

Bruun, Niklas. European University of Helsinki. *Abortion as an equality issue – reflections on recent international developments.*

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**"Abortion as an equality issue – reflections on recent international developments"**

**Abstract:** It is largely recognized that the political development towards right wing populism and conservatism also has marked an attack on women's reproductive rights and political attempts to restrict existing abortion rights. Women's lobby and liberal movements have, however, been able to resist several attempts to adopt restrictive legislation and we also recently have seen examples of liberalization of very restrictive abortion regimes. The most striking example in this regard is the Republic of Ireland where 66,4 % of the population voted in a referendum in May 2018 for overturning the ban on abortion. – An important development towards abortion rights has been the recognition of the right to abortion as a fundamental human right protecting women's core right to personal autonomy and the decision making over their own bodies. In this paper I will explore how the recognition of the right to abortion has developed in the practice of the CEDAW-Committee and how this practice gradually also has been accepted by courts and law makers. Here the very recent developments regarding the Northern Ireland abortion regime will be discussed since it forms the most prominent example of this development.