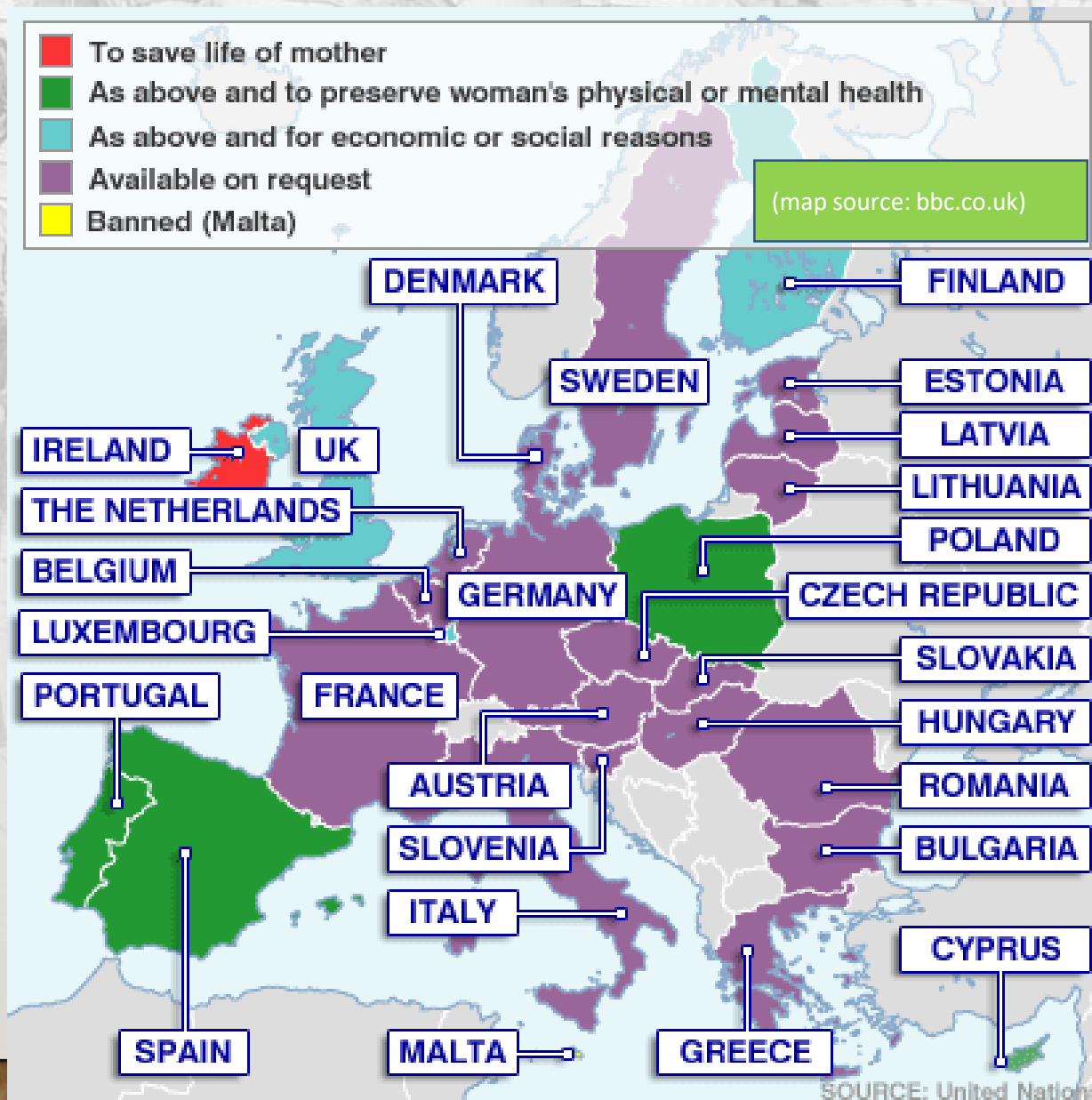


# ABORTION RIGHT IN ITALY AND ACROSS EUROPE

WHAT'S GOING ON?

*Silvia Menecali*



# I'M SPEAKING ABOUT IT, THANKS TO THREE WOMEN...

## MY MOTHER

When I was very young, my mother told me that when she was young, one of her neighbors aborted with the help of a mamma, drinking parsley infusions. Her cries of, before dying, were heard by the whole neighborhood. This story marked me, because up until about twenty days before my birth, this story represented daily life for women. And now it risks becoming so again.



## MY DEAR FRIEND, MARINA

She was a feminist, She entered the feminist movement in Rome during the 60s/70s, when she was young and she became an obstetrician. I knew her during my political activism and thanks to her I'm a feminist. She used to talk to me about all the abuses taking place in hospitals against aborting women. She died in 2013.



## MY AUNT (MY FATHER'S SISTER)

she is part of the abortion team of the hospital in my city, she voluntarily chose to be part of it, because the large number of objectors makes access to abortion difficult.



*Silvia Menecali*

## WHAT I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU

- Brief history of abortion in Italy
- The situation in Europe, and the differences between one state and another (through some examples)
- The backlash against abortion right that is spreading throughout Europe
- The role of feminist movements

WHAT I'D LIKE YOU TO  
SHARE WITH ME

- Any further information and comments on my presentation
- Your experience

# LAW 194/1978

## Rules for the social protection of maternity and the voluntary interruption of pregnancy



### BEFORE THE LAW

Penal Code of 1930: it included abortion as one of the crimes against the integrity and sanity of the bloodline

## 60's/70's

- Thanks to feminist movements and journalists from UDI (Women's Union Italy), women started to speak about their abortion stories, and the publication of those stories was a shock for Italian society. Women, in that period, had the right to vote and the access to work, but they had difficult to make in discussion their role of mothers, patriarchy was very strong in Italy, and religious moral was influencing them too.
- Women learned to do abortions through the experiences of their mothers and other women. Men often asked their wives to learn it, and do it themselves in order not to circulate voices.

On 18 February 1975, a ruling by the Constitutional Court established that the mother's health and rights should prevail over those of the unborn child. The ruling created the first glimmer of legitimacy for that legislative process that will lead to Law 194.



29 APRIL 1975 the Parliament approved the establishment of family counseling centers, which had among their objectives the dissemination of contraception

*Silvia Menecali*



# PRO LIFE MOVEMENTS IN THAT PERIOD



1975

birth of the first help center for life: it was inspired by the words of Pope Paul VI spoken in the encyclical “humanae vitae” of 1968.

