

COALITION  
UPDATE  
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REPEALEIGHT.IE



## What a month!

From the ploughing championships to March For Choice, training days, public discussions, the Oireachtas Committee and so much more, it has been a really hectic but very positive month.

This Saturday vigils are taking place all over the country and abroad to mark the 5th Anniversary of the tragic death of Savita Halappanavaar. The Coalition is hosting the Dublin vigil at 4pm outside the GPO - we would love to see you there.

Ailbhe

## Savita Vigils - Sat 28th Oct.



Over 20 vigils are being held across the country in Savita's memory this Saturday. There will be no speeches, these are silent vigils to remember a young woman who lost a very much wanted baby and ultimately died because of the Eighth Amendment. The full list of vigils is available [HERE](#)

If you cannot attend a vigil, you can light a candle at home in Savita's memory or support on social media using the hashtags #NeverAgain & #Savita or by changing your profile picture to Savita's for the day.



# Register to **Vote**



## Check the Register

If you or the people around you want to vote in next years referendum, **the time to register is now**. Don't assume that you are registered as people who thought they were registered to vote are telling us that when they checked the register, they have been removed. So please [check the register](#) today. It only takes a moment. If you are not on the register don't delay - complete a [RFA](#) form and deliver it to your local council before 31st October to be included on the register of Electors (published 15th February 2018). After 1st of November you can still register but you must complete an [RFA1](#) form. Full details on how to register including FAQs are available [HERE](#).

## Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Eighth Amendment



A lot of our time and focus at the moment is on monitoring the work of the the Special Oireachtas Committee on the Eighth Amendment. So far it has been very positive with strong evidence-based testimonies from a range of legal, healthcare and medical experts. It is very encouraging to see committee members take their work so seriously and make their way through a very demanding workload. We would like to thank the many excellent witnesses who have testified to the need to repeal the Eighth Amendment and to the need to provide access to abortion for women in Ireland.

A special word of thanks to coalition members who appeared before the committee including - Fiona De Londras (Lawyers For Choice), Professor Veronica O'Keane (Doctors For Choice) and Gerry Edwards and Claire Cullen DeSol (TFMR). Claire and Gerry gave very moving personal accounts of dealing with the heartbreak of a fatal foetal abnormality diagnosis.

Thank You.

You can playback the hearings of the committee [HERE](#)

How Can I Help



The important issues to politicians are the issues that people in their local area (constituency) care about. TDs take it seriously when a constituent takes the time to make

## Regional

## News

Regional

Networking

Day



Last Saturday we hosting a very successful Regional Training Day. Storm Brian certainly didn't dampen the spirits of members who travelled from all around the country to attend. The training included workshops on canvassing, messaging, media and lobbying, along with providing resources and support to groups in how to run a successful campaign on a low budget. The day provided a great opportunity to meet and network with campaigners from all over the country and it allowed us in the Coalition to identify areas where further training and resources are required. A special Thank You to Peter Tanham and Dan Waugh who generously gave of their time on the day to give canvassing and media advice.

Regional

Mobilisation



## Northwest Coalition to Repeal the 8th

Organisations are continuing to mobilise and work collectively in different areas of the



country. The Cork Coalition now has 18 member organisations working collective for repeal and the North West is following suit. The Northwest Coalition is launching in the coming weeks in Sligo and the Coalition will facilitate the first meeting of organisations currently working for repeal in the Northwest. We are really looking forward to building even closer working relationships with organisations in the Northwest over the coming months.

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## 1983-2017 - Trapped in Time



Earlier this month we marked the 34th anniversary of the 8th Amendment being signed into law by bringing back the 1983 Anti-Amendment campaigners to share their experiences with today's #repealthe8th campaigners. Our thanks to the speakers on the night:

- Peter Ward SC.
- Ursula Barry, Head of Women's Studies at UCD
- Noreen Byrne, who worked in Well Woman from 1980 to 1985
- Eddie Conlon, academic and long-time social activist
- Pauline Conroy, social policy analyst and lecturer
- Catherine Forde, barrister and former chairperson of the Irish Family Planning

Association

- Gráinne Healy, social activist and co-director of the 2015 Yes Equality campaign.
- Brid Smith, TD and long-time activist

It was a great evening and is definitely worth a look back - click on the image above to view the discussion.

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## Diary Dates

- 28th Oct - [Savita Vigils](#)
- 28th Oct - Sinéad Kennedy speaking at 1967 UK Abortion Act Event, London
- 29th Oct - Ailbhe speaking at the [Battle of Ideas](#), London
- 31st Oct - Communications Workshop with Anat Schenker Osari (Members Only)
- 7th Nov - Everyday Stories Launch with 2 events - a [coffee morning](#) in Filmbase at 10.30am and an [evening launch](#) at 6.30pm. This project will share the stories of those affected by the 8th Amendment. If you would like to submit your story to the project you can do so via their website <http://everydaystories.org/>
- 8th Nov - INCLO Conference: "Abortion Laws and Human Rights - Global Experiences"(Invitation Only)
- 16th Nov - [Launch of NWCI's Model of Reproductive Healthcare](#)

For further upcoming events see our [events calendar](#).

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