

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN
COUNCIL MEETING – 4TH JULY 2022
EMERGENCY MOTION

To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Sagal Abdi-Wali and which was seconded by Councillors Tom Simon, Gio Spinella and Sian Berry

This Council notes that the access to safe, legal abortions is a human right and a conquest for women, their health and their rights across the world. That prior to legal abortion in the UK in 1967, 9% of all maternal deaths were due to unsafe and illegal abortions.

That according to the World Health Organisation 7 million women a year are hospitalized due to unsafe abortions and 70,000 women die across the world every year due to the lack of access to safe legal abortion.

That the denial of access to legal and safe abortion hits disproportionately the youngest and the poorest women.

That denying women access to abortion is a form of gender discrimination.

That safe abortion services protect women's right to health.

That forcing a woman to undergo a life-threatening, unsafe abortion threatens her right to life.

That women have the right to decide whether or not to bring their own pregnancy to term.

And further notes

That legitimate moral reservations over the practice of abortion are a matter of individual personal conscience and cannot be imposed on the rest of the population.

That the ruling of the United States Supreme Court to overturn Roe vs Wade is a devastating blow for women's rights in the very heart of the Western world and a tragedy for millions of women in the USA.

That the right to legal safe abortion is under attack in different parts of the world, from Brazil to Poland.

That in our own country, there remains unequal access to safe abortions, as women in Northern Ireland are still awaiting access to abortion care, a right granted to them in 2020 but not yet implemented 2 years later.

And therefore resolves:

To re-iterate Camden's unqualified support for women's rights including the right of access to safe and legal abortion and unqualified support for the laws that safeguard this in the UK, from the Abortion Act (1967) to the Human Rights Act (1998).

To call for the full implementation of access to safe and legal abortion care across the UK.

To condemn the ruling by the United States Supreme Court.

To send a message of solidarity to all the women and families who will suffer as a result of this ruling.

That Camden Council lobbies national government to directly introduce legislation that enables local authorities to introduce 'buffer zones' specifically around abortion clinics and related services. This power would allow local authorities to more effectively protect anyone using these services, so they are able to do so free from harassment and intimidation.

ENDS