Movimento per la Vita (Movement for Life)

born in 1980 with the aim of promoting and defending the right to life and the dignity of everyone, from conception to natural death, fostering a culture of acceptance towards the weakest and most defenceless and, first of all, the child conceived and not still born. Mother Teresa was the Honorary President





**“Any country that accepts abortion, is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what it wants.”**

**(Mother Teresa)**

**“It is absolutely to be excluded, as a lawful way for the regulation of births, direct interruption of the generative process that has already begun, And above all, direct abortion, even if procured for therapeutic reasons.”**

**(Pope Paul VI)**





# LAW APPROVAL



- January 21, 1977: the House, with 310 votes in favor and 296 against, approves the bill Norms on the interruption of pregnancy, the result of discussions lasting months and a synthesis between the proposals of the various parties.
- The approval path was marked by contrasting positions, proposals for changes, attempts at conciliation with the positions of the Church
- May 21, 1978: the law was approved in the Senate with 160 votes in favor and 148 against

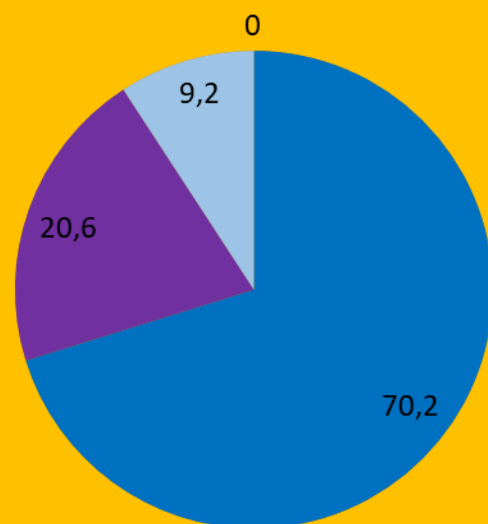
17 MAY 1981

political groups and religious movements  
proposed 5 referendum to repeal the law:

**ITALIANS VOTED CONFIRMING  
THE LAW**

**THE EFFORTS OF  
RADICAL PARTY,  
SOCIALIST PARTY  
AND OF THE  
UDI'S WOMEN  
(WOMEN'S  
UNION ITALY)  
WERE  
FUNDAMENTAL**

Referendum 1981



■ pro - abortion ■ abstained ■ against ■

# APPROVATA LEGGE SULL'ABORTO

**Uno strumento importante conquistato dalle donne da usare nella lotta per sconfiggere l'aborto clandestino.**

**DONNE, impegnamoci per rimuovere ogni ostacolo alla piena applicazione**

The State guarantees the right to conscious and responsible procreation.

It recognizes the social value of motherhood and protects human life from its beginning. The voluntary termination of pregnancy, referred to in this law, is not a tool for birth control. The State, the regions and local authorities, within the scope of their functions and competences, promote and develop social and health services, as well as other initiatives necessary to prevent abortion being used for the purpose of limiting births.

- The voluntary interruption of pregnancy, after the first ninety days, can be practiced:
  - a) when pregnancy or childbirth carries a serious danger to the life of the woman;
  - b) when disease processes are established, including those relating to significant anomalies or malformations of the unborn child, which cause a serious danger to the physical or mental health of the woman.
  
- For minors and interdicted women, the possibility of abortion is ensured through authorization by parents or legal representative

Healthcare personnel and auxiliary activities are not required to take part in the procedures envisaged and interventions for interrupting pregnancy when you raise **conscientious objection**, with prior declaration. In any case, hospitals and authorized nursing homes are required to ensure that the required procedures are carried out and that the interruption interventions requested are carried out according to the established procedures. **The region monitors and guarantees their implementation also through mobility of the staff.** Conscientious objection cannot be invoked by health personnel, and carries out auxiliary activities when, given the particular circumstances, their personal intervention is essential to save the life of the woman in imminent danger

# RIGHT TO OBJECT???

In 1978 it had a sense (*in fact, it should have been a transitional rule!!*) because a lot of doctors started their careers when abortion was a crime. Over the years, this rule has only the function of boycotting the access to abortion because, despite the law says that regions have to guarantee that access, we have more than 70% of objectors in Italy



The path is very difficult: a woman decides to have an abortion, she goes to the doctor who has to speak with her, she has to wait 7 days for “thinking about her choice”, and then face the obstacles due to the presence of objectors.



# BOYCOTT LAW 194 WITHOUT A DIRECT ATTACK...



In Italy, 7 out of 10 gynecologists in hospitals are objectors. The objection rate exceeds 80% in seven regions.

Molise: 96,4% gynecologists and 71.9% anesthesiologists

Basilicata: 88% gynecologists, 71% anesthesiologists

In 2017, the UN Human Rights Committee warned Italy "concerned about the difficulties of access to legal abortions due to the number of doctors who refuse to practice them for reasons of conscience"

# ...OVER THE YEARS...



From 2010 in Italy the use of the RU 486 pill is allowed, within the seventh week of gestation

- **FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION:** recommends outpatient and administration **AT HOME:** in Italy, the AIFA (Italian Medicines Agency) has confirmed, however, use only in hospitals, in ordinary hospitalization (3 days).





## EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

the day-after pill, the five-day pill and the use of the five-day intrauterine spiral are available in pharmacies but are not included among drugs reimbursable or covered by the State.

Since 2015, women over 18 years don't need of medical prescription for emergency contraception.

## Resolution 1607/2008 parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe

- It recommends that quality abortion services being legal, safe and accessible to all, including non-resident women
  - Member States should regulate and monitor the use of conscientious objection to guarantee assistance
- Emphasize that conscientious objection is an individual right and not a collective policy

## Nils Muižnieks

From 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2018 he was the Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe. In that period he released a paper on reproductive health(<https://rm.coe.int/women-s-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-in-europe-issue-pape/168076dead>) .

The document provides an overview of states' obligations under international and European human rights standards in the field of women's sexual and reproductive health and rights.



“Women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights are human rights. Regrettably, however, women in Europe still have these rights denied or restricted as a result of laws, policies and practices that ultimately reflect continuing gender stereotypes and inequalities. States must acknowledge and address these violations and resolutely commit to advancing gender equality in this crucial sphere of life”  
Nils Muižnieks





EASY ACCESS



RESTRICTED  
ACCESS



ILLEGAL

- Despite the recommendations and a clear positions, there is a deep inequality in access to abortion among EU Countries, and even where there are laws that support it, the path is often full with obstacles
- We can future and group countries based on access to abortion



# EASY ACCESS

Austria

Belgium

Great  
Britain

France

Netherlands

Norway

Sweden

Switzerland

Ukraine

Balcans

Estonia



*Silvia Menecali*

# AUSTRIA

Up to three months

On request

Second trimester

- Serious risk to physical health of woman
- Risk to mental health of woman
- Immediate risk to life of woman
- Serious foetal impairment
- Woman is a minor under 14 years

The ability of a woman to pay for an abortion is an important factor

Due to conscientious objection from both medical personnel and hospital management, abortion facilities are not readily available all over the country.

## EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

emergency contraception is legal but not among the services repayable or covered by the State. Emergency contraceptives are on sale only in pharmacies and can be purchased even without a prescription.

PHARMACOLOGICAL ABORTION  
legal and accessible.

# BELGIUM

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The woman must receive counselling at least six days prior to procedure, which must be performed by a physician under good medical conditions in a healthcare establishment with the proper information resources.

Up to 12 weeks after conception (or 14 weeks after last menstrual period)

- This can be prolonged as long as the first counselling was before 12 weeks
- No more “state of emergency”

**No limit**

- “Serious” risk to health of woman
- “Extremely serious and incurable disease” of fetus

## EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

The day after pill and the five-day pill are both legal and payable in pharmacies, hospitals and health centers even in the absence of a medical prescription.

Included among the drugs reimbursable by the state.

PHARMACOLOGICAL ABORTION  
legal and accessible.

# SWEDEN

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Up to 18 weeks

- On request

Up to 21 weeks and 6 days

- Strong reasons
- In case of serious danger to woman's life or health  
(with the permission of National Board of Health and Welfare)



Sweden has a very good and well-functioning abortion law but there are some anti-choice activities against the Abortion Act. These groups are mainly connected to a religious sect called "The word of life" (<http://wordoflife.se/>)

## EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

Emergency contraception is legal and available from pharmacies, family planning clinics and hospitals.

