On Abortion.

Laia Abril
And the Repercussions of Lack of Access
Maria, 39, Poland

"On January 2, 2015, I travelled to Slovakia to have an abortion. I was too scared to take DIY abortion pills alone. What if something went wrong? So I decided to get a surgical abortion in a clinic abroad. I felt upset about borrowing money for the procedure, and lonely and frustrated because I couldn't tell anyone what was happening. The hardest part was facing my boyfriend, who opposes abortion. All the same, I felt stronger and more mature afterwards."
"I got pregnant during Christmas, then had to wait a few weeks before I could make the trip. I was so anxious to avoid the process and save the money that I first tried to end the pregnancy myself. The night before departing, I took a bath in very hot water and swallowed aspirin to induce a miscarriage. I wanted to feel stronger than the law. But I didn’t succeed because I was afraid of hurting myself. When I packed for the 13-hour trip, I took only underwear, this nightdress that I hate and €4.45 to pay for the procedure."

"I was seven weeks pregnant when I finally made the trip. I waited at a gas station in Krakow, and then jumped into a van with two other pregnant girls. We drove about three hours into Sliąś, where there’s an abortion clinic that welcomes Polish women. I called my (now ex-) boyfriend from the road, and he begged me not to do it. When I mentioned the stiffness and how packed it was with people, he answered, ‘That seems right, murderers should be treated like cattle.’"
therefore we are against abortion

if it's a legitimate rape

even in the case of rape

the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down
VISUAL WAR

Anti-abortion protesters have a long history of confronting women who try to access abortion clinics. Their protest banners range from imagery of innocence to graphic photos of foetuses and dead children, often with false information about the origin of such images. In countries such as the US, Australia, Canada or South Africa, local governments may draw a perimeter around abortion facilities, known as a "buffer zone", "bubble zone", or "access zone", to limit harassment of patients by anti-abortion activists. Pictured: Pixelated image from pro-life sites, comparing a dead foetus to a coin.
“You like killing babies, do you? • You like to stab babies? • You like to fucking [...] • I'm not happy with you • You like to sell parts for your disgusting death company and sell their dirty parts. • You like to sell fetal parts for money • You fucking greedy you • You like killing babies don't you • You like to sell dismembered body parts outta be ashamed of yourself • Fully ashamed of yourself • Making money with small creatures that have
ANNA ROSCA

In September 2011, Anna was diagnosed with breast cancer. She underwent a mastectomy and chemotherapy, followed by radiation therapy. Her treatment lasted for several months, and she continued to work during that time.

Like many other cancer patients, Anna faced a significant adjustment to her body image. She described the process as challenging but also empowering, as she learned to reclaim her body and redefine her identity.

Despite the difficulties, Anna remained committed to her work and to her own well-being. She sought support from friends and family, and she found solace in the artistic expression, which became a source of comfort and strength.

In the end, Anna's story is one of resilience and determination. Her journey serves as a testament to the power of hope and the enduring human spirit.
COAT HANGER

Desperate pregnant women have been known to probe themselves with knitting needles, whalebone, turkey feathers, umbrella rods and the infamous coat hanger. These can cause infection, hemorrhage, sterility and death.

Abortion rights advocates worldwide have long used the coat hanger to symbolize what the pro-choice movement is fighting to avoid. Ironically, the risky DIY method is seeing a resurgence in the United States, as access to safe and legal abortion falters.
In November 2006, at the request of the author, M. confessed her abortion to a Catholic priest in Bologna, Italy. This is a transcript of their conversation.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

W: Amen.

P: When was the last time you confessed?

W: Many years ago.

P: Mmm. (nods)

W: Yes, quite a long time.

W: Well, I would like to confess to an abortion I had years ago.

P: Mmm. (nods)

W: I know now it's possible to do it.

P: Come on, let's go through the Ten Commandments, we'll find everything there, also all those things that perhaps have not been... The Fifth—Thou shall not kill... This is the one on abortion. Many?

W: Are you asking me how many abortions I had?

P: Yes.

W: One.

P: Well. Then...

W: (interrupting) So you say this falls under the commandment that says don't kill?

P: Yes. Yes, because it is a life that has been suppressed. So it is not only for abortion but potentially also for criticism, malicious gossip, slander, lies, in the sense that words cut more than swords. Any criticism, because just to pass time people say anything, and sometimes they don't say good things about others, often they say—

W: No, in general I do not have this kind of attitude.

P: The Sixth Commandment concerns honour and respect for our body and other people's bodies. The man you had relations with—I mean, you had relations outside of marriage?

W: Yes, of course. I have never been married.

P: Is it usual for you to have these kinds of relations with others?

W: Well, I had some relationships that lasted a while and then ended.

P: Yes, yes.

W: That is what happened in this case. We did not have any plan to become a family or to get married.

P: Yes, yes.

W: I was very young, so—

P: Also, let's say, not for money?

W: What do you mean?

P: Well, somebody walks the street to earn money, to supplement one's income. (chuckles)

W: No, no, no. You mean prostitution?

P: Yes.

W: No, no, no

P: The Ninth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbour's husband. Was this man married?

W: No, I was 20, and he was slightly older. We had a boyfriend-girlfriend kind of relationship.

P: A boyfriend-girlfriend kind of relationship?

W: Yes, it lasted for several years.

P: Ok.

W: And this thing wasn't wanted, it just happened, so—

P: Well, come on, more or less. Besides what happened, I mean the abortion,