

Global Safe Abortion Conference 2007

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1967 Abortion Act

A	the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman greater than if the pregnancy were terminated
B	the termination is necessary to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman
C	the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman
D	the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, of injury to the physical or mental health of any existing children of the family of the pregnant woman
E	there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped, or in emergency, certified by the operating practitioners as immediately necessary
F	to save the life of the pregnant woman; or
G	to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman

Human Fertilisation & Embryology Act - 1990

-  the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman greater than if the pregnancy were terminated
-  the termination is necessary to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman
-  the pregnancy has NOT exceeded its 24th week and the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman
-  the pregnancy has NOT exceeded its 24th week and the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, of injury to the physical or mental health of any existing child (ren) of the family of the pregnant woman
-  there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped

The Doctor's Role

Facilitator or Gatekeeper?

Why remove the requirement for 2 signatures

- matter of principle
- subjectivity in interpretation
- delays in access
- anachronistic

Anti – choice arguments

- **linking abortion with breast cancer**
- **linking abortion with long-term regret/depression/risk or suicide**
- **foetal viability**
- **foetal pain**

Anti – choice arguments/cont.....

- **too many abortions**
- **abortions is too easy**
- **woman use abortion as contraception**

Abortion is inevitable

**‘Woman are not dying because of diseases we cannot treat
– they are dying because societies have yet to decide that
their lives are worth saving’**

**Past President of the Federation of Obstetricians and
Gynaecologists**