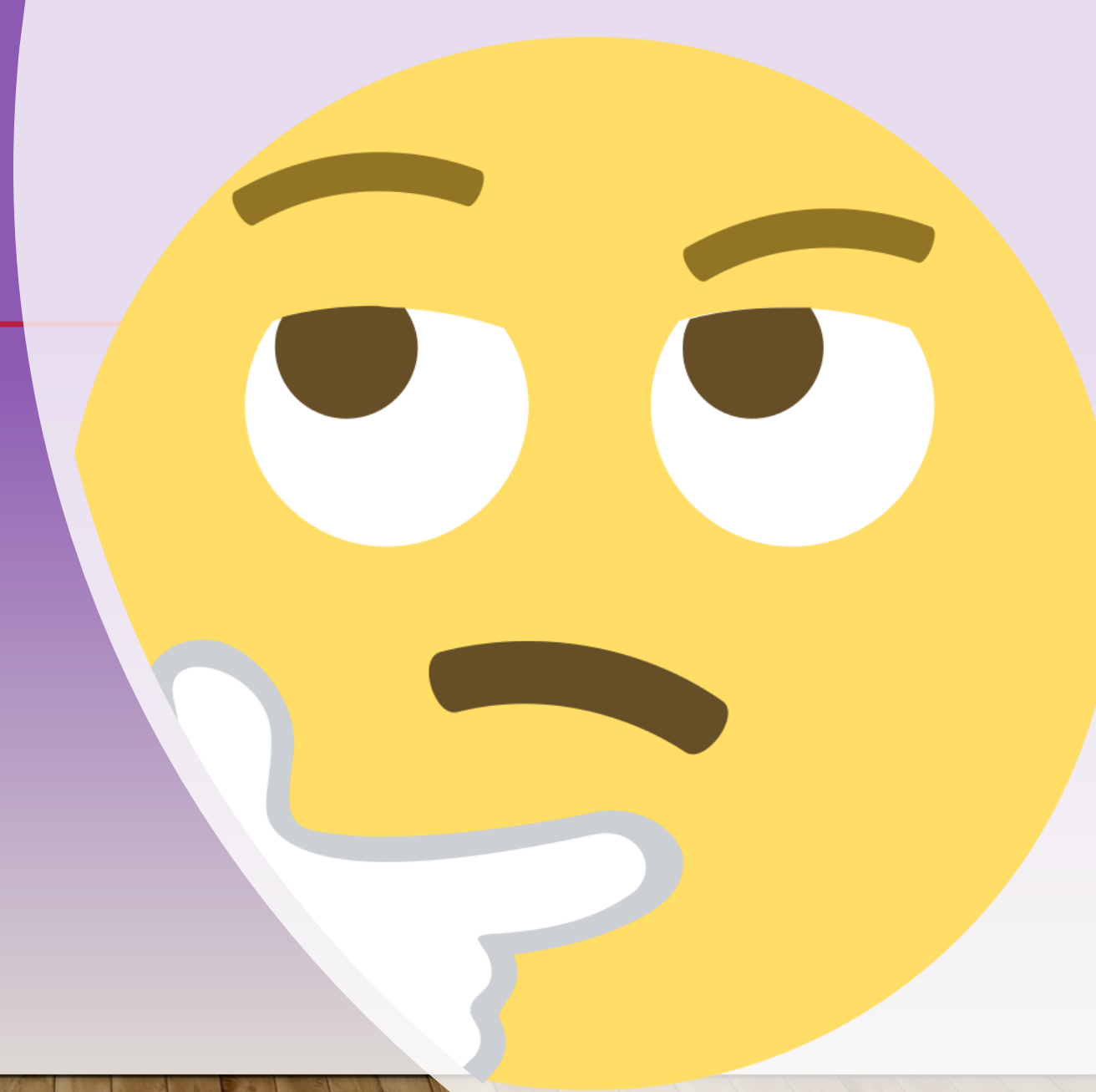
For younger girls, the emergency contraception is free. There is no medical prescription requirement for request the day after and five day pill

## PHARMACOLOGICAL ABORTION

legal and accessible.

# RESTRICTED ACCESS

- Denmark
- Finland
- Germany
- Italy
- Croatia
- Portugal
- Spain





# CROATIA

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Up to 10 weeks

- On request

**After the 10 week, only if approved by a designated Commission of First Instance**

- risk for the health or life (for woman and child)
- child's risk of severe congenital physical or mental defects
- conception during rape, sexual intercourse with physically helpless or mentally incapacitated person, abuse of position rape, sexual intercourse with a child or incest



As in Italy, Croatia have a very large number of objectors, and there are hundreds cases of women who have been subjected to painful and abusive treatments

<http://www.roda.hr/>

Parents in Action - RODA is a group of interested citizens who are committed to a dignified pregnancy, parenting and childhood in Croatia. They launched the campaign #BreakTheSilence on treatment of women in hospitals and invited women to send their testimonies



(thanks to my Croatian colleague Adriana Bego for precious information)



## EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

The day after pill and the five-day pill are legal and available in pharmacies.

They are not included in the drugs reimbursable by the State.

## PHARMACOLOGICAL ABORTION

???

# SPAIN

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## Up to 12 weeks

- On request

## Up to 22 weeks

- in case of risks to the health and life of women or in the case of malformations of the fetus
- If the fetal malformation is such that it does not allow survival outside of the maternal uterus or if the fetus is suffering from an incurable disease, it is allowed to abort even after the 22 week

! If the pregnancy is a result of rape, the rape must be reported to the police

! There is no policy on conscientious objection, therefore abortions are carried out in very few public hospitals

## EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

emergency contraception is legal and available in pharmacies and family planning clinics without a prescription.

In some regions, the cost of the day after pill, the five day pill and the spiral 14 five-day intrauterine is one of the reimbursable drugs

## PHARMACOLOGICAL ABORTION

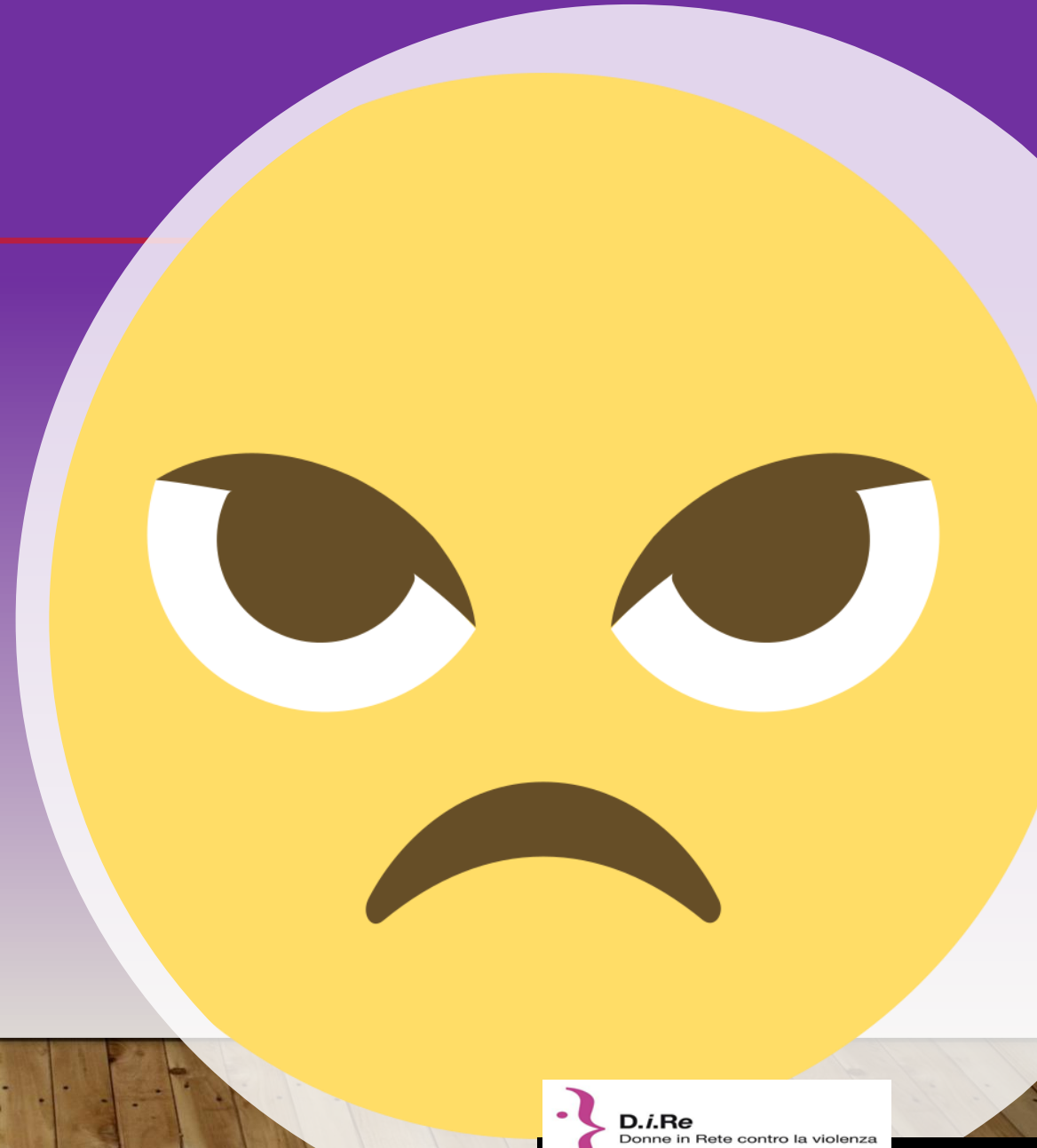
Mifepristone and misoprostol are permitted within the first trimester of pregnancy.

