

# 'Abortion pill bus' gets calls from women

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Published 24/10/2015 | 02:30



Leah O'Mahony and Rose Whelan before they boarded the Abortion Pill Bus, which was leaving Dublin

Organisers of the abortion pill bus, which is travelling around Ireland, say they have received calls from women all over the country seeking assistance.

Socialist party TD Ruth Coppinger, who travelled on the bus, said economic worries were a huge concern for women contacting the organisers.

"Most of the women contacting us regarding the abortion pill have children already and they simply feel they can't have any more for various reasons," she said.

The bus left Dublin yesterday morning after a small rally.

It then travelled to Galway and Limerick, providing information on how to buy abortion pills, along with online consultations with Dr Rebecca Gomperts, founder of Women on Web.

It will move on to Cork this morning, before arriving back in Dublin this afternoon.

Rita Harrold, a spokesperson for reproductive rights group Rosa, said the group had received calls from over a dozen women seeking information, with a further 10 women entering the bus in Galway. She added that it had more appointments booked for Limerick and Cork.

Arriving in Galway an hour behind schedule, the bus suffered a further setback when gardaí informed organisers it could not park at the Spanish Arch. The bus was eventually parked nearby at the Claddagh, directly in front of St Mary's Dominican Church.

Up to 50 people turned out in the city to greet the bus and support calls to repeal the 8th Amendment.

Lisa Bizire from Dingle, who boarded the bus, said she wanted to show her support for the campaign.

"It's important for women to have these services," she said.

However, a small group of protesters also attended the event. Maria Maloney said she joined the protest to ensure that no woman was provided with abortion pills on the bus.

"We want to ensure that no women are put in danger by these pills. Some of the group had called the gardaí and they monitored the event so we are happy nobody was endangered."

Organisers insisted that the pills would not be distributed on board, but women who have a consultation and want them will receive them in the coming days.

Speaking at the Dublin rally, Ms Coppinger said the journey was aimed at highlighting "the option of safe abortion".

She said that the group had "a lot of requests from women to avail of this service, in full public glare. That will show you how desperate women are."

However, Dr Ruth Cullen from the pro-life campaign branded the event as the "latest publicity stunt" from Deputy Coppinger.

She added: "It is an incredibly dangerous and irresponsible one that puts the lives of women at serious risk."

Irish Independent

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**SubvertedRepublic**

5 hours ago

A very dangerous ideology is being spread in Ireland , it is actually convincing impressionable young women to kill their own babies.

don't rule yourself out of the race by killing your own offspring , they are your ticket to immortality !

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**Judith38**

6 hours ago

The girl in the picture is carrying a sign saying 'my body, my choice' and yes of course, she has a choice about what happens to HER body.

BUT if babies were a part of our bodies, birth would mean an amputation. (Clue: It doesn't).

A baby, whether born or unborn, is a separate person!

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**FintanOfLaois**

5 hours ago

**@Judith38** Nice mantra, Judith. Now repeat it ten thousand times if it makes you feel good, but the reality that it is based on arbitrary definitions that many do not accept will not change.

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**Judith38**

5 hours ago

**@FintanOfLaois**

Well Fintan, I would know a little better than you because I have actually had a baby!

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**FintanOfLaois**

11 hours ago

*"It is an incredibly dangerous and irresponsible one that puts the lives of women at serious risk."*

What breathtaking hypocrisy on the part of Dr. Cullen! It is she and her anti-choice ilk who are doing their best to preserve a situation in which Irish women are denied proper medical treatment in their own country and the right to determine their own reproductive processes, with all the risks to their health, wellbeing and even life that this entails, and have to go to England or somewhere else abroad if they conclude that a medical termination is the preferable option for them. Some have to resort to obtaining abortion pills on the Internet and use them without proper medical advice and back-up. This is obviously a risky business, but what real choice do they have?

This bus and Dr. Gomperts with her outstanding professional competence are at least doing something to lessen the risks by advising women in a way that they should be advised by a doctor in their own country. What is Dr. Cullen doing other than lobbying to perpetuate a savage and inhuman system?

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**Barn\_Swallow**

7 hours ago

**@FintanOfLaois** Do a google search for "aborted foetus" and then select images.

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**FintanOfLaois**

5 hours ago

**@Barn\_Swallow @FintanOfLaois** Everyone to his or her own taste. I'm not into photoshopped foetus porn. But if that's what floats your boat ---

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**Judith38**

5 hours ago

**@FintanOfLaois**

Fintan, you can only truly understand a situation if you look at both sides. Sadly once again, you are choosing to bury your head in the sand.

Ireland has swept unpleasant facts of life under enough carpets over the years but if you are going to argue for abortion, take a look at what you think you want.

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