

Activists leave Dublin on 'abortion pill bus' to embark on nationwide rally

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Ruth Coppinger

Activists have left the capital on-board the “abortion pill bus”, in an attempt to give women information on how to buy the tablets.

Dozens of people gathered outside Central Bank in Dublin this morning for the small rally, before the bus departed shortly before 10am.

It will visit Galway, Limerick and Cork before arriving back in Dublin tomorrow afternoon.

Organisers include Socialist party TD Ruth Coppinger and reproductive rights group Rosa.

The bus will give information to women on how to access the abortion pills if they need them, and a video consultation with a Dutch doctor from the Women On Web service will also be available.

One of the organisers said the pills will not be distributed on board, but women who have a consultation and want them will receive them in the coming days.

Speaking at the event, Ruth Coppinger said the journey aims to highlight “the option of safe abortion”.

“Thousands of women leave this country every year, and take abortion pills and have abortions in their own bedroom.

“This is not the 1980s, my generation was badly let down by the Catholic Church. But this generation

aren't going to allow that to happen.

"We were the first country to vote for marriage equality, do they seriously think they can hold back the tide to repeal the eight amendment?" the Dublin TD said.

She said that the group has had "a lot of requests from women to avail of this service, in full public glare".

"That will show you how desperate women are," she added.

The 27 seater bus will arrive in Galway at 1pm today, where they expected to be greeted by supporters. It will then travel to Limerick, arriving at 5pm.

A rally will greet the campaign in Cork at 11.30am tomorrow before it arrives back at St Stephen's Green at 3.30pm.

Last night Dr Ruth Cullen from the pro-life campaign branded the event as the "latest publicity stunt" from Deputy Copping.

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

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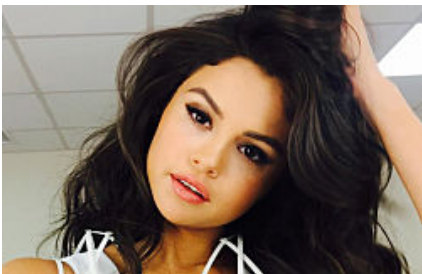
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