

1. From: Stefán Haukur Jóhannesson <stefan.h.johannesson@utn.stjr.is>
To: Louise.OReilly@Oireachtas.ie,
Cc: Kristín Halla Kristinsdóttir <Kristin.Kristinsdottir@utn.stjr.is>
Date: 19/12/2017 20:09
Subject: Fw: Comments made about Icelandic Government policy in Irish Parliamentary Committee

Dear Ms. O'Reilly.

Further to the email from Kristín below, allow me again to extend our gratitude to you for drawing our attention to this debate in the 8th Amendment Committee. This is indeed a sensitive issue and there has been misleading information circulating in the media concerning the birth of children in Iceland with Down's syndrome as Kristin has already explained in her email to you. The Ministry of Welfare of Iceland issued a press release recently on this issue which I would like to share with you:

<http://www.iceland.is/iceland-abroad/uk/news/facts-about-down-syndrome-and-pre-natal-screening-in-iceland/13708/>

Best regards,

Stefán Haukur Jóhannesson
Ambassador

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W

From: Icemb London/UTN/NotesSTJR
To: Stefán Haukur Jóhannesson/UTN/NotesSTJR@NotesSTJR
Date: 18/12/2017 11:11
Subject: Fw: Comments made about Icelandic Government policy in Irish Parliamentary Committee
Sent by: Kristin Halla Kristinsdóttir

2. From: Icemb London/UTN/NotesSTJR
To: Louise OReilly <Louise.OReilly@Oireachtas.ie>
Date: 07/12/2017 16:46
Subject: Re: Comments made about Icelandic Government policy in Irish Parliamentary Committee
Sent by: Kristín Halla Kristinsdóttir

Dear Ms O'Reilly,

First of all, apologies for the delay in our response. Thank you for contacting us and bringing this issue to our attention.

We wanted to take this opportunity to provide some information to help outline the Icelandic Government's stance.

As a country we proudly value and protect the diversity of our citizens and we believe that every Icelander is equal.

We work carefully to ensure people with disabilities receive the support they need for independence and quality of life. Since 2012, we have provided personalised support to those with disabilities, allowing them to work with their local government to agree what they need

and when.

Within the Icelandic single-payer government healthcare system, screening services are provided to expectant mothers by medical professionals as part of routine prenatal care. Decisions made after this information is provided are taken by the individuals involved. This approach is in line with many western European countries.

We are advocates for sexual and reproductive health human rights and strongly defend women's rights to make choices about their own health, body and family life. This approach is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

The Embassy is currently preparing a written response to the Irish Parliamentary Committee, in line with our reply to your email. We would be very grateful if you could advise us on the contact details of the Committee Chairwoman and the Committee Secretariat.

Thank you again.

Best regards,

Kristín Halla Kristinsdóttir
Communications Officer

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