However, access is not easy and costs are high. The use of pharmacological abortion is less frequent than the use of surgical abortion.

# ILLEGAL

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- Andorra
- Ireland (aggiornamento)
- Malta
- San Marino Republic
- Monaco (Principato)
- Liechtenstein
- Poland
- Vatican City (of course!)



# POLAND

Abortion is allowed only in three cases:

- risk for mother's life
- very serious fetus malformation
- rape

Several international institutions, including the European Court of Human Rights and the CEDAW Committee have expressed deep concerns regarding severe consequences of the anti-abortion law on the life and health of women and girls. The restrictive law, the numerous barriers a woman has to overcome in order to secure a legal procedure and the stigma associated with abortion and abortion providers, all contribute to the practice of **illegal abortion and high numbers of women and girls travelling abroad for abortion**

## EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

Emergency contraception day after pill and five day pill is legal and available in pharmacies upon prescription by the doctor and is the responsibility of the purchaser. For girls under the age of 18, they can use emergency contraception only with the prior consent of parents or guardians.

## PHARMACOLOGICAL ABORTION

The distribution of mifepristone and misoprostol in the is not allowed Country. Technically, since both are included in the list of essential medicines by the WHO, women could buy abortion pills from abroad. Practically however, these pills are often blocked on the country borde



<http://strajkkobiet.eu/>

An informal, non-partisan initiative of women, to various women's organizations (or independent from organizations), which organized the National Women's Strike - Black Monday on October 3, 2016 in over 200 cities in Poland and abroad.



# MALTA

IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION TO TOTALLY BANS ABORTION

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## From the penal code

! “Whosoever, by any food, drink, medicine, or by violence, or by any other means whatsoever, shall cause the miscarriage of any woman with child, whether the woman be consenting or not, shall, on conviction, be liable to imprisonment for a term from 18 months to three years”

! “The same punishment shall be awarded against any woman who shall procure her own miscarriage, or who shall have consented to the use of the means by which the miscarriage is procured.”

-Information on reproductive health in Malta is very lacking



The day after pill was legalized in 2016, but pharmacists may refuse to sell it based on their "moral convictions".

-Although condoms are sold in pharmacies and supermarkets, the birth control pill is only available on prescription

Maltese women, if they want to practice an abortion, must go to other countries and to Italy, obviously paying for access to a private clinic.

<https://www.facebook.com/V4CMalta/>

Voice for Choice is a group of civil society organizations and individuals that together want to work for reproductive rights and justice in Malta

**Fact 30**

**How can I get help if I want an abortion?**

**VOICE FOR CHOICE**  
L-GHAZLA TAGHNA

Abortion Support Network ([www.asn.org.uk/malta/](http://www.asn.org.uk/malta/)) is open to people in Malta who need to travel to obtain a legal abortion or who seek information on the reputable providers of safe but illegal early medical abortion pills (Women On Web: [www.womenonweb.org](http://www.womenonweb.org) and Women Help Women: <https://womenhelp.org/>). Abortion Support Network offer information about the least expensive way to arrange your travel and procedure, financial and other forms of assistance where needed and advice on accommodation. They also offer phone counselling if needed through the organisation BPAS. You can contact ASN on the ASN helpline (+356 27780991), or email: [malta@asn.org.uk](mailto:malta@asn.org.uk). The website (<http://abortion-clinics.eu>) provides a comprehensive lists of clinics offering abortion services in EU countries.

#30abortionmyths

**Fact 25**

**Abortion is really anti-family and anti-motherhood, isn't it?**

**VOICE FOR CHOICE**  
L-GHAZLA TAGHNA

Abortion and parenthood are not in opposition to each other. Many of the people who access abortion are already parents. Their decision is often influenced by the desire to ensure they can take the best possible care of the children they already have. Parents who choose abortion fully understand what parenting entails and what is needed to adequately care for another child. For people who do not wish to become parents themselves, forcing pregnancy and parenthood on them would in no way strengthen the concept of family life. People are best positioned to decide how and with whom they wish to form a family.

#30abortionmyths

**Fact 27**

**What about abortion in the case of disability or Down's Syndrome?**

**VOICE FOR CHOICE**  
L-GHAZLA TAGHNA

A diagnosis of Down Syndrome does not mean that a woman who is pregnant will inevitably decide to have an abortion. The majority of pre-natal diagnoses are made at 20 weeks and some countries such as Ireland, have a 12-week timeframe and no exceptions are made on the basis of a disability diagnosis. At the same time, there are already women in Malta who have travelled to England for an abortion based on a diagnosis of disability so the abortion ban is not effective. Providing better support would make parents more likely to continue with a pregnancy after a diagnosis of disability. The solution is not banning abortion but tackling the root cause: prejudice and lack of support for people with disabilities. Furthermore, one in five women lives with a disability and these women sometimes need abortions as well.

#30abortionmyths



Irish Republic

Northern Ireland

In 1983 the Irish Republic introduced into the Constitution **Eight Amendment** prohibiting women from exercising abortion

Woman 'denied  
a termination'  
dies in hospital



Violation of the law was punishable by sentences of up to 14 years in prison

Since 2013, the possibility of abortion has been included in the law in the event of a concrete danger to the life of women, following a conviction by the European Court of Human Rights.

*Silvia Menecali*



Savita Halappanavar, an Irishwoman of Indian origins, who died of septicemia after the doctors denied her an abortion on the 17th week, explaining that "this is a Catholic country"



ON 25 MAY 2018 THE IRISH WERE CALLED TO VOTE ON THE ABOLITION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND. YES WON WITH OVER 66% OF VOTES

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Approval of the law “The Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy Bill”: it allows to interrupt the pregnancy within the twelfth week in case of fetal anomalies or if the physical or psychological health of the woman should be in danger, but after the consultation with two different doctors.





