

November 2012

Dear Prime Minister of Ireland, Taoiseach Enda Kenny:

We are writing to you to express our concern about the recent death of Savita Halappanavar, following denial of appropriate medical care for a spontaneous abortion. This case indicates that the prohibition of abortion in Ireland is adversely affecting the quality of medical care and resulting in morbidity and mortality.

Savita Halappanavar experienced a threatened spontaneous abortion with ruptured membranes at 17 weeks of gestation. The fetal demise was inevitable and she required immediate evacuation of the uterus to prevent infection, hemorrhage and associated complications. Denial of such care violates standards of obstetrical care. We call on your government to take urgent and decisive steps to reform the legislation that led to the death of Savita Halappanavar. Until the Irish legal system is reformed, the lives, health and autonomy of women across Ireland are in jeopardy and the integrity of medical practice and standards of care are threatened as well.

Sincerely,

Global Doctors for Choice