We are writing to the Committee to share our view that we firmly believe that the law in Northern Ireland, as it currently stands, is both appropriate and proportional.

The law already currently provides for abortion in Northern Ireland on the grounds ‘where the continuance of the pregnancy would adversely affect the mental or physical health of the mother’. This in itself provides for abortions based on a range of personal circumstances in a pregnancy. It is patently untrue to state that abortion is, in all cases, illegal in Northern Ireland.

Extension or liberalisation of our current abortion law would be a mistake for a range of reasons which we intend to highlight to the Committee.

It is our personal belief that human life is precious and should be valued. This includes unborn children. Pro-abortionists seem to regard unborn children as having no integral human value whatsoever and yet suddenly as soon as the baby passes through the birth canal and enters the world they then seem to accept that actively terminating its life is considered murder. We believe this pattern of logic is heavily flawed.

What determines whether we are a human, in contrast to a dog or daffodil, is of course is our DNA. DNA that is formed at conception and then determines from that point onwards who we are. No one else will ever have the same pattern as you or me. That humanity which is unique to each of us must be both valued and protected in law by Government. Clearly there is a balance to be struck here between the rights of the mother and those of the unborn child. In situations where the life of the mum is in danger or the mental health would be considerably damaged by continuing with the pregnancy then abortion, in these limited circumstances, is of course a justified option.

We would also like to point out to the committee that there is clear cross community support for a pro-life position in Northern Ireland, this is a belief shared across the religious divide and also by all the mainstream churches. Recently polling by ComRes found the following:

64% of people in Northern Ireland do not want abortion law to be imposed upon them by Westminster MPs
93% agreed that in pregnancy the life of both the mother and the unborn child are important.

Further it has been proved recently that 100,000 people are alive in Northern Ireland today because we were not subject to the 1967 Abortion Act. [https://www.asa.org.uk/rulings/both-lives-matter-a17-370344.html](https://www.asa.org.uk/rulings/both-lives-matter-a17-370344.html)

We believe that the fact that there are 100,000 are alive today because this Act was not extended to NI is something to celebrate rather than mourn. In GB more legal protection is afforded animals, under a range of legislation, than is provided to unborn children under 24 weeks. I believe that this is wrong because surely as a society we must protect the vulnerable. Ghandi stated,  
“The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members”

Parliaments role
Clearly the decision as to whether to change the law in Northern Ireland is ‘devolved’ and not an ‘excepted’ or a ‘reserved’ matter. The Northern Ireland Act 1998 Sections 2 and 3 explain clearly reserved matters. This means that Parliament cannot and should not be even considering this matter. The absence of the NI Executive does not provide justification for Parliament to be considering this decision.
We would further reflect to the Committee that many people have personally told me (who hold pro-life) that are afraid to articulate these views in public or on social media because of the abuse they have received in the past from pro-choice activists. We have personally witnessed and experienced this. Finally we would urge the Committee to carefully and sensitively consider this matter.

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