Irish Republic is one of the major strongholds of Catholicism with 78.3% of believers

Even if the law is a step forward, women who want to have an abortion must face the pro-life that they started to organize real sit-ins in front of obstetric clinics, forcing patients to make their way through small coffins and aggressive slogans



Often, hospital staff try to dissuade patients, tricking with timing that does not correspond to reality





Abortion is legal in England, Scotland and Wales since 1967, but the law was never extended to Northern Ireland, part of the United Kingdom since 1921, as local politicians have always opposed it.

**Those who underwent an illegal abortion and those who collaborated could even risk life imprisonment in Northern Ireland.**

The Belfast Executive collapsed almost three years ago and the assembly remains suspended, with Northern Ireland currently largely administered from London.

The law concerning abortion, which remained in force for 158 years in Northern Ireland, has finally collapsed thanks to the **vote of the Westminster Parliament**

Since the Belfast executive was not re-formed by midnight on 21 October 2019, the Northern Ireland Executive Formation Bill and its Amendments, which legalize abortion, are ready to come into force at the beginning of 2020, but already from 22 October 2019 termination of pregnancy will no longer be a crime in Northern Ireland: on that date all ongoing legal proceedings will also be canceled.





...A  
DANGEROUS  
BACKLASH...



alamy stock photo



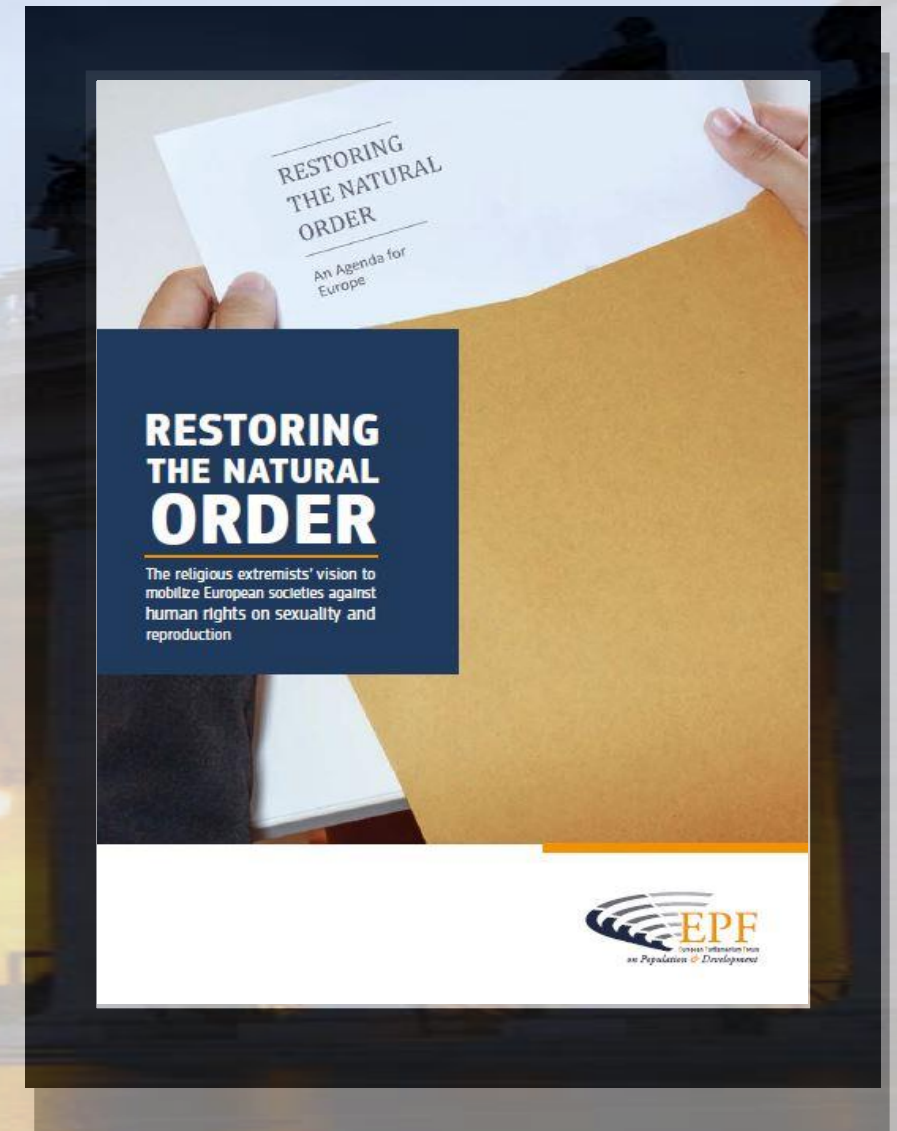
*Silvia Menecali*



In april 2018, the European Parliamentary Forum on Population & Development (Epf) produced a dossier demonstrating the existence of a policy document entitled “**Restoring the natural order**” produced by an internal group of the european institutions

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The 100 to 150 individuals and organizations who make up Agenda Europe come from a diversity of backgrounds, but they all have one thing in common - they share a Christian belief



According to the Epf the document was probably written by “Agenda Europe”, a blog today made private, but visible until a few months ago. It is not known who the authors are, but according to the EPF it would be at least two people working in the European institutions, signed with the initials “J.C.” and “V.V.”, and that they are directed directly to other insiders.

<https://agendaeurope.wordpress.com/>

STATED GOAL:  
RESTORE THE  
NATURAL ORDER



Cancel the advancing of civil rights in the name of a natural, superior and pre-existing law



A real action plan that is pursued at the level of European institutions, European Union and Council of Europe, and national levels



Detailed extremist strategy: overturn existing laws on fundamental human rights (sexuality and reproduction, divorce, access to women's contraception, assisted reproduction, abortion, LGBTQ rights)



# DURING THE SUMMITS DECISIONS ARE TAKEN TO ACHIEVE GOALS

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## 2015

- DEFINITION OF ATTACK STRATEGY
- SOME AREAS OF INTEREST WERE IDENTIFIED
- EACH TOPIC WAS ASSIGNED TO A REPRESENTATIVE.

## 2016

IDENTIFICATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL LAWS OF THE VARIOUS STATES OF THE UNION ON WHICH TO INTERVENE, SUCH AS **RATIFICATION OF IC** (UNDERMINES THE SACREDNESS OF MARRIAGE AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM)

# ACTION STRATEGIES

## Use

- use enemies' weapons and turn them against them (e.g: debunk the status of minority victims and convince that the real victims are the Christians)

## Eliminate

- eliminate doctrinal language and focus on more "secular" positions (e.g: not say that abortion is wrong from an ethical point of view, but also the fathers have right to take action on the issue)

## Insist on

- insist on existing rights: freedom of speech or expression, danger of censorship

DON'T COMPROMISE,  
BUT GO IMMEDIATELY  
TO OFFENSIVE  
ACTIONS, TO  
"STRATEGIC  
OBJECTIVES TO FIGHT  
OPPONENTS"



law on marriage and the family



laws regarding life



contraception



abortion (THE MAIN GOAL)



assisted procreation



stem cell research



euthanasia



equality and fight against discrimination

Participants at the Agenda Europa Summit include politics from various countries, and leading people from the World Congress of Families. There are also people close to the conservative and radical right political leaders of various European countries

1995

The idea came from the meeting between Alan Carlson (historian, former official of the Reagan administration and President of the Center for the Family, Religion, Society, a conservative group that opposes abortion, divorce and homosexuality ) and the sociologist and demographer Anatoli Antonov. They decide to fund a NGO based on the shared idea of family. The idea from which they started was that the blame for the imminent demographic collapse that they feared was attributable to the feminist movement and sexual liberation

## THE ORIGINS OF WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES

*Silvia Menecali*

 **D.i.Re**  
Donne in Rete contro la violenza

The natural family must be composed of man and woman united in marriage

CHURCHES AND PARTIES CAME INTO PLAY LATER, STARTING AN ACTION COORDINATED WITH POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AGAINST THE ALLEGED ENEMIES OF A "MORALLY FOUNDED" SOCIETY: DIVORCE, HOMOSEXUALITY, WOMEN.

