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Programmanus av Steve Hankey

ALANNA LESLIE: Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to Newsreel World.

Today, we're off to Kenya, India and the island of Ireland.

ALANNA LESLIE: But first the United States

In September, a law banning abortion after six weeks into pregnancy came into effect in the US state of Texas, and has been heavily criticised by medical professionals and women's rights groups.

In October, a federal judge temporarily blocked the law whilst it goes through several legal challenges.

To tell us more about how people in Texas have reacted to this potential new law, Laura Marina Boria reports from the state capital of Austin.

Laura Marina Boria: The Texas Heartbeat Act, also known as Senate Bill 8 or SB8, includes two key provisions.

It prohibits abortion providers from ending a pregnancy if they detect foetal cardiac activity.

It also allows almost anyone to sue abortion providers and others who help a pregnant person get an abortion. That includes those who give a pregnant person a ride to a clinic or give financial assistance to obtain an abortion.

I spoke to young Texans about their views on the Texas Heartbeat Act.



Ashley Garcia: “My name is Ashley Garcia. I am a Texan born and raised. I don’t think that in Texas there’s even a conversation about reproductive health. I think it’s just a conversation about regulation and regulating women’s bodies.”

Ashley Garcia: “At the end of the day, the people who are in control of producing the law and also implementing it are these white, old, conservative men, who don’t know what it means to carry a child for nine months.”

Laura Marina Boria: Ashley says that the new law will make life difficult, especially for women of colour and those living in smaller towns and villages.

Ashley Garcia: “What I thought when I heard of this law was how this particular law was going to affect particularly women of colour, who might already have issues or difficulties with accessing women’s care because they’re undocumented. Some of them because they have a low-income status.”

Mayrose: “My name is Mayrose. I am a third-year medical student.”

Laura Marina Boria: Mayrose thinks that the Christian church has too much power in Texas.

Mayrose: “We have this idea of separation of church and state, but Christianity really impacts your everyday life, even if you’re not a Christian, through laws, through culture, things like that.

You have to remember that, you know, maybe the majority of us do believe that abortion should be accessible, but it has been used as a political tool to gain power by the evangelical right.”

Laura Marina Boria: Other young Texans I spoke with are hopeful that the act will become a model to follow in the country.

Brittani Oglesby: “My name is Brittney Oglesby. The ultimate goal of the pro-life movement is to make abortion unthinkable.

A human is a human being at conception with its own unique DNA. What we’re not seeing is that, like, the preborn are the most vulnerable and marginalized population when we choose to end their life because we don’t see their humanity. It is a step in the right direction.”



Laura Marina Boria: The passing of this law in Texas caused protests across the US.

The temporary success of the legal challenge from the Biden administration to block the law being enforced, will be welcomed by those who oppose it.

But some clinics remain hesitant to resume abortions as it's still unclear if they could be sued in the future if the ban does become law.

Laura Marina Boria: The Texas Heartbeat Act is one of several proposed laws across the United States that form part of the biggest test of abortion rights here in decades.

This is Laura Marina Boria reporting from Austin, Texas, for Newsreel World.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks Laura.

ALANNA LESLIE: Kenya's Film Classification Board has banned the film *I Am Samuel* from being shown in the country.

The film tells the story of a Kenyan man struggling with his sexuality.

The board banned the film because it promotes same-sex marriage which goes against legislation in Kenya, outlawing homosexuality.

Activists and film-makers say the ban amounts to "discrimination and persecution" and is "an affront to freedom of speech."

Here's the film's director Peter Murimi talking to YouTube channel "The Upcoming" about what he hoped the film would achieve, before the ban was announced:

Peter Murimi: "I am hoping, if you're gay, watching this, it validates you.

It's a chance to start having a constructive dialogue about LGBT rights and just saying you can be African, you can be a Christian, and you can also be gay."

ALANNA LESLIE: A court in India has ordered a salon to pay two hundred and seventy thousand US dollars to a model, for giving her the wrong haircut.



