

How American Anti-Choice Activists are Trying to Influence Ireland's Abortion Referendum on May 25

U.S.-based anti-choice organizations have been meddling with Ireland's 8th Amendment for decades and are actively working to preserve it from overseas

For decades, anti-choice organizations based in the U.S. have been working to preserve Ireland's 8th Amendment of its constitution, which effectively bans abortion, showcasing just how far these groups will go to try to strip women -- not just in the U.S., but also abroad -- of their right to make decisions about their own bodies, futures, and lives.

For the last several years, the debate in Ireland has been moving closer to reform, especially with the European Court of Human Rights ruling in 2010 that Ireland was violating the European Convention on Human Rights; after a woman died in 2012 due to being denied an abortion in the case of septic miscarriage; and in 2013 when a bill was passed that defined certain circumstances that would permit abortion. Ireland will hold a referendum on May 25, 2018, in which voters will decide whether to repeal or preserve the harmful 8th Amendment.

It was recently [reported](#) that tech giants Google and Facebook are ceasing to accept advertisements from groups based outside of Ireland out of concern that this overseas advertising will skew the results of the May 25 referendum. As of May 9, Google will also stop all referendum-advertising that originates domestically.

See below for more information on how American anti-choice activists are working to undermine women in Ireland.

American anti-choice organizations have been involved for decades

American Anti-Choice Legal Group Americans United For Life Played "Pivotal Role" In Passing 8th Amendment in the 1970s, And Engaged In An Extensive...Media Campaign In Ireland," And Stayed Active in "Subsequent Legal Battles." According to the website of anti-choice organization Americans United for Life: "In 1979, AUL played a pivotal role in amending the Irish Constitution to protect life by precluding abortion. At a pro-life conference in Ireland, AUL was consulted about abortion and the role Roe v. Wade played in the US. Subsequently, AUL engaged in an extensive educational and media campaign in Ireland. Eventually, the Irish people amended their constitution...Their pro-life constitution is being challenged currently before the European Court of Human Rights in a case in which Senior Vice President William Saunders is a consultant." On another page of its website, AUL also noted that, in Ireland's "subsequent legal battles...AUL was there to fight for life." [Americans United For Life, "About," accessed 1/18/18, via NARAL Research Department; Americans United For Life, "Accomplishments," accessed 1/18/18, via NARAL Research Department]

For more about Americans United for Life (AUL), the anti-choice organization that produces anti-choice model legislation and defends its priorities through litigation, see [NARAL's report](#), page 27.

AUL later [tweeted](#) about their role in the 8th amendment's passage:



They specifically petitioned Ireland's leaders

In March, American Anti-Choice Activists Urged Ireland to Keep the 8th Amendment. In a March 17 letter to Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, American anti-choice activists argued Varadkar to “take a stand against the repeal of the 8th.” According to Crux, “The letter was signed by Jeanne Mancini, President of the **March for Life**; Marjorie Dannenfelser, President of the **Susan B. Anthony List**; Kristan Hawkins, Executive Director of **Students for Life**; and Catherine Glenn Foster, President of **Americans United for Life**, among others.” [Crux, [3/15/18](#)]

For more about Susan B. Anthony List, the leading American anti-choice group in electoral activity, see [NARAL's report](#), page 83.

For more about Students for Life, see [NARAL's report](#), page 87.

For more about March for Life, see [NARAL's report](#), page 88.

They are actively promoting the anti-choice #SaveTheEighth campaign in Ireland

[Live Action](#): “We’re Urging The Irish People To Stand Strong And Protect The Most Vulnerable.”



2:05 PM - 9 Mar 2018

Multiple Groups Tweeted Their Support For The “#SaveTheEighth” Movement.

LifeNews.com:



LifeNews.com
@LifeNewsHQ

Follow

Ireland: Government Approves Measure
Legalizing Abortion on Demand, Irish People
Will Vote in May bit.ly/2lc0y14 #savethe8th
#Savethe8th2018



9:13 AM - 9 Mar 2018

[National Right to Life](#), a U.S.-based organization:



Right to Life ✓
@nrlc

Follow

#savethe8th #Savethe8th2018

Dave Andrusko @DaveHA

If 8th amendment to Irish Constitution goes, Unborn Will Have NO Rights - NRL News
Today bit.ly/2FnUVyV #abortionireland #savetheeighth

11:55 AM - 9 Mar 2018

[Human Coalition](#), a U.S.-based network of fake women's health centers:



Human Coalition
@HumanCoalition

Follow

'#RallyForLife' told 10 weeks left to save
#EighthAmendment
[irishtimes.com/news/ireland/i](https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/i) ...
#ChooseLife #Dublin #Ireland



'Rally for Life' told 10 weeks left to save Eighth Amendment

Tens of thousands take part in anti-abortion march and demonstration in Dublin city centre

[irishtimes.com](https://www.irishtimes.com)

9:54 AM - 11 Mar 2018

[March For Life:](#)



March for Life ✓
@March_for_Life

Follow

Amazing! #savethe8th #WhyWeMarch



Rallyforlife @theRallyforLife

Look at this crowd!! we can't fit into Merrion Square!! #save8rally

8:02 AM - 10 Mar 2018

The Anti-Choice Organization “New Wave Feminists” Went To Ireland To Advocate For The 8th Amendment. The U.S.-based organization publicized its involvement in Ireland on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).



