

ABORTION RIGHTS NOW!

Anti-abortion laws & Church ethos in hospital responsible for medieval treatment of Savita Halappanavar

The tragic news of the death of Savita Halappanavar following a decision by consultants at Galway University Hospital not to proceed with the termination of an unviable foetus is a scandal which points to the need for the pro-choice movement to go well beyond legislation on the X case and to put the demand for free legal and safe abortion on demand centre stage in an active struggle that needs to be brought into every community and workplace in the state.

Savita Halappanavar developed septicæmia from E Coli after she was refused a timely termination of an unviable miscarrying 17 week-old foetus. She went through days of agony to which one would not subject animal

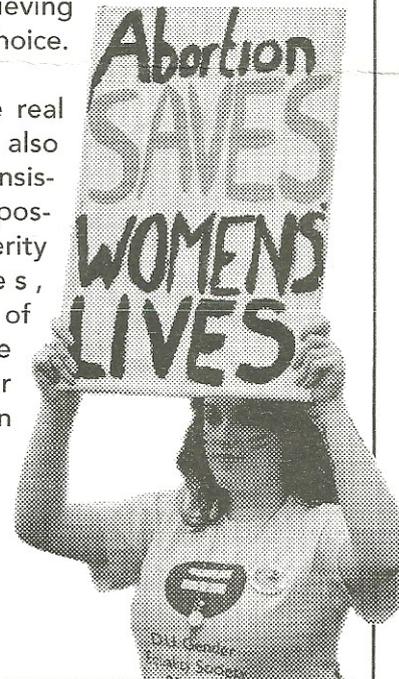
Despite her persistent pleas, she was denied a termination because there remained a foetal heart beat and according to her husband she was told that we 'live in a Catholic country'. As the discussion around Savita's death has progressed today it is emerging that she would have probably received a termination in a number of other hospitals in this state. This demonstrates the ongoing role of the Church on hospital boards of management. Today in the Dáil, Joe Higgins TD has demanded that a HSE directive be immediately issued to all hospitals demanding that all requests for termination by women whose life OR health is at risk be met on demand. In this sense we must push beyond legislating for X given that the Supreme Court ruling only allows for termination when the life and not the health of the woman is endangered.

**TEXT TO JOIN
087 2995484**

This medieval state of affairs persists because of the cowardly inaction of successive governments since 1992 as well as the lethal foot dragging by this government who voted down a United Left Alliance backed bill legislating for X as the maximum reform obtainable from the Dáil.

The government will feel the pressure over this event today and in the coming days. They will hope that the anger and horror will dissipate. It is the role of the pro-choice movement to sustain and organise the developing mood and consciousness among wider and wider sections of ordinary people so that we can go all the way on achieving genuine choice.

Genuine real choice also means consistently opposing austerity policies, many of which have an greater effect on women.



**PROTEST FOR ACTION
SATURDAY 17TH NOVEMBER
4PM GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE
MARCHING TO THE DÁIL**

SOCIALISTPARTY.NET

The Socialist Party calls for:

► An immediate HSE directive to all hospitals insisting that requests for termination from women whose life and health is endangered is met so that Savita's fate is never repeated

► Complete separation of Church and State – clear Church representatives out of the boards of all hospitals and impose a secular ethos throughout the healthcare system

► Immediate legislation for X

► A mass sustained campaign of people power pressure rooted in every community and workplace demanding free legal and safe abortion facilities.

► Oppose all austerity – fight for a socialist alternative

Title: Abortion Rights Now!
Organisation: Socialist Party
Date: 2012

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