Written submission from Elizabeth Murphy (ANI0103)

I write as a member of the general public who lives in Northern Ireland in response to the Women and equalities committee inquiry.

I would be opposed to reforming Northern Ireland’s law on abortion. I have read that an estimated 100,000 lives have been saved in Northern Ireland because of our existing law. I worked for many years as a teacher and have a deep respect for the value of life and the contributions made by each individual to society. Abortion fundamentally denies the right to life and the joy that each person brings to our world.

It is appalling to think that Westminster would set out to bypass the will of our elected representatives in Northern Ireland. The framing of the inquiry questions assumes that the UK government has an “obligation” to reform abortion law in Northern Ireland. I profoundly disagree with this assumption and see no basis for it in a devolved democracy.

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