Written submission from John Gamble (ANI0106)

Dear members of the Women and Equalities Committee,

1. I am a young person living in Northern Ireland who believes strongly in the value and sanctity of every human life, and I welcome this opportunity to express my support for the current abortion laws in Northern Ireland, and to contribute to this important discussion.

2. I do not believe that Northern Ireland’s laws on abortion should be reformed by the UK government in opposition to the decisions made by the devolved government in February 2016. Abortion is an intensely sensitive matter, and the views of the people of Northern Ireland expressed through their local elected representatives should be respected.

3. Advocates on both sides of the abortion debate believe that abortion should be uncommon. Our laws have ensured that abortion is rare in Northern Ireland and, moreover, thousands are alive today who would otherwise have been aborted. In sharp contrast, since the 1967 Abortion Act was introduced, nearly 9 million abortions have been carried out in the rest of the UK. This is far in excess of what was first envisaged.

4. Northern Ireland has had a troubled past in which life was seen by too many as expendable. Yet I believe that in relation to abortion, Northern Ireland stands as a unique example of a truly caring society. Human rights, especially the fundamental right to life, should be extended to all members of our society – visible or invisible, born or unborn. The right to life should be for both mother and child. Northern Ireland’s laws uphold this position.

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