

## **ABORTION IN POLAND**



*Source 1: the Telegraph.*

### *Is abortion a human right?*

The UN Human Rights Committee affirms that access to abortion and the prevention of maternal mortality are human rights: "Comprehensive reproductive health services, including abortion, are necessary in order to guarantee the right to life, health, privacy and non-discrimination of women and girls."

### *What has happened in Polonia?*

Poland's High Court has ruled that abortions in cases of fetal defects are unconstitutional. "Poland has decided to sacrifice women's human right to safe and legal health services for the termination of pregnancy due to the protection of fetus's right to life in violation of its international human rights obligations" according to independent human rights experts in response to the ruling of the Constitutional Court of the country to prohibit abortions due to serious or fatal fetal damage.

Before this decree, Poland already had one of the most restrictive abortion laws in Europe. Termination of pregnancy was allowed only in three circumstances: risk to the life or health of the pregnant woman; severe and irreversible deterioration of the fetus; or pregnancy as a result of a "prohibited" act.

The experts highlighted that international human rights mechanisms have been clear in recognizing the right of women to abortion in cases of fatal fetal malformation and that States must provide for the termination of pregnancy in those cases in which the lack of access constitutes, among other things, a violation of the right not to suffer inhuman treatment.

The Human Rights Committee, which oversees the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in its interpretation of the "right to life", affirms that "States must provide safe, legal and effective access to abortion when the life and

health of the pregnant women are at risk, or when carrying a pregnancy to term would cause the pregnant woman or girl substantial pain or suffering, especially when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest or when the pregnancy is not viable. "

women - demanding not only the right to abortion, which means a violation of their human rights, but also the end of the "male fascism" that characterizes the country, leaving women aside and violating their rights, even the most basic ones.

*What has been the reaction of Polish women?*

**Flors Orrit**

Since this decree was enacted, there has been - and continues to be - a wave of mass protests not only in the country in situ but also in other regions of the world, to show support for the cause. Poland has plunged into a mass bath - primarily

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