# Nigel Farage sparks fierce backlash with call to reduce UK abortion time limit



Nigel Farage's recent proposal to tighten Britain's abortion laws has ignited a significant backlash from MPs and campaigners dedicated to reproductive rights. The leader of Reform UK described the current 24-week limit for abortions as "ludicrous" and claimed that it reflects an outdated legal framework. According to Farage, advancements in medical technology that enable premature babies to survive as early as 22 weeks warrant a reconsideration of the existing regulations. However, critics have swiftly countered his arguments, asserting that there is no clinical basis for reducing the time limit, and even warning of the potential "catastrophic consequences for women."

Labour MP Stella Creasy, a vocal advocate for safe and legal abortion, characterised Farage's rhetoric as part of a broader "Trumpian playbook." She expressed concern that his comments lack a grounding in genuine concern for women's health or autonomy and appear to be more politically motivated. Creasy insisted that discussions around reproductive rights should not be framed as opportunities for political gains, stating, "What Farage is really doing is trying to get people to talk about why would a woman have an abortion, as if it’s anybody’s business." This sentiment resonates with many who see the ongoing debate about abortion rights in the UK as a critical issue of personal freedom.

The call for a parliamentary debate surrounding the reduction of the abortion time limit has also been met with widespread resistance. Tonia Antoniazzi, another Labour MP, is championing a different approach by proposing amendments to the crime and policing bill that would decriminalise abortion altogether. She highlighted that nearly 99% of abortions occur before 20 weeks, with the majority happening before the 10-week mark, and she called for a greater focus on the needs of vulnerable women who may require access to later-term abortions due to complex medical or personal circumstances.

Advocacy groups have lined up against Farage's suggestions, reinforcing that any shift to restrict abortion access would particularly impact the most marginalised women. Pregnancy-related health experts have echoed these concerns, emphasising that reducing the time limit would exacerbate the challenges faced by those already in precarious situations—be it due to tragic medical diagnoses or histories of trauma. The British Pregnancy Advisory Service stated unequivocally that there is no medical evidence supporting a reduction in the time limit and supports calls for more compassionate legislative reforms.

As the debate unfolds, it becomes evident that Farage’s proposals tap into a broader discourse on women's rights and bodily autonomy, one that many argue should not become a pawn in the political arena. The discussions initiated by the Reform UK leader bring to the fore the divisions surrounding reproductive rights within British society. Activists are raising alarms that the increasing politicisation of women’s health issues threatens to lead to a more challenging landscape for those seeking reproductive healthcare.

In this charged atmosphere, the push for safeguarding women's rights appears more critical than ever, as campaigners rally to ensure that the rights achieved are neither undermined nor eroded but rather enshrined in legislation to protect against future political shifts.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/farage-reform-abortion-time-limit-labour-b2759811.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/farage-reform-abortion-time-limit-labour-b2759811.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/farage-reform-abortion-time-limit-labour-b2759811.html), [[4]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/nigel-farage-abortion-debate-trump-b2661900.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/nov/28/nigel-farage-suggests-mps-should-debate-rolling-back-abortion-limit), [[5]](https://www.herchoice.org/her-choice-news/uk-leader-nigel-farage-calls-for-parliamentary-debate-on-abortion-time-limit)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.inkl.com/news/nigel-farage-calls-for-parliament-to-debate-stricter-abortion-limits), [[7]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/farage-reform-abortion-time-limit-labour-b2759811.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/farage-reform-abortion-time-limit-labour-b2759811.html), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/nov/28/nigel-farage-suggests-mps-should-debate-rolling-back-abortion-limit), [[5]](https://www.herchoice.org/her-choice-news/uk-leader-nigel-farage-calls-for-parliamentary-debate-on-abortion-time-limit)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/farage-reform-abortion-time-limit-labour-b2759811.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/farage-reform-abortion-time-limit-labour-b2759811.html> - Nigel Farage, leader of Reform UK, has called for a parliamentary debate on reducing the UK's abortion time limit from 24 weeks, citing medical advancements that allow babies to survive from 22 weeks. This proposal has been met with criticism from MPs and charities, who argue there is no clinical justification for such a reduction and warn of potential negative impacts on women's rights. Labour MP Stella Creasy described Farage's comments as part of a 'Trumpian playbook', emphasizing the need to protect women's reproductive rights.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/nov/28/nigel-farage-suggests-mps-should-debate-rolling-back-abortion-limit> - Nigel Farage has suggested that MPs should consider reducing the UK's abortion limit from 24 weeks, proposing it as a topic for parliamentary debate. This statement was made during a press conference where he introduced former Conservative minister Andrea Jenkyns as Reform UK's candidate for mayor of Lincolnshire. Farage questioned the appropriateness of the current 24-week limit, given that medical advancements have enabled the survival of babies born at 22 weeks. His comments have sparked discussions about women's reproductive rights and the potential implications of such a change.
4. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/nigel-farage-abortion-debate-trump-b2661900.html> - Nigel Farage has been accused of promoting an anti-abortion agenda to gain political advantage and align himself with US President Donald Trump. The Reform UK leader recently called for a parliamentary debate on reducing the UK's abortion time limit from 24 weeks, suggesting it may need to be shortened. Health experts have expressed concerns that such a move could negatively impact vulnerable women and potentially increase the number of terminations. Critics argue that Farage's stance may be an attempt to score political points rather than address public interest.
5. <https://www.herchoice.org/her-choice-news/uk-leader-nigel-farage-calls-for-parliamentary-debate-on-abortion-time-limit> - Nigel Farage, leader of Reform UK, has proposed that MPs consider reducing Britain's abortion limit from 24 weeks, citing medical advancements that potentially save babies as early as 22 weeks. Farage argued at a press conference in London that parliament should allocate more time to consider matters of public interest. His remarks were met with condemnation from reproductive rights advocates, who criticized the proposal as lacking clinical evidence and potentially harmful to women's rights.
6. <https://www.inkl.com/news/nigel-farage-calls-for-parliament-to-debate-stricter-abortion-limits> - Nigel Farage has called for a parliamentary debate on imposing stricter limits on abortion, questioning whether the current 24-week limit is appropriate given medical advancements that allow babies to survive from 22 weeks. This proposal has been met with criticism from MPs and charities, who argue there is no clinical justification for reducing the time limit and warn of potential negative impacts on women's rights. Labour MP Stella Creasy emphasized the need to protect women's reproductive rights and cautioned against politicizing the issue.
7. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/farage-reform-abortion-time-limit-labour-b2759811.html> - Nigel Farage, leader of Reform UK, has called for a parliamentary debate on reducing the UK's abortion time limit from 24 weeks, citing medical advancements that allow babies to survive from 22 weeks. This proposal has been met with criticism from MPs and charities, who argue there is no clinical justification for such a reduction and warn of potential negative impacts on women's rights. Labour MP Stella Creasy described Farage's comments as part of a 'Trumpian playbook', emphasizing the need to protect women's reproductive rights.