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NEWS

Denmark: parliament pressured to OK euthanasia



A proposal to legalise euthanasia in Denmark has broken the threshold of 50,000 signatures to put it before the Danish Parliament for the first time.

Lars Lior Ramsgaard, a nurse from Aarhus, organised the petition. He says that he was inspired by the suffering of his patients and also of his own mother, who wanted to end her life, but was unable to.

In 2013, Ramsgaard said, a poll funded by Palliativt Videncenter, or Palliative Knowledge Centre and Trygfonden, a fund connected to the Tryg insurance company, found that 71 percent of the Danish population backed active euthanasia, while 61 percent of MPs were opposed.

The idea seems to be growing in popularity. In 2018, a similar proposal scored only 8,386 signatures and in 2019, another 1,409. However, the Danish Medical Association is calling on MPs to reject the proposal.

"There are many reasons for this: we do not think that suffering should be managed by killing people; we are afraid of the slippery slope we see in countries where euthanasia has been brought in; and we think one should invest in proper end-of-life palliative care," said Klaus Klausen, chair of the association's ethics committee.

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Morning after pills vending machines gain popularity on college campuses post-Roe.



Since last November, a library at the University of Washington has featured a different kind of vending machine, one that's become more popular on campuses around the country since the U.S. Supreme Court ended constitutional protections for abortion last year. It's stocked with ibuprofen, pregnancy tests and the morning-after pill.

With some states enacting abortion bans and others enshrining protections and expanding access to birth control, the machines are part of a push on college campuses to ensure emergency contraceptives are cheap, discreet and widely available.

There are now 39 universities in 17 states with emergency contraceptive vending machines, and at least 20 more considering them, according to the American Society for Emergency Contraception. Some, such as the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma, are in states where abortion is largely banned. Over-the-counter purchase of Plan B and generic forms is legal in all 50 states.

The 2022 ruling overturning Roe v. Wade "is putting people's lives at stake, so it makes pregnancy prevention all the more urgent," said Kelly Cleland, the ASEC's executive director. "If you live in a state where you cannot get an abortion and you can't get an abortion anywhere near you, the stakes are so much higher than they've ever been before."

Washington this year became first U.S. state to set aside money — \$200,000 to fund \$10,000 grants that colleges can obtain next year through an application process — to expand access to emergency contraceptives at public universities and technical

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His baby gene editing shocked ethicists. Now he's in the lab again



BEIJING — In a mostly empty coworking office on the outskirts of China's capital, a scientist whose name is etched in history is trying to stage a comeback.

He Jiansui announced nearly five years ago that he had created the first gene-edited babies, twin girls named Lulu and Nana. The news sent shockwaves around the world. There were accusations that the biophysicist had grossly violated medical ethics; some critics compared him to Dr. Frankenstein. And he paid a price. He was swiftly detained and a Chinese court later sentenced him to three years in prison for "illegal medical practices." About a year ago he got out, and says he took up golf. Then

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Robots and Rights: Confucianism Offers Alternative.



Philosophers and legal scholars have explored significant aspects of the moral and legal status of robots, with some advocating for giving robots rights. As robots assume more roles in the world, a new analysis reviewed research on robot rights, concluding that granting rights to robots is a bad idea. Instead, the article looks to Confucianism to offer an alternative.

The analysis, by a researcher at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), appears in Communications of the ACM, published by the Association for Computing Machinery.

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Woman who took abortion pill after UK term limit sentenced to 28 months.

A British woman who used medication to induce an abortion after the United Kingdom's legally allowed limit has been sentenced to prison for 28 months, the PA Media news agency reported.

In a case that sparked calls for an overhaul of reproductive justice laws in the country, the mother-of-three, 44, was handed the sentence by a judge in Stoke-on-Trent Crown Court in central England on Monday. She had pleaded guilty to dispensing drugs or using instruments to obtain an abortion. The maximum sentence in the country is life imprisonment.

The woman will serve 14 months in custody and the remainder on license after her

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Babies who have DNA from three different people born in the U.K. for first time.

In 2015, the U.K. became the first country to adopt legislation regulating methods to help prevent women with faulty mitochondria from passing defects on to their babies.

LONDON — Britain's fertility regulator on Wednesday confirmed the births of the U.K.'s first babies created using an experimental technique combining DNA from three people, an effort to prevent the children from inheriting rare genetic diseases.

The Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority said fewer than five babies have been born this way in the U.K. but did not provide further details to protect the families' identities. The news was first reported by the Guardian newspaper.

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Netherlands to broaden euthanasia rules to cover children of all ages.

New regulations will apply to those aged one to 12 who suffer unbearably and have no hope of improvement.

The Netherlands is to widen its euthanasia regulations to include the possibility of doctors assisting in the death of terminally ill children aged between one and 12.

The new rules would apply to between five and 10 children a year who suffer unbearably from their disease, have no hope of improvement and for whom palliative care cannot bring relief, the government said on Friday.

"The end of life for this group is the only reasonable alternative to the child's unbearable and hopeless suffering," it said in a statement.



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Quebec becomes world leader in euthanasia.

Quebec has shot straight to the top of the league table for euthanasia. According to projections published in the Daily Mail, more than 7% of all deaths in the province were medically assisted.

Journalist James Reil reported: "nearly 5,000 people opted for assisted suicides last year even as the Canadian province's officials make it easier for the terminally ill to end their lives. Nearly 8 percent of all deaths in Quebec are assisted suicides — far higher than Canada's other provinces and even such countries as Belgium and the Netherlands, which have much older euthanasia laws."

