



Brussels, June 12, 2023

During the night on May 24, Polish woman Dorota, 33 years old, died because she was denied abortion care. Dorota was 20 weeks pregnant when her water broke and was admitted to a hospital in southern Poland. She was not given adequate medical care and she was denied abortion care, which caused her to die three days later from sepsis. Her family was not informed about the gravity of her health status until it was too late to save her life.

As Members of the European Parliament and members of the pro-choice network All of Us, we are devastated to hear about the death of Dorota. We are also outraged by the Polish government, which, with its de facto ban on abortion, we hold as ultimately responsible for the death of Dorota. It is disgraceful that a European government in 2023, is so fundamentalist in its view on abortion that it is willingly accepting that its law results in the loss of women's lives.

We stand in solidarity with all European women, including Polish women, and their demands for the right to safe and legal abortion care.

We stand in solidarity with all the activists that are currently being persecuted in Polish courts through SLAPPs (Strategic lawsuits against public participation) for their mobilisation for women's rights. We stand in solidarity with all women facing court cases due to the draconian anti-abortion laws in member states, such as the Maltese woman who was recently charged in court for having a medical abortion at home.

We call on all the other EU member states to offer Polish women free of charge access to abortion care in their territories.

We urge the Polish government to repeal the ban on abortion.

We call on EU member states, the European Commission, and the European Council to step up pressure on Poland to protect women rights and lives, including the right to abortion care.

Alice Bah Kuhnke (Greens/EFA)
Malin Björk (The Left)
Maria Noichl (S&D)
Samira Rafeela (Renew)
Eugenia Rodríguez Palop (Left)
Ernest Urtasun (Greens/EFA)