# Nigel Farage’s push to cut UK abortion limit sparks fierce backlash from women’s rights advocates



Nigel Farage’s recent pronouncements regarding the UK's abortion time limit have sparked a fierce backlash from groups advocating for women's rights and health, highlighting a dangerous trend. The leader of a growing political faction has branded the current allowance of abortion up to 24 weeks as “ludicrous,” framing it as outdated and misaligned with modern medical advancements. He has cited improvements in neonatal care, arguing that a baby born prematurely at 22 weeks can survive, thereby challenging the rationale for lengthy abortion allowances.

Critics, however, have swiftly countered Farage’s claims, asserting that there is no clinical basis for reducing the time limit. Among those condemning his remarks is Stella Creasy, a Labour MP and staunch defender of a woman's right to safe and legal abortion. Creasy condemned Farage’s rhetoric as reminiscent of American politics, specifically the overt influences of anti-abortion campaigns reminiscent of figures like former President Donald Trump. Her concerns are rooted in the belief that Farage's statements are less about fostering a productive debate and more about maneuvering for political advantage driven by anti-abortion activism.

Creasy further highlighted that the vast majority of abortions in the UK occur well before the 20-week mark, with late-term procedures often necessitated by severe fetal diagnoses or dire situations such as domestic abuse. This context emphasizes the potential harm that may stem from any legislative efforts to impose stricter limits. Fellow Labour MP Tonia Antoniazzi has articulated that vulnerable women, especially those facing significant health challenges or exploitation, could be disproportionately affected by any rollback of abortion rights. She asserted firmly that reproductive choices should not be dictated by political figures who prioritize their agendas over women's safety.

The British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) added its voice to the discussion, emphatically stating that no medical evidence supports calls to reduce the abortion time limit. Spokesperson Katherine O’Brien pointed out that recent warnings from experts in fetal medicine reinforce opposition to any regression of established abortion rights. BPAS is championing amendments that would modernize laws governing abortion access in a way that reflects both compassion and informed understanding.

Farage’s call for parliamentary discussions on abortion limits coincides with the announcement of former Conservative minister Andrea Jenkyns joining his party, revealing how political positioning regarding reproductive rights may be strategically leveraged in future elections. The current political discourse on abortion is increasingly fraught, as the divide grows over how to best align medical advancements with vital women's rights. As opposition to Farage's stance intensifies, one thing becomes clear: the discourse surrounding reproductive rights in the UK remains deeply unsettled.

This ongoing debate mirrors broader societal attitudes toward motherhood and women’s autonomy, compounded by a complex interplay of political strategies and public sentiment. Many are advocating for stronger protections for women’s reproductive rights amidst what appears to be a resurgence of movements intent on imposing restrictions under the guise of concern for life—a trend that, if left unchecked, could threaten decades of hard-won progress in gender equality and healthcare access.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## 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.theguardian.com/world/2024/nov/28/nigel-farage-suggests-mps-should-debate-rolling-back-abortion-limit> - In November 2024, Nigel Farage, leader of Reform UK, proposed that Members of Parliament debate reducing the UK's abortion limit from 24 weeks. He questioned the appropriateness of the current limit, citing advancements in neonatal care that allow babies born at 22 weeks to survive. Farage suggested that such a discussion would be 'worthy' and should not be along party lines. His comments were met with criticism from reproductive rights advocates, including Heidi Stewart of the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, who stated that rolling back women's rights is not what people are interested in. Labour MP Stella Creasy also cautioned against weaponising abortion for votes, emphasising that 90% of abortions in the UK occur before 10 weeks, and late-term procedures are often due to fatal conditions. Farage's remarks coincided with the announcement of former Conservative minister Andrea Jenkyns joining Reform UK as a candidate for mayor of Lincolnshire. The debate over abortion time limits continues to be a contentious issue in UK politics, balancing medical advancements with women's reproductive rights.
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