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In the same years the UN had organized conferences on women's rights (Cairo 1994, Beijing 1995): for US right-wing groups they constituted an alarm.

Alliance with local networks and organizations that have an influence on the governments of various countries

*Silvia Menecali*

WCF SUPPORTED THE RUSSIAN LAW AGAINST GAY PROPAGANDA (2013) THEN CONDEMNED BY THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, THE UN AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS. IN ADDITION, SUPPORTED THE RUSSIAN LAW AGAINST ADOPTIONS FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES.

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### Groups close to WCF

**Catholics** (Poland, France, Spain, South America, Africa, Italy);

**Christian Orthodox** (Russia, Bielorussia, Ucraina, Georgia, Romania, Moldova)

Protestants, Evangelicals and Mormons USA.

WCF ALSO FINANCED STUDIES (WHICH WERE THEN DISCREDITED) ON: CORRELATION BETWEEN HOMOGENITORIAL FAMILIES AND A WORSE STATE IN THE GROWTH OF CHILDREN AND GIRLS; LINK BETWEEN SAME SEX UNIONS AND INCREASED PEDOPHILIA; DISSEMINATION OF THE FALSE "GENDER THEORY" (WHICH HIDES AN ATTACK ON FEMINIST STUDIES); ASSOCIATION BETWEEN ABORTION AND HEALTH PROBLEMS AND BREAST CANCER





# COMING BACK TO ITALY

.....

- **1995: Pope John Paul II**, Encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* "No one can authorize the killing of an innocent human being, fetus or embryo" Pope John Paul II called the laws allowing abortion "without legal validity"
- **1991: Ecclesial White Army Movement**: a monument was erected in the cemetery of L'Aquila to the "never-born children", with the consent of the Mayor and the support of the Archbishop. It was the first sign of an anti-abortion escalation an exclamation spread over the years.
- **1997, Piemonte**: The Regional Councilor for Health authorizes an anti-abortion association in Novara to organize a macabre 'funeral of foetus' every month
- **1999, Rome**: two Priests enter the Hospital San Camillo by force to block the urgent intervention for the abortion of a 13-year-old girl, regularly hospitalized with the authorization of the Judge Protect. It was necessary to remove them using the force.
- **2000, Bolzano**: a religion teacher brings plastic fetuses into the classroom, and in the presence of an anti-abortion organization, she forces female students to swear on their present and future chastity.

May 2010, cemetery of the municipality of Cremona: the funeral of 26 fetuses is celebrated. They recited some prayers, "The devil, murderer from the beginning, constantly attentive to the life of man and humanity. Accept, then, O Mary, our consecration because with you we can work effectively in the promotion and defense of life "



September 2011: the volunteers of the association Pro Vita "Ora et Labora. In defence of life" they organized a prayer sit-in in front of the Sant'Anna Hospital in Turin against the abortion pill.  
"Ru486, Herod's pill. A legalized genocide."



September 2012, Desio Cemetery: blessing and burial of fetuses, organized again by "Ora et labora. In defense of life." The photo of the ceremony is posted on facebook.

# ROMA 13 MAGGIO 2012: MARCH FOR LIFE

## Who joined

Forza Nuova (Neo Fascist Party), Militia Christi, Science and Life, Legionnaires of Christ, Opus Dei, numerous members of center-right parties. With the advocacy of the City of Rome (Mayor Gianni Alemanno)

Why ... do you feed them to sewer rats?

Every abortion is a dead child

Why ... you burn them?

State extermination

Why ... you throw them in the trash?

Abortion is a serious sin

'194: 5 million dead already'





# NON UNA DI MENO

(«NO ONE LESS»)

NOVEMBER 2016

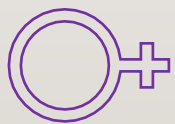
BORN IN ROME FROM FEMALE AND FEMINISTS GROUPS WHICH, FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, WERE THINKING ABOUT SOME MACRO AREAS (LEGISLATIVE, ANTI-VIOLENCE CENTERS, INDEPENDENT PATHS, EDUCATION TO DIFFERENCES, FREEDOM OF CHOICE AND ABORTION.

PROMOTED BY

IO DECIDO – ROMAN NETWORK

UDI – ITALIAN WOMEN'S UNION

D.I.RE – DONNE IN RETE CONTRO LA VIOLENZA



<https://nonunadimeno.wordpress.com/portfolio/appello/>



<https://nonunadimeno.files.wordpress.com/2019/09/piano-femminista-eng.pdf>

# IN JUNE 2018, THE NEW GOVERNMENT WAS BORN (COMPOSED BY LEGA AND 5 STARS MOVEMENT)



# MINISTRY OF FAMILY AND DISABILITIES: LORENZO FONTANA (SALVINI'S FAITHFUL)



! DENIES THE EXISTENCE OF  
RAINBOW FAMILIES

! ARGUED THAT ONE OF THE  
MOST COMMON REASONS  
WHY A WOMAN HAS AN  
ABORTION IS ECONOMIC  
WORRIES (IF IN DOUBT IT IS  
BETTER TO HAVE A CHILD)

! THE STATE MUST  
INTERVENE TO PREVENT  
WOMEN ABORTING (STATE =  
FATHER, GUARDIAN,  
HUSBAND)

# SEPTEMBER 28, 2018: WORLD FREE, SAFE AND GUARANTEED ABORTION DAY

• In Italy there have been demonstrations in many squares, promoted by Non Una Di Meno.

• The day gained great relevance especially in light of the statements of The Senator of the League Simone Pillon



! "TODAY THERE ARE NO CONDITIONS TO CHANGE THE LAW 194 ON ABORTION, BUT WE TOO WILL GET THERE, AS HAPPENED IN ARGENTINA"

! "WE SUPPORT MOTHERHOOD OR WE WILL EXTINGUISH OURSELVES AS ITALIANS"

! "YOU HAVE FREEDOM OF CHOICE BEFORE YOU CONCEIVE A LIFE. THEN THERE IS THE RIGHT OF AN INNOCENT TO COME INTO THE WORLD."



OCTOBER 4, 2018, VERONA

The City Council has deliberated a series of anti-abortion and "life support" measures based on the motion of Alberto Zelger (Lega), supporting economically anti-abortion Catholic associations, favoring childbirth in anonymity (with consequent immediate adoption) and proclaiming Verona "City supporting life"

Whose life?



The activists of Non Una di Meno have been removed from the council hall



!

"Abortion is not a right, it is an abominable crime. Between the two rights of women and the unborn child, the latter must prevail. Once conceived, it must be born. Those who aborts does not know what does. If it were up to me, the 194 law should not exist, in line with the position of Minister Fontana "(Zelger)

*Silvia Menecali*

*Over the years, the communication of these groups has changed:*

PRO-LIFE

Contaminating vocabulary: Uses slogans related to feminism and human rights



- Patinated, advertising
- No ideological language
- Linked to love and beauty

Non una di meno  
No more gender-based  
violence  
Abortion as the leading cause  
of femicide



You were like that at 11 weeks... All your organs were present... Your heart was beating already from the third week after conception.... You were already sucking your thumb.... And now you're here because your mom didn't abort you.



