stated, that the constitutional tribunal had lost its independence: the ruling followed the stand of Law and Justice (PiS), a right-wing populist and national-conservative political party in Poland.



# EXAMPLE OF PROGRESSION: IRELAND

- The new abortion law in Ireland (2019) guarantees abortions until the 12th week of pregnancy without constraints.
- Previously Ireland had almost full prohibition of abortion, including victims of rape and incest.
- The new abortion law was preceded by a referendum, where the citizens voted in favour of overturning the abortion ban by 66–34.



# THE STRICTEST ABORTION LAW IN EU: MALTA

- Malta, with half a million inhabitants and strong Catholic influence, is the only remaining EU member state with absolute abortion ban with no restrictions



## **Want to read more about the sexual and reproductive health and rights in EU?**

### **ABORTION RIGHTS**

<https://www.greens-efa.eu/en/article/press/european-parliament-needs-to-send-strong-message-to-member-states-that-abortion-rights-are-human-rights>

### **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE DIRECTIVE (2022)**

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-based-violence/ending-gender-based-violence\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-based-violence/ending-gender-based-violence_en)