

Demonstrations (Abortion Clinics) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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TO

Restrict demonstrations in the vicinity of abortion clinics; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Buffer zones around abortion clinics

In this Act, a “buffer zone” is an area the boundary of which is 150 metres from—

- (a) any part of an abortion clinic; or
- (b) any access point to any building that contains an abortion clinic. 5

2 Prohibition of demonstration in a buffer zone

- (1) A person who is within a buffer zone and who demonstrates in support of, or in opposition to, any person’s decision to access, provide, or facilitate the provision of, abortion services in that buffer zone is guilty of an offence.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), “demonstrates” means— 10
 - (a) seeks to influence; or
 - (b) persistently, continuously or repeatedly occupies; or
 - (c) interferes with, impedes or threatens; or
 - (d) intimidates or harasses; or
 - (e) advises or persuades, attempts to advise or persuade, or otherwise expresses opinion; or 15
 - (f) informs or attempts to inform about abortion services by any means, including, without limitation, graphic, physical, verbal or written means; or
 - (g) sketches, photographs, records, stores, broadcasts, or transmits images, audio, likenesses or personal data of any person without express consent. 20

- (3) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) is liable—
- (a) in the first instance—
 - (i) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or
 - (ii) to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or 5
 - (iii) to both; and
 - (b) on further instances—
 - (i) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or to a fine, or to both; or
 - (ii) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or to a fine, or to both. 10
- (4) Nothing in this section applies to—
- (a) anything done in the course of providing, or facilitating the provision of, abortion services in an abortion clinic;
 - (b) the operation of a security camera if its coverage of persons accessing or attempting to access an abortion clinic is incidental and the footage is not used for any of the purposes listed in subsection (2); and 15
 - (c) a police officer acting properly in the course of their duties.

3 Civil damages

- (1) An actual or apprehended breach under section 2 may be the subject of a claim in civil proceedings by a service provider or a person who is or may be the victim of the conduct in question. 20
- (2) On such a claim, damages may be awarded for (among other things) any anxiety caused by the breach.

4 Interpretation

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In this Act—

“abortion clinic” means any premises at which abortion services are provided or facilitated, or any approved Pregnancy Advice Bureau;

“abortion services” means lawful services provided for the termination of pregnancy; 30

“service provider” means a person who provides, or facilitates the provision of, abortion services, or an organisation which does the same.

5 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales only.
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of four weeks beginning with the day on which it is passed.. 35
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Demonstrations (Abortion Clinics) Act 2020.

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*Presented by Dr Rupa Huq
supported by Dame Diana Johnson, Rosie Duffield,
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