The unnamed model used to get work from hair product firms because of her long hair but the court ruled the salon had cut her hair short against her instructions, causing her to lose her expected assignments and suffer a huge loss, which completely changed her lifestyle and shattered her dream of being a top model.

Good Over Evil - Jaz Elise

ALANNA LESLIE: That's *Good Over Evil* by Jamaican singer Jaz Elise.

Born in Kingston, Jaz Elise's involvement in music started at the age of five in the children's choir at her local church.

She cites her musical influences growing up as Tanya Stephens and Chronixx amongst others.

ALANNA LESLIE: It's been one hundred years since the partition of Ireland into Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State.

Northern Ireland remained a part of the United Kingdom.

And the Irish Free State is now called the Republic of Ireland.

Now a combination of factors, including a younger generation wanting to make a break with the past, has led many to believe that the two countries could soon become one.

Bairbre Flood reports from Cork in the Republic of Ireland.

Bairbre Flood: Sinn Féin, which means 'We Ourselves' in Irish, looks set to become the largest political party on both sides of the Irish border.

Just over a century ago, in January 1919, its MPs assembled in Dublin in the parliament of Ireland, and declared Irish independence.

The War of Independence which followed resulted in this independence, but it came with a sting in the tail; a treaty with the UK which split the island.



Resistance to this partition caused a civil war in Ireland, which left nearly 2,000 people dead up to 1923, and erupted into the Troubles in Northern Ireland in the sixties.

The Troubles was a conflict that lasted until 1998 with the signing of the Good Friday Agreement seen by many as the end of the conflict, although sporadic violence has continued to happen since then.

Caoimhin McCann: “Partition has failed. It’s been disastrous for everybody in terms of our economic development, our political development, our social development and our cultural development as well.”

Bairbre Flood: Caoimhin McCann is head of the youth branch of Sinn Fein and is one of the new generation of activists in Belfast, the capital city of Northern Ireland.

He sees a united Ireland as the best solution for everyone in all communities.

Caoimhin McCann: “I think that a united Ireland will be a watershed moment. It’ll benefit everybody on this island.”

Bairbre Flood: Karen Cullinane from County Waterford in the south of Ireland, is deputy chair of young Sinn Fein and a student at University College Cork. She also feels that an end to partition is in sight.

Karen Cullinane: “The time for planning for Irish unity is now. That means planning for a referendum.

We’re so lucky today as young people in Ireland that all we have ever known is peace. We have this unique opportunity that some of our parents or grandparents or great grandparents never had where we can sit down with young people from different communities, different backgrounds, different religions and discuss what Irish unity is going to mean for all of us together.”

Bairbre Flood: Perhaps the thing most people are afraid of is a return to full-scale hostilities.



People who want to stay part of the United Kingdom in Northern Ireland are called Unionists.

They're opposing any attempt to unify Ireland, and young people in these areas are showing little sign of changing their minds.

Richard Garland: "There's still a lot of resentment out there. There still are paramilitary organisations, there still are people who lost loved ones during the Troubles, and a lot of those people are going to be apprehensive about any talk of a united Ireland."

Bairbre Flood: Richard Garland is an independent activist in favour of Northern Ireland staying part of the UK. He lives in Belfast.

Richard Garland: "I mean you think about North Belfast, I think they call it the murder mile where within the space of a mile there was a thousand murders during the Troubles.

Try telling people in those areas that they're going to be safe in a united Ireland.

Our peace process has largely been based on taking everyone's views into account and compromise. A united Ireland isn't a compromise, it's a one-way win.

In the context of a peace process you can't afford to ignore any minority whatever that view is. That should be the key lesson we learned from years of violence."

Bairbre Flood: It's likely that a referendum on a united Ireland will take place at some stage in the next few years.

But whatever the result of the referendum, it's clear we still have a lot of work to do to build bridges north and south of the border.

This is Bairbre Flood, in Cork, Ireland, reporting for Newsreel World.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks Bairbre.

That's all from me today. Speak to you soon. Bye!