

# Presentation to the Citizens' Assembly on repealing the Eighth Amendment



**Union of Students in Ireland**  
*Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn*

*Annie Hoey,*  
*President of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI)*  
*Representing 354,000 students*

# The Student Movement & Reproductive Rights in Ireland

**1980s:** Elected Student Welfare officers in TCD, UCD and in USI published information about abortion services for students

**1989:** Student officers taken to court by the 'SPUC' society

**1990s:** USI met with distressed students and women, offered support when they couldn't go elsewhere due to stigma

**1992:** Lift on ban on information for Irish people about abortion services

**2001:** USI National policy, representing 354,000 students passed

**2006:** Reaffirmed position

**2009:** Reaffirmed position

**2016:** Passed National 'Students for Choice' Strategy

**September 2016:** Largest ever student delegation joined 'March for Choice' in Dublin

# A note on language

**'Pro-Choice':** the need to remove the barrier of the 8th Amendment of the Irish Constitution so that Irish people have access to free, safe & legal abortion and reproductive healthcare services and supports

**'Anti-Choice':** the campaign to ensure Ireland keeps some of the most restrictive abortion measures in the world, restricting bodily autonomy, health decisions and choices

**Choice needs to be made available to Irish women, in their own country, and not be forced abroad.**

# The young people of Ireland have engaged overwhelmingly on this issue

Students' Union	Vote to repeal the Eighth Amendment and to campaign for a referendum	Population of Students represented
Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union (DITSU)	Repeal of the 8th Amendment	20,000
University College Cork Students' Union (UCCSU)	84.4%	20,000
National University of Ireland, Galway Students' Union (NUIGSU)	69%	18,000
Trinity College Dublin Students' Union (TCDSU)	73%	17,000
Dublin City University Students' Union (DCUSU)	88%	17,000
Maynooth University Students' Union (MSU)	In favour	12,300
Cork Institute of Technology Students' Union (CITSU)	In favour	11,000
Waterford Institute of Technology Students' Union (WITSU)	71%	8,200
IT Sligo Students' Union (ITSSU)	In favour	5,700
IT Tralee Students' Union (ITTSU)	Pro-Choice & to actively campaign for a repeal of the Eight Amendment.	3,500
Institute of Art & Design Dun Laoghaire Students' Union	Pro-Choice	2,500

**Note:**  
No Students' Union has voted to keep the 8th amendment



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An Tionól Saoránach  The Citizens' Assembly

# Our constitution shouldn't dictate our health care choices, our bodies, and our lives.



Members of UCC Students' Union, Cork