



**111415 Amnesty Ireland**  
**Support for Decriminalisation of Abortion in Ireland**  
**Topline results**

**READ OUT:** Now we would like to ask you some questions about abortion in Ireland.

**ASK ALL, READ OUT**

Q1. Which of the following do you think is the criminal penalty for a woman found to have had an abortion in Ireland when her life is not at risk? **(1 unit)**

1. Fine of up to €1,000 **10%**
2. Prison sentence of up to 5 years **17%**
3. Prison sentence of up to 14 years **9%**
4. None – it is not a criminal offence **52%**
5. Don't know **12%**

**READ OUT:** In fact, a woman who has an abortion in Ireland where her life not at risk faces a possible prison sentence of up to 14 years.

**ASK ALL**

Q2. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is disagree strongly and 5 is agree strongly, how much do you agree or disagree that a prison sentence of up to 14 years is a reasonable penalty for having an abortion? (1 unit)

1. Disagree strongly **78%**
2. Disagree slightly **9%**
3. Neither agree nor disagree **3%**
4. Agree slightly **2%**
5. Agree strongly **5%**
6. Don't know **2%**

**ASK ALL**

Q3. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is disagree strongly and 5 is agree strongly, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (1 unit)

- The Irish Government should decriminalise abortion, which means removing the criminal penalty for women who have abortions in Ireland.

1. Disagree strongly **18%**
2. Disagree slightly **7%**
3. Neither agree nor disagree **7%**
4. Agree slightly **7%**
5. Agree strongly **60%**
6. Don't know **2%**



**ASK ALL**

Q4. If a doctor performs an abortion in Ireland when the life of the woman is not at risk, it is also a crime, even where the pregnancy is a result of rape, the woman’s health is at risk or there is a fatal foetal impairment. The doctor can be imprisoned for up to 14 years.

On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is disagree strongly and 5 is agree strongly, how much do you agree or disagree that this is a fair penalty? (1 unit)

- 1. Disagree strongly **72%**
- 2. Disagree slightly **7%**
- 3. Neither agree nor disagree **7%**
- 4. Agree slightly **3%**
- 5. Agree strongly **10%**
- 6. Don’t know **1%**

**ASK ALL**

Q. 5 Here are some things that have been said about abortion in Ireland. Can you tell me on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is disagree strongly and 5 is agree strongly, how much you agree or disagree that these statements are true? (2 units)

	Agree strongly (5)	Agree slightly (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Disagree slightly (2)	Disagree strongly (1)	Don't know	Refused
Ireland's abortion ban does not stop most women who want an abortion from having one	<b>52%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Ireland's abortion ban makes women have unsafe abortions	<b>49%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>
The fact that abortion is classified as a crime except when a woman's life is at risk adds to the distress of women who need an abortion.	<b>59%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>
The fact that abortion is classified as a crime except when a woman's life is at risk contributes to the stigma experienced by women who have had abortions	<b>50%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Under international human rights law, women have a human right to access abortion in Ireland where the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest, where their health is at risk or where there is a diagnosis of fatal foetal abnormality	<b>55%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>
It is acceptable that access to abortion in Ireland is restricted for religious reasons	<b>26%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Travelling abroad for an abortion is not especially traumatic for a woman	<b>14%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Under Irish law it is legal for doctors to make referrals for women to abortion services abroad	<b>36%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>

**REDC**



**ASK ALL**

**READ OUT**

Q6. Which of the following best describes how you feel personally about abortion in Ireland? (1 unit)

1. I am opposed to allowing abortion in Ireland in all circumstances **7%**
2. I am in favour of allowing abortion in Ireland only where the woman's life is at risk **9%**
3. I am in favour of allowing abortion in Ireland only where woman's life is at risk, the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest, where the woman's health is at risk, or where there is diagnosis of fatal foetal abnormality **36%**
4. I am in favour of allowing all women access to abortion in Ireland as they choose **45%**
5. I don't know/have no opinion/Refuse to answer **3%**