



FACT SHEET

A, B, and C v. Ireland

ABOUT A, B, and C v. Ireland

Three women who sought abortions in Ireland sued under the European Convention on Human Rights to overturn the country's legal protections for pre-born children. The three, who never went to any doctor or court in Ireland but went directly to Britain to obtain their abortions fought to establish a "right" to abortion in Ireland. The women also sought a precedent that would open the door to abortion as a right across all of Europe under the European Convention on Human Rights. The European Court of Human Rights granted the Family Research Council, represented by Alliance Defense attorneys, the opportunity to defend Ireland's constitutional amendment protecting innocent human life in the lawsuit *A, B, and C v. Ireland*. The case was elevated to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights from a lower chamber of the court in July 2009. ADF and FRC filed a joint brief in November 2008 with two other pro-life organizations at the court's request after it allowed the groups to intervene as defendants in the case.

CURRENT STATUS OF A, B, and C v. Ireland AS OF December 18, 2010

ADF Legal Counsel Roger Kiska was present at the ECHR in Strasbourg, France, on Dec. 16 when the Grand Chamber issued its judgment in the case. The Grand Chamber reaffirmed that the European Convention on Human Rights contains no "right" to abortion. The court dismissed the claims of two of the three women. In the remaining woman's situation, the court found that Ireland should provide a more clear procedure to determine risk to the life of the mother and therefore access to abortion rather than requiring a person in her situation to file a legal action with regard to the country's constitution. Ireland lost on the third count despite a lack of judicial record, physician consultation, or recourse to Irish courts. Ireland is currently and consistently ranked highest or one of the highest in maternal health globally.

FOCUS OF HEARING – WHAT IS AT STAKE?

The case, *A, B, and C v. Ireland*, has been dubbed by many as "the *Roe v. Wade* of Europe" because a loss would have meant that all countries in the Council of Europe must allow abortion or face large financial penalties in damages if ever sued.

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ABOUT ADF

ADF is a legal alliance of Christian attorneys and like-minded organizations defending the right of people to freely live out their faith. Launched in 1994, ADF employs a unique combination of strategy, training, funding, and litigation to protect and preserve religious liberty, the sanctity of life, marriage, and the family.

ABOUT Roger Kiska

Roger Kiska serves as legal counsel with the Alliance Defense Fund and is based in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, where he specializes in international litigation with a focus on European law. He has developed the ADF-allied attorney network in Europe, working with allies to litigate European cases that have a potential for impacting ADF efforts in America. Prior to joining ADF, Kiska served as legal counsel at the European Center for Law and Justice. After earning his J.D. at Ave Maria School of Law in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Kiska began his legal career in the Slovak Republic as an attorney with the firm of former Slovak Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky. He is admitted to the State Bar of Michigan and also passed the Solicitor's Bar examinations for the United Kingdom.