New Wave Feminists
@NWFproTX

Follow

Be there or be square, homies. [#savethe8th](#)
@ Dublin, Ireland
[instagram.com/p/BgGTX9YHPaT/](https://www.instagram.com/p/BgGTX9YHPaT/)

2:05 AM - 9 Mar 2018 from [Dublin City, Ireland](#)



newwavefeminists • Follow
Dublin, Ireland

newwavefeminists Be there or be square, homies. [#savethe8th](#)

nunandnunner Oh my gosh! So jelly! I was born in Ireland and would love to work for peace there!

lori_arfsten I'm considering it and that's trouble because that's when I usually do it! Ha!

lori_arfsten In October that is!

go_jillian_go 🤔🤔🤔🤔



576 likes

MARCH 9

Add a comment...

American Anti-Choice Activists Have Been Advertising In Support of the 8th Amendment

The Consulting Firm Retained By Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, the RNC, and SBA List Has Been Active In The Anti-Choice “Save the 8th” Movement. According to the [New York Times](#): “the Pro Life Campaign, Ireland’s largest umbrella anti-abortion group, has retained uCampaign, a Washington firm that has developed apps for the Trump campaign, the National Rifle Association, the Republican National Committee and Vote Leave.” uCampaign lists its clients on its [website](#):

uCampaign Founder Thomas Peters Is An Anti-Choice Extremist. He frequently tweets extreme anti-choice statements and has advocated for maintaining Ireland’s 8th amendment:



Thomas Peters @AmericanPapist · 16 Sep 2017

Both women considering **abortion** and people considering acts of fornication and homosexual acts are putting their souls at risk (Jesus + CCC)



1



2



18





Thomas Peters @AmericanPapist · 27 Jan 2017

Same for the worldwide victims of **abortion**. #WhyWeMarch #marchforlife

Pope Francis @Pontifex

Today I want to remember in my heart all the victims of the Holocaust. May their sufferings and their tears never be forgotten.



[Twitter, [1/17/18](#), Twitter, [8/16/17](#)]

American Anti-Choice Organization Expectant Mother Care-EMC Frontline Pregnancy Centers Paid For Advertisements Targeting Irish Facebook Users To Support The 8th Amendment At The Request Of “Irish Pro-Life Activists.” The Dublin Inquirer wrote, “Earlier this month, Facebook users in Ireland started seeing a couple of posts in support of the 8th Amendment, from “Expectant Mother Care-EMC Frontline Pregnancy Centers”. The New York-based group bought these advertisements in an effort to influence the upcoming referendum on the amendment, said Chris Slattery, founder and CEO of the organisation. [The Dublin Inquirer, [3/20/18](#)]

The Transparent Referendum Initiative Captured The Specific Ads Promoted By EMC FrontLine Pregnancy Centers On Irish Facebook Relating To The 8th Amendment Referendum. As of April 2018, the TRI database reported 7 posts from EMC. TRI wrote, “TRI is building a database of all political ads targeting Irish Facebook users ahead of the referendum on the 8th amendment. We are publishing a list of these ads below, so they are open to scrutiny by journalists, fact checkers and anyone wishing to understand the campaigns. The database is crowdsourced with the help of voters across Ireland, who have decided to contribute using the WhoTargetsMe plugin.” *The screenshots of the posts are all below.* [Transparent Referendum Initiative, accessed [4/12/18](#), [Transparent Referendum Initiative, accessed [4/12/18](#)]

In Several Of Its Ads, EMC FrontLine Pregnancy Centers Promoted The “Rally to Save The 8th” In Dublin In March 2018. EMC called on supporters to come to the rally beforehand and posted pictures of the rally on the day it took place. In another post, EMC highlighted a “Keep Ireland Abortion-Free” banner in the NYC St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Other promoted ads focused in EMC’s work in New York City and Costa Rica and highlighted an EWTN interview. [Facebook.com, [3/6/18](#), Facebook.com, [3/9/18](#), Facebook.com, [3/10/18](#), Facebook.com, [3/17/18](#)]

EMC Frontline [describes itself](#) as “New York City’s oldest and largest network of pregnancy centers” but it is a fake women’s health center and has been [fined by the New York Department of Consumer Affairs](#). Learn more about fake women’s health centers through the [End the Lies campaign](#).

