

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH
ABORTION ACROSS THE WORLD:

THE BAD - EUROPE - ASIA



DOCTORS
FOR CHOICE
GERMANY

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www.fiapac.org

Fertility control into the hands of women
9-10 September 2022, Riga, Latvia

A globe showing the continents of Europe, Africa, and Asia. The continent of Europe is highlighted in a solid red color, while the other continents are shown in a light beige color. The oceans are light blue. The globe includes a grid of latitude and longitude lines.

EUROPE

Area:

around 10 Million km²

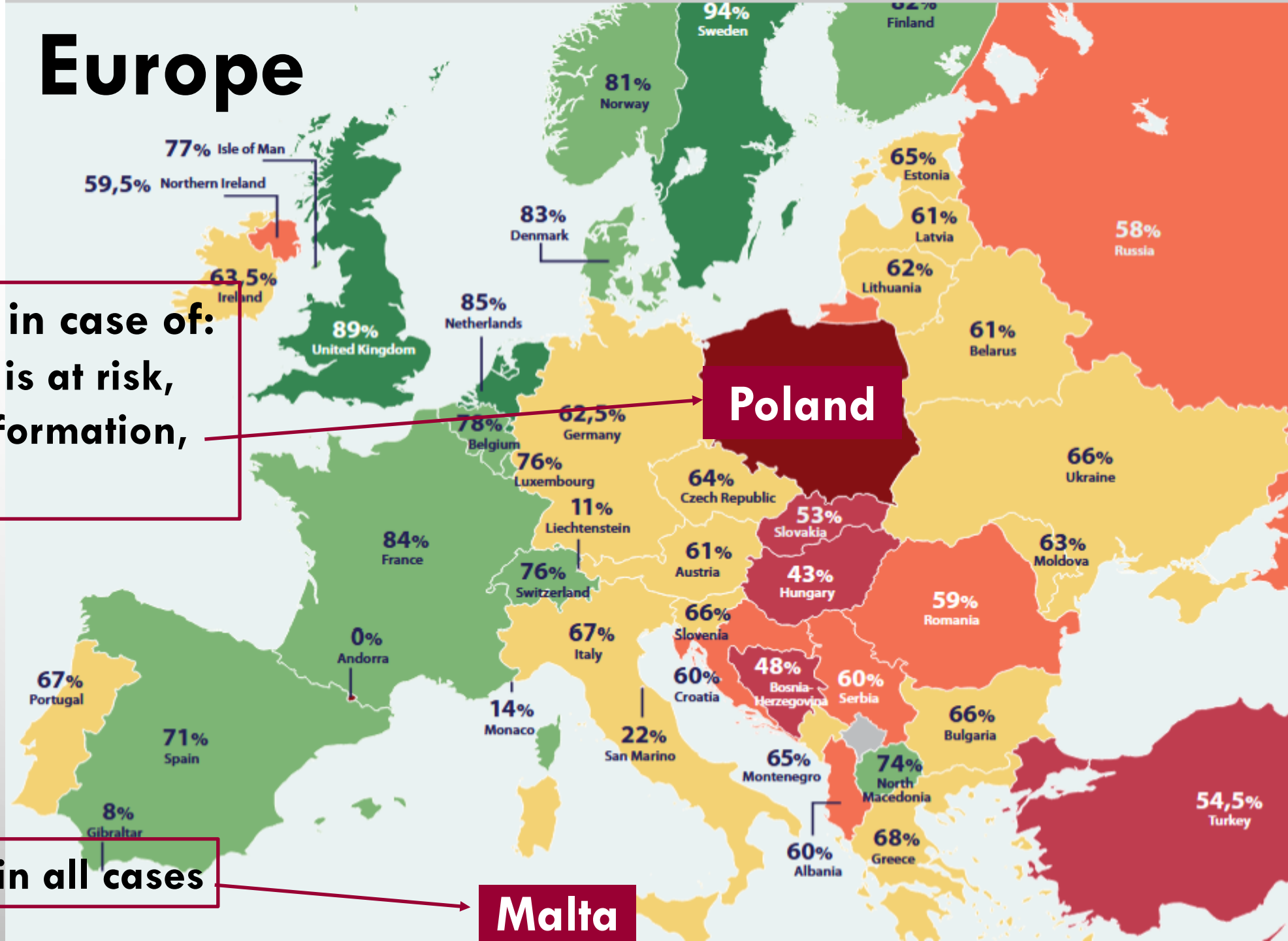
Population:

nearly 750 Million

Countries:

aprox. 47 (not „EU“)

Europe



Legally permitted in case of:

- woman's health is at risk,
- ~~severe~~ fetal malformation,
- rape or incest

Poland

Legally prohibited in all cases

Malta

HISTORY OF POLANDS ABORTION LAW (= *LESSION TO LEARN !*)

1932 Second country worldwide (after the USSR) with legal abortion if **maternal health** is in danger or pregnancy due to an **unlawful act**.

