

ABORTIONS

Introduction

Abortion is a termination of a pregnancy. It can be spontaneous or provided as a health intervention. The rules for the end of pregnancy depends on the state. Every country has their own legislative. In general, abortion without medical reason can carry out up to 12 weeks when the women ask for it. Medical and surgical abortion can be carried out up to 24 weeks of pregnancy for medical reasons. (Clinical practice handbook for safe abortion, c2014)

Some countries do not support abortion, women are forced to unsafe solutions. This leads to maternal deaths, improper damage of the foetal and morbidities. Lack of access to safe and timely abortion care is a critical public health and human rights issue. This is the reason why is this a controversial topic. The goal of this essay is to analyse the attitudes of countries which does not support women in safe abortions. The main reason for this topic is a graduating problem in Poland which is nowadays more hyped because of restrictions of pandemic Covid-19.

The importance of abortion

Abortion belongs to one of the six maternal deaths from complications when it is provided unsafe. Contra it when it follows WHO guidance it is the safest medical procedures. The first country which come with the reform was the Soviet Union, spurred by feminist Alexandra Kollantai in October 1920. (Berer, 2017)

There are generally *six main reasons for abortion* which are arranged from the most dangerous to the less:

1. risk to life;
2. rape or sexual abuse;
3. serious foetal anomaly;
4. risk to physical and mental health to woman;
5. social and economic reason;
6. on request. (Clinical practice handbook for safe abortion, c2014)

Countries that permit abortion on request just with biological requests (12-weeks and 24 weeks) are with almost no deaths. The opinion that “all the children od gives” is from traditional male-dominated culture and it means that foetus as having more value than the woman. (Berer, 2017)

Global trends

The most restrictive country in Europe is Poland. The legalisation was waged in the 1980s in many European countries and in North America. (Hussein et al., 2018) In global, 1988 was Canada the only country that effectively decriminalized abortion through the Supreme Court decision. (Berer, 2017) After a time the legalisation of abortion have been enacted in increasing numbers of countries all over the world in Africa (e.g. Ethiopia, South Africa), Asia (e.g. India, Vietnam), South America (e.g. Mexico City, Uruguay). (Hussein et al., 2018)

Expanding legal abortion was entered by improving clinical practice and changing the medical and surgical technique have resulted in healthcare a safer and more available. Over the last quarter of the century decreased cases of abortions in developed countries significantly from 46 to 27 per 1000 women because of modern contraceptive use, access to abortion and safer healthcare facilities. In global it is 35 abortions per 1000 women. In Western Europe in cases of abortion are pronounced less than in Eastern Europe 9:42 per 1000 women. (Hussein et al., 2018)

Abortion is a topic of politics, religion and moral opinion. Liberals seem the matter equal rights for women. They are trying to avoid the danger associated with unwanted pregnancies in women. In converse, religious people can perceive that as a violation of the rules of God or Church and discretize symbol and importance of family. (Jonason et al., 2021)

In global, there are so many protests to legalisation abortion, where are so many women who are going there with transparents as “My body is mine”, “My body, my choice”, “Let her decided”. Women want to decide about their bodies. The child is a very responsible decision. It is necessary to have got financial savers, proper background, it is a serious situation. (Guillaume a Rossier, 2018)

Figure 1 Legal conditions of abortion in 193 countries (Guillaume a Rossier, 2018)

