Written submission from Robert McCollum (AN10085)

As a Northern Ireland citizen, I am writing on behalf of the session and congregation of Newtownards Reformed Presbyterian Church regarding our support for Northern Ireland’s pro-life laws. In the UK, abortion, the deliberate termination of a pregnancy, has been a fact of life in the UK for over 40 years, resulting in almost 9 million lives lost. 9 million.

Thankfully, and we do thank God, the 1967 Abortion Act does not currently apply to Northern Ireland. It is beyond doubt that around 100,000 people are alive today who would have been aborted if the 1967 Abortion Act had applied here. However, there is mounting pressure to align Northern Ireland’s abortion law with the rest of the UK.

We believe that Northern Ireland’s law must be respected rather than interfered with. It is surely not Westminster’s mandate to bypass the will of our elected representatives who voted as recently on this subject as 2016.

Scripture is quite clear about God’s view of the foetus (Psalm 139:3-16, Psalm 51:7, Jeremiah 1:4-5 and Isaiah 49:3, 5) – he affords them human status. If every unborn child is an individual human being, then abortion is not merely a matter of maternal choice. Another human being is affected; the child’s rights to life are being violated. Every human being possesses that basic right.

Furthermore, God in his Word emphasises, not the exercising of our own rights, but rather the defending of the rights of others. We have a responsibility first and foremost to love God and then our neighbour. In the light of the above argument on the status of the unborn child, surely he/she is one of those neighbours.

We are therefore taking the time to express our strong support for our laws which protect our unborn children.

December 2018