

## Political Briefing: Amendments to Criminal Justice Bill that would legalise sex-selective abortion in England and Wales

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### Introduction

- Stella Creasy MP and Diana Johnson MP have tabled amendments to the Criminal Justice Bill that would legalise sex-selective abortion in England and Wales.
- Diana Johnson's amendment ([New Clause 1](#)) would disapply existing criminal law related to the accessing or procurement of abortion care from women acting in relation to their own pregnancy, meaning it would no longer be an offence for a woman to have an abortion for any reason, throughout all nine months of pregnancy, including for the purposes of sex selection.
- Stella Creasy MP has tabled a separate amendment ([New Clause 40](#)) to the Bill that would not only allow women to undergo but also doctors to perform abortions for sex-selective reasons up to 24 weeks gestation (the current abortion time limit in the UK).
- These amendments would risk an increase in women being pressured to have an abortion because they are expecting a girl in communities where there may be a preference for male babies, and an increase in the number of sex-selective abortions.

### What is sex-selective abortion?

- Sex-selective abortion is the practice of terminating a pregnancy based on the predicted sex of the foetus.
- Sex-selective abortions usually involve the termination of baby girls, often under pressure from others, and are more prevalent in certain communities.