Legal conditions of abortion	Africa 53 countries	Asia 48 countries	Latin America ⁽³⁾ 4 countries	Europe, North America, Australia 58 countries
Totally prohibited	9 countries: Comoros, ⁽¹⁾ Congo, Djibouti, ⁽¹⁾ Gabon, Gambia, ⁽³⁾ Guinea-Bissau, ⁽³⁾ Madagascar, ⁽¹⁾ Mauritania, Senegal ⁽³⁾	1 country: Philippines	6 countries: El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Suriname	5 countries: Andorra, Vatican, Malta, San Marino, Palau
To save the woman's life	11 countries: Central African Republic (R, I, FI), Ivory Coast, (Dem. Rep. of) Congo, Guinea (R, I, FI), Libya, Malawi, Mali (R, I), Uganda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan (R)	15 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Brunei, Indonesia (R, FI), Iran (FI), Lebanon, Maldives*, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria, United Arab Emirates (FI), Yemen	13 countries: Antigua and Barbuda*, Bahamas*, Brazil (R, FI), Chile (R, FI), ⁽⁶⁾ Dominica*, Grenada*, Guatemala, Jamaica*, Panama (R, FI) Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis*, Trinidad and Tobago*, Venezuela	7 countries: Ireland, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu
To save the woman's life and protect her physical or mental health	27 countries: Algeria, Benin (R, I, FI), Botswana (R, I, FI), Burkina Faso (R, I, FI), Burundi, Cameroon (R), ⁽¹⁾ Chad (FI), Egypt, Equatorial Guinea*, Eritrea (R, I), ⁽²⁾ Ethiopia (R, I, FI, D), Ghana (R, I, FI), Kenya, Lesotho (R, I, FI), ⁽²⁾ Liberia (R, I, FI) ⁽²⁾ , Mauritius (R, FI), Morocco, Namibia (R, I, FI), Niger (FI), Nigeria*, Rwanda (R, I, FI), Seychelles (R, I, FI, D), Sierra Leone, Swaziland (R, I, FI), Tanzania (R, FI), Togo (R, I, FI), Zambia (R, FI), Zimbabwe (R, I, FI)	13 countries: Bhutan (R, I, FI, D), Cyprus (R, FI), East Timor (FI), Hong Kong (R, I, FI), Iraq (FI), ⁽²⁾ Israel (R, I, FI), Jordan, (Republic of) Korea (R, I, FI, D), ⁽²⁾ Kuwait (FI), Malaysia, Qatar (FI), Saudi Arabia, Thailand (R, FI)	8 countries: Argentina (R), Barbados (FI), Belize (FI), Bolivia (R, I, FI), Colombia (R, I, FI), Costa Rica, Peru, Saint Lucia (R, I)	10 countries: Belgium (FI), Liechtenstein, Monaco (R, FI), Netherlands (FI), Poland (R, I, FI), United Kingdom (FI), Fiji (R, I, FI), New Zealand (I, FI, D), Samoa, Vanuatu*
Above reasons + economic or social reasons		2 countries: India (FI, D), Japan (R)	2 countries: Ecuador (R), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (R, I, FI)*	4 countries: Finland (R, I, FI), Hungary (R, I, FI), Iceland (R, I, FI), Italy (I, FI)
In case of rape only		1 country: Laos	1 country: Mexico ⁽⁴⁾	
On request	6 countries: Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Africa, Tunisia	16 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, (Democratic People's Republic of) Korea*, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Singapore, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Vietnam	4 countries: Cuba, Guyana, Puerto Rico, Uruguay	32 countries: Albania, Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine Canada*, United States of America, Australia ⁽⁵⁾

In figure 1 shows the legal conditions of abortion in 193 countries in 2018. The conditions are congenerous determined by WHO, to save the woman's life, to safe woman's life and protect her physical or mental health, then with economic and social reasons, in case of rape only and on request. It is decided to four categories Africa, Asia, Latin America and group of Europe, North America and Australia. It is also a category of totally prohibited. (Guillaume a Rossier, 2018)

The rights of an embryo

The main reason for the ban of abortion is the moral, bioethical, legal, scientific and religious status of the foetus. Does it have the same rights as those who have already been born? This is a major argument against contra abortion. It includes problematic contraceptive pills and fertilization. (Guillaume a Rossier, 2018)

Following WHO guidelines, the foetus is approved after 22 weeks of gestation or when the weight is 500 grams. (Clinical practice handbook for safe abortion, c2014) This limit is has been continuously discussed with medical and biological specialists. The technique in medical care engenders the possibility of survival chances of severely premature infants. Bioethics argument is that embryo's neurological development at begins at the twelfth week of gestation. (Guillaume a Rossier, 2018)

Abortions in Poland

It has been processed data of Poland for the objectivity of problem and continuing of arguments to contra Poland legislative.

