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Reproductive health and women's rights in Poland

Written declaration No. 604

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

Undersigned parliamentarians express their worries about current developments with regard to reproductive health and women's rights in Poland.

An initiative has been taken by an anti-abortion organisation to propose a law introducing a complete ban on abortion and defining the concept of "prenatal murder". Additionally, there is a proposal to replace the term "human foetus" with "conceived child" where possible.

The party "Law and Justice" has plans to end State funding for in-vitro fertilisation (IVF).

Finally, there is a plan to reinstate a prescription requirement for "morning after" emergency contraceptive pills.

Poland already has one of the strictest laws on access to abortion, which leads to the number of terminated pregnancies at around 80,000 per year, and perhaps as much as 200,000 including illegal procedures and "abortion tourism" to EU countries with more lenient laws.

It is well known that legal barriers to abortion services do not decrease the rate of abortion, but increase the risk of maternal mortality, due to illegal and unsafe abortions. It is proven that the rate of abortions can only be reduced by improving the access to contraceptives, providing comprehensive information on family planning, and introducing better policies reconciling family and work.

We therefore call upon all parliamentarians to go against these initiatives and protect women's rights in Poland.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC
ANTIČEVIĆ MARINOVIĆ Ingrid, Croatia
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DAEMS Hendrik, Belgium, ALDE
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FIALA Doris, Switzerland, ALDE
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SCHNABEL Paul, Netherlands, ALDE
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VEN Mart, van de, Netherlands, ALDE
VĚSAITĚ Birutė, Lithuania, SOC
ZOTEA Alina, Republic of Moldova, ALDE

Total = 34

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left