I am 76 years old and have been resident in Northern Ireland for the whole of my life.

Two of my children died while young, one shortly after birth and the other at 20 months, so I am familiar to some extent with the trauma that comes with such loss.

I am deeply concerned that the United Kingdom, a nation built on essentially Christian values, has slipped so easily to the present stage where the life of the unborn child is considered of no value and can be disposed of at whim. In a society where the rights of the mother are championed loudly and often, seldom does one hear or read of the rights of the unborn child.

While special cases inevitably arise involving threat to the life of the mother and must be addressed, these are very much in the minority and ought not to form the basis for abortion on demand.

In the Northern Ireland Assembly, our elected representatives have on several occasions voted to support the sanctity of life. I would oppose any move by Westminster to overrule or bypass the view of a clear majority of our MLAs, by extending the abortion enabling provisions of our existing law.

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