EMC Frontline is also funded by Susan B. Anthony List Board Member and anti-choice mega donor Sean Fieler:

Fieler’s foundation, the Chiaroscuro Foundation, gave EMC Frontline \$175,000 in 2009, \$515,000 in 2010, \$425,000 in 2011, and \$75,000 in 2012. ” The Chiaroscuro Foundation also donated to other NYC

fake women's health centers; it gave Avail NYC \$51,5000 in 2014, and \$50,000 in 2015. Fieler previously was a board member and donated "from \$200,000 to \$250,000" annually to the anti-gay marriage Institute for American Values, but left the board after they began to support gay marriage. Fieler said that there is "a very harmful myth about the gay lifestyle. It suggests that gay relationships lend themselves to monogamy, stability, health and parenting in the same way heterosexual relationships do. That's not true." [New York Times, [1/29/13](#), New York Times, [1/29/13](#), Susan B. Anthony List 990, [2015](#), via Guidestar, ProLifeInterns.com, accessed [12/1/17](#), EMC Frontline, accessed [12/1/17](#), Chiaroscuro Foundation, accessed [12/1/17](#), Avail NYC, accessed [12/1/17](#)]

Fieler Is A Major Donor To The Anti-Choice Movement, Funding Susan B. Anthony List, Students for Life, Americans United For Life, Live Action, State And Local Right To Life Groups, And The Becket Fund. Chiaroscuro Foundation gave Students for Life \$15,000 in 2011, \$77,500 in 2012, \$16,000 in 2013, and \$37,000 in 2014. The Chiaroscuro Foundation gave the Susan B. Anthony List Education Fund \$15,000 in 2011, \$125,000 in 2012, \$40,000 in 2013, \$40,000 in 2014, and \$25,000 in 2015. Fieler himself has also donated to SBA List's PAC, Women Speak Out, giving \$385,946 in 2014. Chiaroscuro Foundation gave \$7,500 to the Vermont Right to Life Education Fund and \$460 to Wisconsin Right to Life in 2013 and \$3,500 to the Fordham Respect Life Club and \$1,000 to Choose Life at Yale in 2011. The Chiaroscuro Foundation gave Live Action \$100,000 in 2011. The Chiaroscuro Foundation gave the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty \$180,000 in 2010, \$100,000 in 2011, \$110,000 in 2012, \$260,000 in 2013, \$200,000 in 2014, and \$100,000 in 2015. According to a funding breakdown on the Chiaroscuro Foundation's website, between 2010 and 2013 the foundation donated \$295,000 to Americans United for Life. The Chiaroscuro Foundation gave fake women's health center organization Bethany Christian Services \$20,000 in 2012, \$10,000 in 2013, and \$70,000 in 2014. [Chiaroscuro Foundation, accessed [12/1/17](#), Susan B. Anthony List 990, [2015](#), via Guidestar, Chiaroscuro Foundation, accessed [12/1/17](#), Center for Responsive Politics, accessed [12/18/17](#)]

EMC pays its interns stipends "via Google Wallet or PayPal." It also requires interns raise more money than their weekly stipend or work two free weeks: Interns must raise and donate \$150 towards Expectant Mother Care, or work the first two weeks for no stipend." [ProLifeInterns.com, accessed [4/12/18](#)]



[Facebook.com, [3/17/18](#)]



[Facebook.com, [3/10/18](#)]

Expectant Mother Care-EMC FrontLine Pregnancy Centers is feeling motivated.
March 9 · 🌐

JOIN THE LOVERS OF LIFE IN DUBLIN!



[Facebook.com, [3/9/18](#)]

Expectant Mother Care-EMC FrontLine Pregnancy Centers shared ProLife Heroes Waterford's event.
March 6 · 🌐

Brits, Irish, Spaniards, Dutch, French, Yanks! JOIN this
Rally for Life this Saturday, 3/10/18 in Dublin!



MAR 10 Rally to Save The 8TH - Dublin
Sat 2 PM UTC · Parnell Street, Dublin, County D...
543 people went

★ Interested

[Facebook.com, [3/6/18](#)]

EMC has also posted about the 8th referendum in posts that did not come up in TRI's database, such as here: [Facebook.com, [4/3/18](#)]



Expectant Mother Care-EMC FrontLine Pregnancy Centers is ...

🧐 feeling determined.

April 3 at 6:26pm · 🌐

"The Fake news media make a mountain out of our molehill effort to support our Irish brothers and sisters in their noble cause for Life (#SaveThe8th), while they ignore billionaire backers of Irish abortion legalization by US based George Soros and Chuck Feeney."

Chris Slattery, EMC FrontLine founder and President



What to Know About the Irish Abortion Referendum |
Care2 Causes

Will Ireland make abortion legal?

CARE2.COM