

Richard Burden MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

Abortion law reform in Northern Ireland

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me about abortion law reform in Northern Ireland.

In Northern Ireland, abortion is only lawful in extremely limited circumstances, where there is a risk to a woman or girl's life or the risk of serious long-term or permanent damage to her physical or mental health. That leaves the current law governing abortion in Northern Ireland as one of the most restrictive in Europe.

In our manifesto last year, Labour committed to working with the Northern Ireland Assembly to liberalise abortion legislation in Northern Ireland. We want to see the Northern Ireland Assembly reconvened to deal with this contentious issue, but it has now been over 500 days since the assembly was suspended and women in Northern Ireland must not have to suffer any longer.

That is why Labour are calling on the Government to immediately begin negotiations with political parties in Northern Ireland about bringing forward legislation to extend abortion rights without delay.

People on both sides of the debate around abortion have come to the conclusions they have reached for sincere reasons and deeply held beliefs. In the light of that I think it is important that even if we have differing opinions on how the law should treat abortion, we should not remove each other's right to speak out for what we believe.

Thanks again to everyone who has contacted me about abortion law reform in Northern Ireland.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burden'.

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