



WHAT TO ASK YOUR CANDIDATE AS A PRO- CHOICE VOTER:

What have you done for women's health and rights?

What is your position and your party's position on abortion?

Do you agree that there should be a referendum to repeal the 8th Amendment?

Will you make a commitment to repeal the 8th Amendment if elected?

How do you propose to provide abortion access in Ireland?

At least ten women a day leave this country to have safe abortions they can't access here. Are there circumstances where you think a woman should have to travel if she wants to access an abortion?



Some political parties are talking about what should replace the 8th Amendment but we must make it clear we won't accept anything short of repeal, which is the removal of the amendment. Here are some talking points which you can use to make it clear how important abortion rights in Ireland are to you.

▪ **Our laws do not respect women's human rights.** Opinion polls show the majority of Irish people want less restrictive abortion laws. We need politicians who will listen to what the majority of the population want and commit to a referendum.

▪ **A woman should be able to access an abortion if she chooses to do so.** Women need abortions for various reasons; a risk to her life or health, economic reasons, personal choice, contraception failure, fatal foetal abnormality, rape or incest. We should trust women to make the best decision for them. Abortion is a health service which should be free, safe and legal.

▪ **The Protection of Life During Pregnancy Act 2013 is so restrictive even women who should be able to access abortion in Ireland cannot.** It criminalises women and doctors who could face a prison sentence of 14 years. Criminalising abortions doesn't reduce abortions – it only puts women in danger and makes access more difficult.

▪ **Women in Ireland still have abortions.** Over 150,000 women have left Ireland to access abortion since 1980. Many women cannot travel for an abortion because they cannot afford to, because of their immigration status or because of their health.

▪ **The 8th Amendment not only impacts abortion access but it also denies women's choices in their maternity care.** It removes women's right to refuse consent for procedures meaning pregnant women have fewer rights than everyone else. This makes Ireland an unsafe place to be pregnant.

**Remind your candidates:
REPEAL THE 8TH IS A RED LINE ISSUE!**