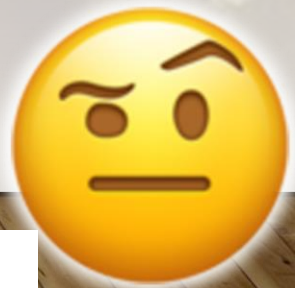
ABORTION IS THE FIRST CAUSE OF FEMICIDE IN THE WORLD



"Depression, anxiety, anger, thoughts of suicide, and remorse have haunted me for years" Abortion can severely damage your physical and mental health. Mom, save your baby and yourself. Don't have an abortion



"Dear Greta, you want to save the planet... save the human puppies"





WHICH WAS THE BEST  
COUNTRY FOR ...

*Silvia Menecali*



# WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES XIII

VERONA | 29-31 MARCH, 2019



*Silvia Menecali*





Among books and films about women survivors of attempted abortion, check an anti-abortion rubber fetus, donated by one of the sponsors, Notizie Pro Vita (News ProVita): is an embryo of ten weeks was accompanied by a card with the word "abortion stops the beating heart".



Massimo Gandoflini, founder of Family Day:  
"abortion is "murder of a child in utero" and because of law 194 "six million children were killed in Italy"

# VERONA CITTÀ TRANSFEMMINISTA

**GIOVEDÌ 28 MARZO**

• 18.30 - **La Mappatura Paradoxa**  
Incontro di lavoro e di studio sul tema "La Mappatura Paradoxa" a cura di Silvia Menecali. Partenza dalla Stazione di Porta Nuova.

• 19.30 - **Libro**  
Presentazione del libro "Non Una Meno" di Silvia Menecali. Partenza dalla Stazione di Porta Nuova.

**VENERDÌ 29 MARZO**

• 9.00 - **Cerale della Rete**  
Incontro di lavoro e di studio sul tema "Cerale della Rete" a cura di Silvia Menecali. Partenza dalla Stazione di Porta Nuova.

• 14.00 - **Sala Elisabetta Lodi**  
Incontro di lavoro e di studio sul tema "Sala Elisabetta Lodi" a cura di Silvia Menecali. Partenza dalla Stazione di Porta Nuova.

**SABATO 30 MARZO**

• 14.30 - **Libro**  
Presentazione del libro "Non Una Meno" di Silvia Menecali. Partenza dalla Stazione di Porta Nuova.

• 18.00 - **Grande Fida**  
Incontro di lavoro e di studio sul tema "Grande Fida" a cura di Silvia Menecali. Partenza dalla Stazione di Porta Nuova.

• 19.00 - **Libro**  
Presentazione del libro "Non Una Meno" di Silvia Menecali. Partenza dalla Stazione di Porta Nuova.

• 21.00 - **Libro**  
Presentazione del libro "Non Una Meno" di Silvia Menecali. Partenza dalla Stazione di Porta Nuova.

• 22.00 - **Libro**  
Presentazione del libro "Non Una Meno" di Silvia Menecali. Partenza dalla Stazione di Porta Nuova.

**DOMENICA 31 MARZO**

• 9.00 - **ASSEMBLEA TRANSNazionale**  
Incontro di lavoro e di studio sul tema "ASSEMBLEA TRANSNazionale" a cura di Silvia Menecali. Partenza dalla Stazione di Porta Nuova.



## 29/30/31 March: FIRST WCF PROTEST organized by Non Una Di Meno



- 29/03 EVENTS disseminated in the city - conferences, workshops, shows, performances.
- 30/03 PROTEST – transfeminist tide that crossed Verona.
- 31/03 TRANSNATIONAL ASSEMBLY with Marta Dillon (Ni Una Menos Argentina), activists of the Spanish, Polish, Irish, Croatian, Dutch and French movements.



<https://nonunadimeno.wordpress.com/2019/03/17/verona-citta-transfemminista/>

*Silvia Menecali*





Obiezione Respinta (Rejected Objection) : Non Una Di Meno decided to launch a map where women experiences and knowledge are put at the service of all, creating a path that goes to sanction all those places that deny us the right to choose and self-determination.

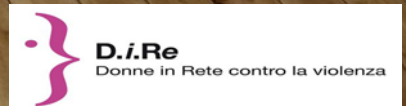
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Everyone can report  
pharmacies, hospitals,  
counseling offices,  
conscientious  
objectors

Article 9 of 194 speaks of the 'right to objection', a right on the body of others, when we should speak instead of the right to free and guaranteed health, regardless of age, ethnicity and without a binary classification of gender M-F. We should talk about counselling as places where choices about our bodies are not filtered by Christian or pro-life associations, where abortion is not inhaled in a psychological and motivational pathway, where sexuality and female pleasure are not taboo.

