

## **Statement by Amanda Mellet**

I am profoundly grateful to the Human Rights Committee for its decision and its clear recognition that my human rights were violated as a result of Ireland's prohibition and criminalisation of abortion.

The decision not only vindicates my rights. It also serves to uphold the rights of many other women in Ireland who have faced and continue to face human rights violations under the current legal regime.

The Human Rights Committee has made it clear that to redress the violations that I suffered, the Irish Government must ensure that other women do not live through similar violations of their rights. This cannot happen until Article 40.3.3 is repealed, until abortion is decriminalised and legislation is adopted to enable women to access services in Ireland.

With today's decision in hand, I wish to finally leave behind these painful memories; and hearing the Committee's findings today does help in my own healing, but my most sincere hope is that it may assist Ireland's government in finding the courage to make the necessary changes in law. I hope the day will soon come when women in Ireland will be able to access the health services they need in our own country, where we can be with our loved ones, with our own medical team, and where we have our own familiar bed to go home and cry in. Subjecting women to so much additional pain and trauma simply must not continue.

Finally, I ask that the media respect my wish for privacy for myself and my husband James, who has supported me every step of the way.