

Warsaw, 11-12-2020

U-ZK-2020-12-11-1

on issuing an opinion regarding the Icelandic bill regarding the possibility of free-of charge abortions for Polish women

Pursuant to article 32, item 2., point 3), the National Board of the Lewica Razem (Left Together) Party, hereby decides to issue a positive opinion on the Icelandic Parliament's bill pertaining to enabling Polish women to perform an abortion upon producing the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

Contents of the opinion:

Dear Members of the Icelandic Parliament,

We very much welcome the information that Rosa Bjork Brynjólfsdóttir MP's bill will be proceeded by your Chamber.

In Poland, women's position regarding the respect of their fundamental rights, such as the right to life without violence, or the right to abortion, has been constantly deteriorating since 2015.

The right-wing government of the Law and Justice (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość) party has started its rule by stripping organisations offering legal and psychological support to women experiencing violence of funding. The willingness to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention is being increasingly signaled. On 22 October 2020, the Constitutional Tribunal, which is politically subordinate to the government, has ruled that abortion will be banned almost totally in Poland.

Women, who are pregnant with severe and irreversible damage to the foetus will be deprived of access to abortion. At the moment, 98% of approximately 1,000 abortions performed per year in our country, fall under this category.

Non-governmental organisations estimate, that Polish women perform approximately 150,000 abortions per year outside Poland, or illegally within Polish borders. To pay for them, women get into debt. They are doing it in secret, even from their families, not to subject them to a threat of incarceration for aiding them. Now, they will be joined by those women, who because of a pregnancy, often awaited, experience additional trauma of its extremely pathological course.

Rosa Bjork Brynjólfsdóttir MP's bill is very valuable, as it takes away the burden of payment for the treatment from women seeking abortion abroad, which often is the biggest expense. Consequently, your undertaking of this act of solidarity with Polish women will be met with our sincere gratitude.

National Board of the Left Together (Lewica Razem) party:

*Anna Górska
Paulina Matysiak
Joanna Wicha
Bartosz Grucela
Maciej Szlinder*