1939 to 1945 Abortion on request forced by German nazis

1956 – 1992 “difficult living conditions“ (*abortion tourism startet*)

1993 Act about family planning, protection of the human fetus, and conditions for pregnancy termination:

- (1) the pregnancy poses a direct threat to maternal health or life;
- (2) high probability of severe and irreversible fetal anomaly or an incurable life-threatening disease (approx. till 22. Weeks);
- (3) reason to believe that the pregnancy is the result of an unlawful act.

2020 the constitutional tribunal banned abortion due to fetal anomaly

POLAND AND MALTA IN NUMBERS

	Population POLAND	Live born x 1.000	Birth rate (per 1.000 habitants)	Population MALTA	Live born	Birth rate (per 1.000 habitants)
1992	≈ 38 Mill.	≈ 500	13,4	≈ 366.000	5.500	14,9
2020	37,8 Mill	≈ 355	9,3	≈ 515.000	4.414	8,6

POLAND:

- Estimated 80.000 - 200.000 abortions per year
- 10-15% take place abroad
- ≈ 500/year traveled to UK for second trimester abortion

MALTA:

- 300 - 400/year abortions performed abroad
- “Women on web”/”abortion without borders” report more demand

Before 1990 up to 300.000 abortions were reported



ASIA

Area:

nearly 45 Million km²

Population:

nearly 5 Billion

(≈ 50% in China/India)

Countries:

