

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
FOREIGN RELATIONS  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE  
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

June 24, 2019

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Kevin K. McAleenan  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Pompeo and Acting Secretary McAleenan:

I write with grave concern about the case of a 22-week pregnant Catholic woman with developmental disabilities in the United Kingdom who—against the wishes of her and her Nigerian-origin mother—is being required by a British court to undergo a forced late-term abortion, in what I believe to be a clear human rights violation. I urge your Departments to quickly investigate this case and, within all applicable laws and regulations, to offer assistance to her and her mother in seeking alternative medical care either in the United States through a temporary non-immigrant visa or through humanitarian parole for a temporary period due to this urgent humanitarian emergency, or at medical facilities in a third country that will not compel her to undergo a forced late-term abortion.

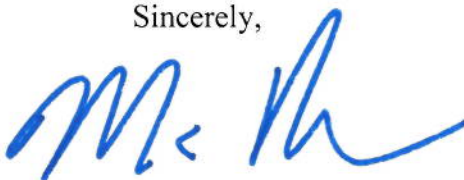
According to multiple news reports, British Justice Nathalie Lieven, a judge in the U.K. Court of Protection, ruled on June 21, 2019, that doctors are authorized to perform a forced late-term abortion on this Catholic woman with developmental disabilities and a mood disorder. This pregnant British woman, whose name has not been publicly identified, is reportedly in her twenties and in the care of the U.K.'s National Health Service Trust.

It is critical to note the fact that this pregnant Catholic woman and her mother oppose the ruling. Even British Justice Lieven has acknowledged their opposition and the “immense intrusion” that her ruling to authorize a forced late-term abortion on this woman therefore represents. “I am acutely conscious of the fact that for the State to order a woman to have a termination where it appears that she doesn’t want it is an immense intrusion,” Justice Lieven conceded in her ruling, but then added condescendingly: “I have to operate in [her] best interests, not on society’s views of termination.”

Notwithstanding our Nation’s special relationship with the United Kingdom, the United States should assist this pregnant woman if she, or her mother, seeks a humanitarian alternative to this judicially-mandated forced late-term abortion. I therefore urge your Departments to quickly investigate this case and, within all applicable laws and regulations, to offer assistance to her and her mother to seek alternative medical care if they should so choose.

Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to your timely action and response to this humanitarian emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Rubio', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marco Rubio  
United States Senator