Written submission from Rev Philip Dunwoody (ANI0104)

I write in response to the consultation on Abortion laws in Northern Ireland.

I am strongly in favour of the legislation being retained as it stands, and I am strongly opposed to any changes in this legislation being forced upon Northern Ireland from Westminster.

The democratic will of the people of Northern Ireland was last made clear less than 3 years ago, in February 2016, when the devolved government in Belfast voted against changing our laws on abortion. The law as it stands fully provides for the health of a pregnant woman to be protected, and also rightly recognises the life of her unborn child as deserving full protection, unless it puts the mother’s health at risk.

Great Britain has become an abortion-on-demand country, something which should be a cause for national mourning and shame. 98% of abortions carried out in England, Scotland and Wales are now purely for social reasons, whilst at the same time the government does little or nothing to improve the state of adoption and foster care.

Abortion fundamentally undermines human rights – the most basic and fundamental right of all, in fact: the right to life. An estimated 100,000 lives have been saved in Northern Ireland because we do not have the widespread, casual attitude to abortion that is promoted in the rest of the UK. This should not change. Abortion is the intentional taking of human life and therefore is deeply sinful.

Women of all ages and backgrounds should be protected, supported and guided through pregnancies, and of course their health is of utmost importance – but the lives of their babies should not be endangered under false pretences.

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