Obiezione Respinta has an active telephone line 24  
hours a day 3319634889

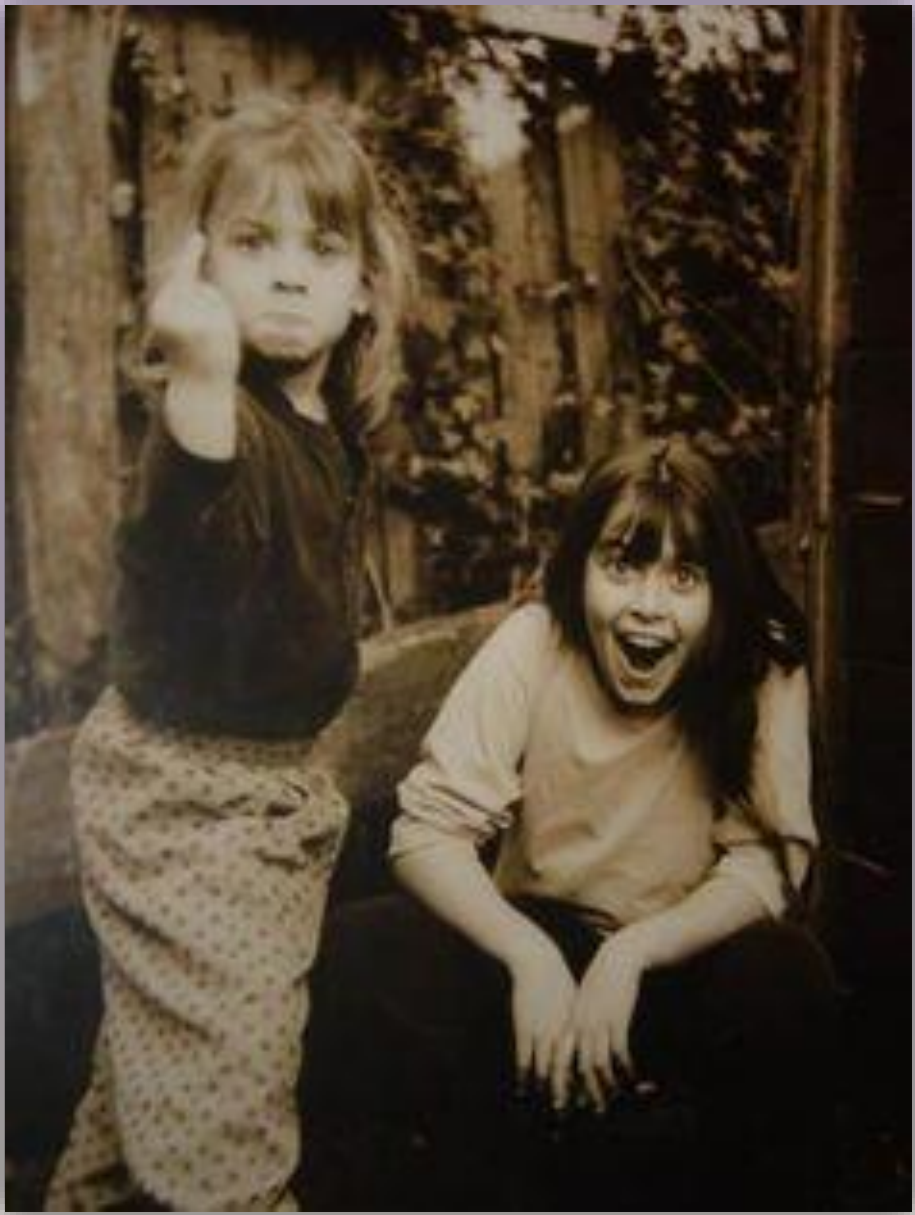
*Silvia Menecali*





# WHERE ARE WE NOW?

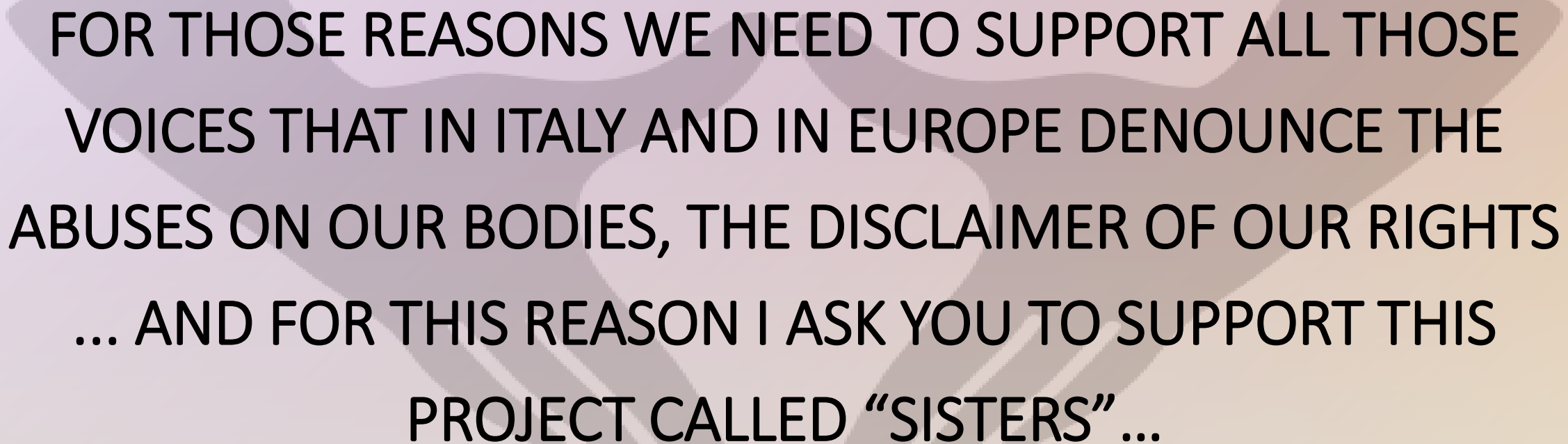




We will continue to move like an **unstoppable tide**, occupying the City Squares, to reiterate that motherhood is a choice and not a duty.

We will continue to fight for every woman's right to self-determination

We will continue to demand that **objectors** stay **out of hospitals** and **clinics**, we want the abortion pill accessible and without hospitalization



FOR THOSE REASONS WE NEED TO SUPPORT ALL THOSE  
VOICES THAT IN ITALY AND IN EUROPE DENOUNCE THE  
ABUSES ON OUR BODIES, THE DISCLAIMER OF OUR RIGHTS  
... AND FOR THIS REASON I ASK YOU TO SUPPORT THIS  
PROJECT CALLED "SISTERS" ...





## MARIANNA FUMAI

Documentarian

Marianna Fumai is a filmmaker, interested in looking into social issues with her work. In 2016 in Catania a woman, Valentina Milluzzo, died of sepsis in the fifth month of pregnancy after two weeks of hospitalization. Her family maintain that the day she died, the doctor on duty refused to intervene because of the fetal heartbeat, claiming to be a conscientious objector. For the past two years she has been researching the situation of access to abortion in Italy, Ireland and Poland, three very Catholic countries that share the story of three women who have been refused medical treatment during pregnancy: Valentina, Savita and Edyta. This research would not have been possible without the support of three activists who, with the beauty of their commitment and the deep knowledge of this issue, have supported and still support this project



## ELISABETTA CANITANO

Vita di Donna Onlus

Elisabetta Canitano, gynecologist, founded the charity Vita Di Donna to inform women about everything related to their health at the Casa Internazionale delle Donne in Rome. Vita di Donna responds 7 days a week to calls from all over Italy that very often concern the request for information on where to access medical or surgical abortion, without the risk of meeting conscientious objectors. Sometimes some of these women reach her in Rome.



## MARA KLEIN CLARKE

Abortion Support Network

Mara Clarke founded in 2009 the Abortion Support Network in order to help those in Ireland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man access abortions. ASN helps women with information on the least expensive way to arrange abortion and travel, funding towards the cost, and, when needed, accommodation in volunteer homes. Since February 2019 the organization support women and people from Malta and Gibraltar.



## SARAH DIEHL

Ciocia Basia

To support freedom of choice and the right to health of women from Poland, Sarah Diehl activist and writer, founded in 2014 Ciocia Basia, an organization based in Berlin. Ciocia Basia makes translations in/from Polish and organizes appointments with counselors and non-judgmental doctors. Volunteers help women to choose the best method for them between medical or surgical abortion, they host women who can not afford accommodation during their stay in Berlin and when necessary, Ciocia Basia funds abortion.

SISTERS

## WHY THIS FILM?

Sisters is a documentary film project about the lack of fundamental human rights: the right to receive the medical care you need and the right to decide what happens to your body. We assume that in Europe everybody has the chance to decide if and when to become parent, but reality is different.

In Italy, although there is a law "the 194", which regulates access to abortion, in many public facilities it is not available: only around 60% of hospitals equipped with the obstetrics and gynecology wards perform abortions, and not all of them perform therapeutic terminations (those carried out after 90 days of gestation for health reasons). In this framework must be added the conscientious objection provided by law for gynecologists: 7 out of 10 doctors in Italy do not perform abortions. If on the one hand this situation forces people to seek abortion from one city to another and in some cases to other countries with consequent stress and economic expenses, on the other there is an increase of illegal abortions. Furthermore, doctors who apply the law are retiring: over time in fact, conscientious objection has become a channel for career advancement and is no longer just a religious choice.



SISTERS

# INSIGHTS

- **CONTRACEPTION ATLAS** (<https://www.contraceptioninfo.eu/>): European Atlas of Contraception published by the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (parliamentary networks committed to protecting the right to sexual and reproductive health of the most vulnerable sections of the population). It is a graphical tool that represents the accessibility of contraceptives and useful information for family planning in 46 European countries. The cost of contraceptives in Italy is totally borne by the citizens.
- [https://www.epfweb.org/sites/epfweb.org/files/rtno\\_epf\\_book\\_lores.pdf](https://www.epfweb.org/sites/epfweb.org/files/rtno_epf_book_lores.pdf) The religious extremists' vision to mobilize European societies against human rights on sexuality and reproduction. You can download the document.



we can do it!

THANK

YOU!

