



Position on death of Savita Halappanavar

The **Women's Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions** would like to join with others in expressing its sympathy to the Halappanavar family following the recent death of Savita Halappanavar in a Galway hospital.

This desperately sad case illustrates the need to bring legal clarity' to the abortion issue and also a need for clarity for medical professionals who have to make judgement calls in such matters.

It remains our strong view that the decision of the European Court of Human Rights which reaffirmed the Supreme Court X Case judgment of 1992 and two preceding referenda leaves no option available to the Irish State other than to legislate for abortion services in cases where a woman's life is at risk. We therefore once again call on the Government to legislate in this regard. It is the only way in which we can give clarity to women and their doctors as to their legal position when a pregnancy poses a threat to a woman's life.

Other countries have implemented legislative regimes that strike a balance between ensuring women's access to abortion where it is lawful and regulating such access. Ireland can and must do the same.

An expert group on abortion will shortly report to the Government. We call for the early publication of this report followed by the introduction of legislation to implement the expert group's recommendations.

Finally we join with others in calling for a strong turnout at the Garden of Remembrance in Dublin at 4pm on Saturday, where a march will be held to the Dáil and a candlelit vigil will take place in conjunction with Galway Pro-Choice to grieve Savita's unnecessary death.