

Northern Ireland under pressure after historic abortion vote

Notes & Cues:	Article: <p>Pressure mounted on Sunday for British-ruled Northern Ireland to liberalise its strict abortion laws after a historic referendum in the neighbouring Republic of Ireland overturned its ban.</p> <p>A traditionally Catholic country, Ireland voted by a landslide to ditch its strict abortion laws in a referendum that Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said lifted decades of stigma and shame.</p> <p>Writing in The Sunday Times, columnist Una Mullally said: "The fiction of Ireland as a conservative, dogmatically Catholic country has been shattered. What happened in the referendum vote was seismic, but more seismic still was the realisation that this vote was reflecting change, not just instigating it."</p> <p>But any hope for quick change in Northern Ireland, the only part of the United Kingdom where terminations are almost always illegal, appears improbable. May's minority Conservative government relies on support from MPs from Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party for a majority in the British parliament – and the Protestant DUP strongly opposes abortion law reform.</p> <p>Among the crowds celebrating the referendum outcome at Dublin Castle where the result was announced, were many from Northern Ireland. A demonstrator from Belfast said the Republic of Ireland was giving a voice to women."In Northern Ireland, we don't have a voice, " said Sarah, 26. "We're really a tiny place, there's not that many of us and we can only shout loud now."</p>
Summary:	