47 internationally recognized

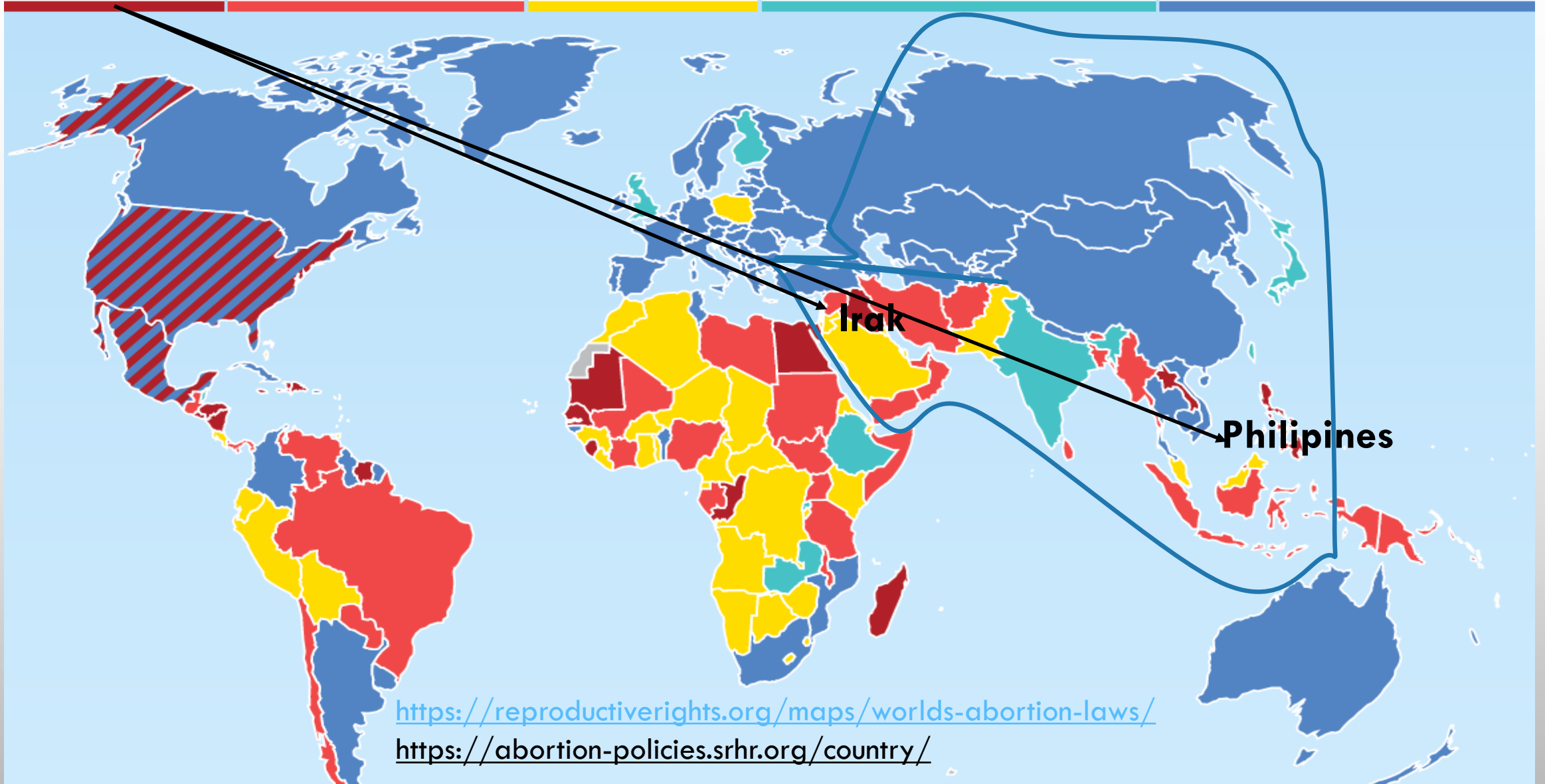
Prohibited
Altogether

To Save the
Woman's Life

To Preserve
Health

Broad Social or Economic
Grounds

On Request (Gestational
Limits Vary)



<https://reproductiverights.org/maps/worlds-abortion-laws/>
<https://abortion-policies.srhr.org/country/>

ABORTION IN ASIA

- **2014: APPROX. 36 ABORTIONS PER 1.000 FERTILE WOMEN**
- ABORTION RATES ARE GENERALLY THE SAME ACROSS ASIA (EXCEPT CHINA)
- APPROX. **6% OF MATERNAL DEATHS** DUE TO UNSAFE ABORTION (2014)
- APPROX. **4,6 MILLION WOMEN** PER YEAR TREATED FOR COMPLICATIONS (BLOOD LOSS AND INFECTION) FROM UNSAFE ABORTION - EXCLUDES CHINA

LIBERAL ABORTION LAWS \neq SAFETY OF ABORTION

- OBSTACLES: FINDING PROVIDERS, SUB-STANDARD CONDITIONS IN HEALTH FACILITIES
- NEED TO BE ASKED FOR THE CONSENT OF HUSBAND, FAMILY...
- STIGMATIZATION

PROBLEM ASIA – WHO IS THE BAD?

INDIA REPRESENTS 25% OF THE POPULATION OF ASIA

- Abortion is legal (up to 24 weeks)
- Only **40%** of **public health sector** provides abortion service
- **Up to 37%** use still D&C instead of D&E
- **58 – 78%** of all abortions performed illegally
- Medical abortion: **up to 45%**
- **Private sector: 68 - 92%** provides abortion services
- Problem of „female abortion“ is decreasing

Problem ASIA – who is the bad?

CHINA represents 25% of the population of Asia

- Abortion is completely legalized
- Highest rates worldwide : **49 per 1.000 fertile women**
- 2019: approx. 17.7 million abortions
- 2021 lowest birthrates worldwide: **1.1-1.2 children per woman**
- Practice of **sex-selective** abortions (2021: 35 mill. more men than women)
- **Forced abortion** in ethnic minorities (including uygurs and muslim groups)
- **National health commission announced 8/2022:** they would take steps to reduce the number of abortions in the country
(especially abortions without medical reasons)

QUESTIONING:

DOES „ILLEGAL“ MEAN „UNSAFE ABORTION“?

- We want to promote „self-managed (medical) abortion“
- As early as possible
- As cheap as possible
- As informed as possible
- Low-threshold
- The best indicators - whether it works - are the numbers of complications and maternal mortality due to abortion:

Do we have such data?

BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE...

„.....Medical abortion services [are] decreased [in public health sector]. You can get misoprostol pills at pharmacy, and everyone is using it...”

SINGH ET AL: INCIDENCE OF TREATMENT FOR POSTABORTION COMPLICATIONS IN INDIA, 2015

“[The pills] were just in the plastic,” tijamo said. “There’s no packaging; the information [from the seller] is not even correct.”

[HTTPS://RESTOFWORLD.ORG/2020/PHILIPPINES-ABORTION-SOCIAL-MEDIA/](https://restofworld.org/2020/philippines-abortion-social-media/)

“While pharmacists offer women an evidence-based procedure, the advice they offer does not conform to minimal medical standard, so the abortion is, strictly speaking, unsafe. ...

As medical abortion has displaced riskier methods -such as traditional-, fewer women will suffer severe complications or death.”

POWELL-JACKSON T ET AL., DELIVERING MEDICAL ABORTION AT SCALE: A STUDY OF THE RETAIL MARKET FOR MEDICAL ABORTION IN MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA, *PLOS ONE*, 2015

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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