Poland's opinion

The problem of abortion started after the fall of communism. During communism was promoted a scientific approach to medicine and feminism. Poland had had to follow the rules as in all communist countries there was a serious punishment to the yaw of idealism. After the fall of communism was the abortion restricted, contraceptive pills and morning-after pills were available on prescription from pharmacies. The problem is still relevant because the number of abortions was increased it has been necessary disenfranchisement of women. (Rafał Maciąg, 2021)

The Constitutional Tribunal's ruling of 22 October 2020 approved a near-total ban on abortion and putting women's lives at risk. It decided that the provision of the 1993 Act on Conditions of Termination of Pregnancy was unconstitutional. This act provided abortion in cases where the medical considerations had indicated a high probability of severe or irreversible foetal defect or incurable illness. (Delaleu, 2021)

European Union

The European Union is challenging other members of the EU to provide Polish women free and safe abortion in other national healthcare systems. Over the year, the system of Abortion Without Borders has helped 34 000 women who need an abortion, but it is only a fraction of

the total Polish women who need support. Only 300 women accessed abortion in Poland on the grounds of a threat to life and health over the last 10 months. (Delaleu, 2021)

Development the situation over time

The situation was the opposite before. In 1932, Poland was part of countries, which legalised abortion if there was rape, incest or threat to the life of women. Furthermore, in 1956 the law of abortion was expanded for medical and social reasons, which were for example "difficult living conditions". In practice, that means left to the decision for women, who could take advantage of the public or private setting to conduct the abortion. (Hussein et al., 2018)

The beginning of the controversial topic of abortion was in the 1990s. The abortion debate started the Roman Catholic Church which was made a side-effect of the democratic transformation of Poland. In context to test above non-communist government tighten rules for an abortion. It was necessary to get the approval of three medical specialists and a psychologist. In 1993 was decided to remove social reasons from the legislation of abortion. (Hussein et al., 2018)

The problem of being re-introduced a legal basis for abortion was repeated in 1993, 1997, 2011. In 2011 attempted to ban abortion entirely. Fortunately, this bill was rejected by parliament. Other amendments to the law were promoted in 2013, 2015, 2016. In 2016 were large protests which defeated the draft bill at the time. This year is becoming momentum again mainly because of closed borders as a result of Covid-19 pandemic restriction. (Hussein et al., 2018)

One of the cases that made the reason for graduated protests in Poland is a dead pregnant woman, who died in the hospital in Pszczna. Her family disambiguated that she died because of a doctor who waited to the death of foetal, so she died of sepsis shock. The foetal was severely damaged and unable to live, the woman was in 22 weeks pregnancy she was around 30 years old. There is a conflict between a woman life and foetal. Is it good even with religion sacrificing human life to children who are not able to survive? (Polish abortion law protests over woman's hospital death, 2021)

Successful changes in other countries with strict restriction

There were chosen two countries which are highly discussed.

Chile

There was a decriminalise abortion in 2017. Also, there were made interventions for implementing the law were introduced which allowed medical specialist to deny abortion services to women when it was contra their conscientious or institutional objection. It was also removed the objection of doctors. These restrictions pro-longed the permitted 12-week gestational period. (Hussein et al., 2018)

Ireland

Ireland's institute believes that Abortion is a crime and the only reason for it is the real and substantial risk to the life of the pregnant woman. There was a referendum in 2018 about a

change of circumstances of abortion care when is permitted up to 12 weeks of pregnancy for reasons of risk to woman's life or serious harm to woman's life and foetus's fatal anomaly. (Hussein et al., 2018)

Conclusion

Abortion is a worldwide controversial topic; it is a termination of pregnancy. First of all, abortion should support the human rights focus on women. In general, abortion without medical reason can carry out for up to 12 weeks for request the woman contra that medical and surgical abortion can be carried out up to 24 weeks of pregnancy for medical reasons.

In the 1980s were widespread to world legalisation of abortion. It supports women who were victims of rape, incest and when their foetal has diagnosed several anomalies or threats to the life of women. The legislation depends on the country because it follows their case law. The main countries which follow a strict ban on abortion in Europe contain Poland, the main reason is religion Roman Catholic. At present are graduating protests there because of closed borders and the impossibility of the use the services of other countries.

Limitations of abortion lead to increased morbidity and mortality. Women attempt illegal and unsafe procedures of abortion. They are attempting health services in other countries it is increasing financial costs, delaying access and generating social inequities. The limitation by law or by social factors and health services can put up barriers for women especially prolonged waiting periods. The risk of these restrictions is mainly because of giving birth to children with congenital animalities, from rape or incest and the risk of three physical and mental health of women. Also, it shows how the political decision can affect sexual and reproductive health and rights women (SRHR) and it is necessary leads of political activities and changes in abortion at every level (global, regional or local) to support women rights.

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