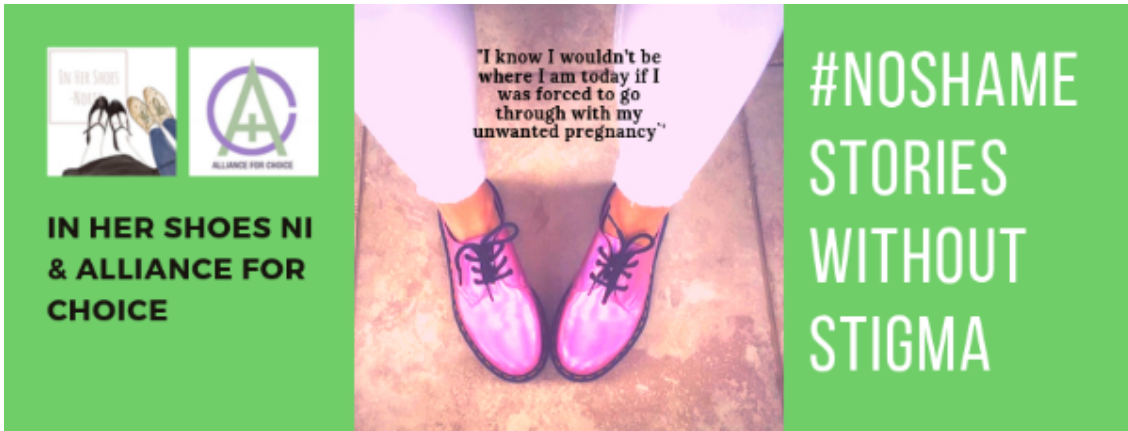


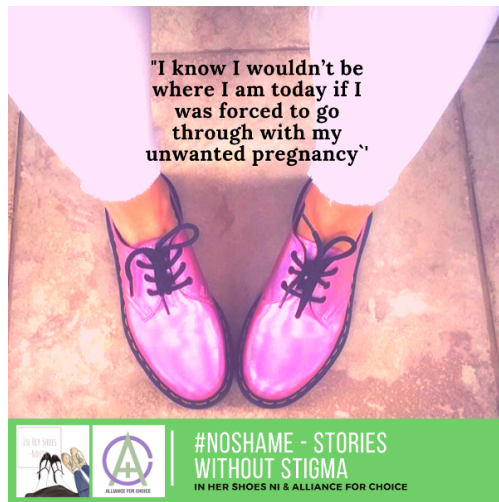
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PRESS CONFERENCE INVITATION: Strictly Embargoed until 00.01 21st October 2019

Press Conference Invitation

Alliance for Choice are excited to announce a press conference on the eve of decriminalisation of abortion healthcare in Northern Ireland.



Alliance for Choice request your company at our Press Conference on the historic eve of abortion decriminalisation. Our panel will include women with 1st hand experience of our laws to date, representatives from the medical community, migrant community, NI student body, In Her Shoes NI and of course Alliance for Choice members. We are also waiting on confirmation from a special guest, we will let you know in due course.

****NOTE TO JOURNALISTS****

We will also have abortion pills on site and will be available to answer questions

Embargoed press release will be available Friday 18th October.
Please contact Emma on the link below if you want to speak to anyone exclusively.

21st October 2019

Black Box, Hill Street Belfast

9.30 for 10am start

Please RSVP for attendance

Co-Ordinator - Emma Campbell 07894063965 / alliancechoice4@gmail.com

Press Conference will be live-streamed on FB video

Local Press and Photographers will be Present

Refreshments will be available

On the eve of this historic day for Northern Ireland, Alliance for Choice welcome the Repeal of sections 58 & 59 of the Offences Against the Persons Act, which has until now barred thousands upon thousands of women and pregnant people from access to abortion healthcare at home and with dignity.

- 9.30 am - AFC and others ready
- 10.00 am - press and guests arrive
- 10.10am - Intros and welcomes from AfC Co-Convenor
- 10.15am - Ashleigh Topley - In Her Shoes NI & UK Supreme Court
- 10.20 am - Hamsa Rajeswaren - QUB Equality and Diversity Officer
- 10.25 am - Jill McManus - Doctors for Choice UK & NUS US Trust Us
- 10.30 am - Member talking about pills experience
- 10.35 am - Dawn Purvis ex Marie Stopes Belfast Director
- 10.45 - questions from floor

AT 11.30/midday we will be providing a free bus to Stormont for Journalists that want to join us as we protest the stunts to try and stop the Amendment.

- ***AfC including women who have travelled, activists and organisers***
- ***Derry AfC including women who have travelled, activists and organisers***
- ***Abortion Rights Campaign Ireland***
- ***British Pregnancy Advisory Service***
- ***Doctors For Choice UK***
- ***Dr Fiona Bloomer Ulster University***
- ***Here NI for Lesbian and Bisexual Women***
- ***In her Shoes NI - Real abortion stories from NI***
- ***Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions***
- ***NUS-USI - Trust Us Campaign***
- ***Trade Unions (Various)***
- ***QUB Students Union***
- ***Women's Resource and Development Agency***
- ***Women's Support Network***

ENDS***

Contact:

Emma Campbell 078940639765

Naomi Connor 07505096576

MORE INFORMATION:

Background

Stella Creasy MP and **Conor McGinn MP** tabled amendments to the *Northern Ireland (Executive Formation) Bill*. These amendments would allow for the decriminalisation of abortion in Northern Ireland, and provision for same sex marriage to come into effect on 22nd October.

Until now, in Northern Ireland abortion was only legal in circumstances where the woman's life is in danger or the pregnancy poses a serious, permanent or long-term risk to her health and wellbeing.

In 2016, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women conducted an inquiry on the subject of access to abortion in Northern Ireland. It concluded that the rights of women in Northern Ireland were being violated by restrictions on access to abortion, and argued that devolution of power over criminal law to the Northern Ireland Assembly did not remove the responsibility of the UK Government for this matter.

Guidance for medical professionals was released: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/837166/Guidance_for_the_medical_profession_in_Northern_Ireland.pdf

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