

NEWS IN BRIEF 14

May 10th – 23rd 2025

THE ECONOMIST

Britain's prime minister, Sir Keir Starmer, proposed a tougher policy on legal immigration, arguing that the system seems "almost designed to permit abuse". Changes to cut immigrant numbers include raising skill requirements for work, reducing the length of student work visas and extending settlement requirements from five to ten years. All immigrants, including spouses, will need to speak basic English. Sir Keir suggested that he was not responding to the recent success of the anti-immigration Reform UK in local elections.

THE GUARDIAN

Almost half of young people would rather live in a world where the internet does not exist, according to a new survey. The research reveals that nearly 70% of 16- to 21-year-olds feel worse about themselves after spending time on social media. Half (50%) would support a "digital curfew" that would restrict their access to certain apps and sites past 10pm, while 46% said they would rather be young in a world without the internet altogether. The results came after the technology secretary, Peter Kyle, hinted that the government was weighing up the possibility of making cut-off times mandatory for certain apps such as TikTok and Instagram.

NPR

"Original Sin," an explosive book by journalists Jake Tapper and Alex Thompson, chronicles what the authors say was Biden's steep physical and cognitive decline. Joe Biden repeatedly insisted he was capable of serving a second term. "Original Sin" argues his advisors and his family went to great lengths to hide that he wasn't.

NPR

This week, representatives from the 194 countries of the World Health Organization — minus the U.S. — are gathering in Geneva to discuss and vote on policies that will shape global health in the years and decades to come. The topics will range from preparing for the next pandemic to preventing lung cancer by cutting air pollution. So where's the U.S.? On Inauguration Day, President Donald Trump announced plans to withdraw from the WHO, saying that the U.N. organization had "ripped" off the United States and asserting that it is controlled by China. For the first time since 1948, the U.S. — which provides about one-fifth of WHO's \$6.8 billion budget — will be absent from the annual World Health Assembly.

SKYNEWS

The prime minister has said his new deal with the European Union means "Britain is back on the world stage". But parts of the agreement are contentious.

<https://news.sky.com/video/trade-fishing-defence-who-wins-from-the-uk-eu-deal-13371054>



REUTERS

Bill Gates to give away \$200 billion by 2045, says Musk is 'killing' world's poorest children

<https://www.reuters.com/business/bill-gates-give-away-fortune-by-2045-200bn-worlds-poorest-2025-05-08/>



Pregnant US woman declared brain dead is being kept alive under state abortion law

The Guardian Fri 16 May 2025

A pregnant woman in Georgia was declared brain dead after a medical emergency and doctors have kept her on life support for three months so far to allow enough time for the baby to be born and comply with Georgia's strict anti-abortion law, family members say.

She could be kept in that state for months more.

The case is the latest consequence of abortion bans introduced in some states since the US supreme court in 2022 overturned national abortion rights afforded by the historic Roe v Wade ruling.

Adriana Smith, a 30-year-old mother and nurse, was declared brain dead – meaning she is legally dead – in February, her mother, April Newkirk, told Atlanta TV station WXIA.

Newkirk said her daughter had intense headaches more than three months ago and went to Atlanta's Northside hospital, where she received medication and was released. The next morning, her boyfriend woke to her gasping for air and called 911. Emory University hospital determined she had blood clots in her brain and she was declared brain dead.

Newkirk said Smith was now 21 weeks pregnant. Removing breathing tubes and other life-saving devices would probably kill the fetus.

Northside did not respond to a request for comment on Thursday. Emory Healthcare said it could not comment on an individual case because of privacy rules, but released a statement saying it “uses consensus from clinical experts, medical literature, and legal guidance to support our providers as they make individualized treatment recommendations in compliance with Georgia's abortion laws and all other applicable laws. Our top priorities continue to be the safety and wellbeing of the patients we serve.”

Smith's family says Emory doctors have told them they are not allowed to stop or remove the devices that are keeping her breathing because state law bans abortion after cardiac activity can be detected in the fetus – generally around six weeks into pregnancy.

The law was adopted in 2019 but not enforced until after Roe v Wade was overturned in the 2022 Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization ruling, opening the door to state abortion bans. Twelve states are enforcing bans on abortion at all stages of pregnancy and three others have bans such as Georgia's that kick in after about six weeks.

Like the others, Georgia's ban includes an exception if an abortion is necessary to maintain the woman's life.

Smith's family, including her five-year-old son, still visit her in the hospital.

Newkirk told WXIA that doctors told the family that the fetus has fluid on the brain and that they are concerned about his health.

“She's pregnant with my grandson. But he may be blind, may not be able to walk, may not survive once he's born,” Newkirk said. She has not said whether the family wants Smith removed from life support.

Monica Simpson, the executive director of SisterSong, the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging Georgia's abortion law, said the situation was problematic.

“Her family deserved the right to have decision-making power about her medical decisions,” Simpson said in a statement. “Instead, they have endured over 90 days of retraumatization, expensive medical costs, and the cruelty of being unable to resolve and move toward healing.”

brain dead: en état de mort cérébrale

under a law: voir NiB9

Øa'bortion: l'avortement

they have kept her on life support for three months so far: ils la maintiennent sous assistance respiratoire depuis maintenant trois mois

to be born: naître

the latest /eɪ/ = the most recent

to overturn = to cancel

historic = important in history

Roe v. Wade (1973) /ˌrəʊvi:'weɪd/ = a landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in which the Court ruled that the Constitution of the United States conferred the right to have an abortion. It was overturned in June 2022.

a ruling: une décision de justice

to gasp for air: suffoquer

in compliance /aɪ/ **with:** conformément à

six weeks into pregnancy: après six semaines de grossesse

to enforce a law : appliquer une loi

to kick in = to come into effect

plaintiff: plaignant(e)

healing /i:/ : rétablissement