According to an article in AFP, "Since introducing the option in 2015, the number of assisted deaths in the province has outpaced the rest of



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JUDGMENTS & DECISIONS

Lack of legal recognition and protection for same-sex couple violated the Convention. Maymulakhin and Markiv v. Ukraine (application no. 75135/14)

Principal facts

The applicants, Andriy Yuriyovych Maymulakhin and Andriy Mykhaylovych Markiv, are two male Ukrainian nationals who were born in 1969 and 1984 respectively and live in Kyiv. They have been living together in a stable and committed relationship since 2010. In October 2014, they applied to seven different registry offices to marry but were unable to do so on the grounds that the Constitution and the Family Code of Ukraine explicitly defined marriage as a family union between a woman and a man.

Complaints, procedure and composition of the Court

Relying on Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination), taken in conjunction with Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life), as well as Article 1 of Protocol no. 12 (general prohibition of discrimination), the applicants complained that it was not possible under Ukrainian law for them to marry or to enter into any other type of civil union recognising

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Failure to provide any legal recognition of same-sex relationships. Buhuceanu and Others v. Romania (applications nos. 20081/19 and 20 others).

Principal facts

The applicants are 21 same-sex couples who are Romanian nationals. They were born between 1967 and 1996 and live in various parts of Romania. The couples had been living together for varying lengths of time when they respectively gave notice to their local registry offices (Serviciul de Stare Civilă) of their intention to marry. Those requests were rejected as being contrary to Articles 271 ("Marriage is concluded between a man and a woman") and 277 § 1 ("Same-sex marriage is prohibited") of the Civil Code.

Complaints, procedure and composition of the Court

Relying on Articles 8 (right to respect for private and family life) and 14 (prohibition of discrimination), the applicants complained that, as it was impossible for them to enter together into any type of legally recognised union in Romania, they had no means of legally safeguarding their relationships. The 21 applications were lodged with the European Court

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Women appealed before the ECtHR for the right to abortion in Poland. Dismissal of the applications as inadmissible.

Principal facts

The applicants are eight Polish nationals who were born between 1980 and 1993.

On 22 June 2017 a group of 104 parliamentarians applied to the Constitutional Court to have sections 4a(1)2 and 4a(2) of the Law on family planning, protection of the human foetus and conditions permitting pregnancy termination (Ustawa o planowaniu rodziny, ochronie płodu ludzkiego i warunkach dopuszczalności przerywania ciąży) declared unconstitutional (case no. K 13/17). Those provisions relate to legal abortion due to foetal abnormalities. The proceedings were discontinued.

On 19 November 2019 a similar application was lodged by a group of parliamentarians (case no. K 1/20). On 22 October 2020 the Constitutional Court held that sections 4a(1)2 and 4a(2) of the 1993 Act were incompatible with the Constitution. That judgment came into force on 27 January 2021.

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Discrimination against international-level athlete who was not afforded sufficient procedural safeguards when challenging World Athletics regulations.

In the case of Semenya v. Switzerland (application no. 10934/21) the European Court of Human Rights held, by a majority (4 votes to 3), that there had been:

a violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) taken together with Article 8 (right to respect for private life) of the European Convention on Human Rights, and a violation of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy) in relation to Article 14 taken together with Article 8 of the Convention.

The case concerned an international-level athlete, specialising in middle-distance races, who complained about certain regulations of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF – now called World Athletics) requiring her to take hormone treatment to decrease her natural testosterone level in order to be able to take part in international competitions in the female category. Having refused to undergo the treatment, she was no longer able to take part in international competitions. Her legal actions challenging the

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CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/LESSONS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "EUROPEAN HEALTH UNION: PERSPECTIVES AND CHALLENGES"



It is with great joy and pride that the Laboratory for the Research of Medical Law and Bioethics of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the IPPS "Contemporary Medical Acts: Legal Regulation and Bioethical Dimension", in collaboration with the National Bioethics and Technoethics Commission, the Thessaloniki Bar Association and the Thessaloniki Medical Association, announce the organization of the Sixth International Conference on:

EUROPEAN HEALTH UNION: PERSPECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

Dates: 21st – 22nd October 2023

Location: Thessaloniki, AUTH KEDEA – Amphitheatre I

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Internship

The Laboratory for the Research of Medical Law and Bioethics of Law School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki announces three (3) internship positions for undergraduate or postgraduate students. Applicants must have an average grade point or graduation grade, by the date of submission of the CV, greater than 7.0.

The subject of the internship consists of:

- the collection, the analysis and the processing of case law of national courts related to issues of medical law and bioethics,
- the collection, the analysis and the processing of WEU case law related to issues of medical law and bioethics,
- the collection of legislation related to issues of medical law and bioethics,
- the enrichment of the Newsletter by researching new issues of medical law and bioethics,
- the participation in the organization of summer schools,
- the participation in the organization of international and national conferences.

For more information you can visit our site: [Internship | Med Law Lab – Νομική Α.Π.Θ.](#) (auth.gr)

BOOKS/ARTICLES



Bio – juria journal

It is with great joy and satisfaction that the Laboratory announces the publication of the peer – reviewed journal "BIO – JURIA" on Bioethics and Medical Law.

You can read its content, visiting our site:

<https://medlawlab.web.auth.gr/en/bio-juria-journal/>

