

# LIBERTY

## ABORTION

### SUMMARY OF SUBSTANTIVE POLICY DISCUSSIONS AT I.LIBERTY COUNCIL MEETING

#### NOVEMBER 2018

The Policy team would be grateful if Policy Council could advise as to whether Liberty policy should support the decriminalisation of abortion to ensure that that a person's access to abortion and the rights that it underpins are not unduly restricted by the criminal law.

If Policy Council answers this question in the affirmative, it may wish to advise as to which model of decriminalisation should form Liberty's policy, or it may wish to defer those questions for further policy development by Liberty's staff. In discussing this question, Policy Council may find it useful to consider:

- in which circumstances the criminal law should still apply to a person who procures an abortion for themselves or a third party, if any;
- what weight should be given to human rights concerns about sex and disability as grounds for abortion, if any, and by what mechanism those concerns should be addressed;
- whether early-stage and late-stage abortion should be treated differently under the law; and
- arguments against any change in the law.

#### POSITION REACHED

By a 14 to 3 vote (1 abstention), Council agreed:

Liberty should support repeal of the criminalisation of abortion as set forth in the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 and the Infant Life Preservation Act 1929 and replacement with a new regime that upholds the principle of a woman's right to choose.

Council did not agree upon any specific model of decriminalisation.