Written submission from Mrs Wilhelmina Barton (ANI0048)

- As a woman, I have lived 40 years of my life in N Ireland, and am grateful for the laws we have which protect women and their unborn (yet living) children.
- Due to my personal gynaecological history I suffered 7 involuntary abortions; the grief and trauma were deep and long lasting. For this reason I long that any woman considering an abortion should be aware of the consequences. It is NOT getting rid of “an inconvenience” but of a human being. My two pregnancies which resulted in two healthy sons are still a strong memory.
- The memories of having a baby in my womb, a being attached to me but separate from me, someone who moved and kicked and showed early activity within me, told me that this was a human child who deserved protection – not killer forceps or removal by suction...
- For many years I lived in India, where I had the experience of counselling women who had had an abortion – either through pressure from the family (girls not desired, thank you) or through shame. Their grief was raw, tangible and the ensuing years plagued by guilt and often emotional dysfunction.
- But it is illogical to be outraged that GIRLS were aborted – and not to be similarly outraged about the little BOYS who are aborted in UK society! Equality??
- PLEASE leave our N I law on abortion alone! In mainland UK, less than 2% of abortions are for reasons of a risk to the mother’s life. We allow for that protection in our laws here.
- Finally, as a former German teacher, I know how Hitler started – by eliminating the “weak” and “differently abled”........and we know how that ended. Our moral progress on women’s rights should not be measured by the yardstick of our ability to end the lives of our vulnerable unborn children. Since the 1967 Abortion Act almost 9 million abortions have been carried out in the rest of the UK, far more than originally envisaged.

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