I write in response to the request from the Women and Equalities Committee regarding the views of the general public on abortion and whether it should be reformed.

First of all, as a Christian, view on this issue has not changed, as it is a view based on God’s law, which does not change according to the whims of society. Contrary to what some may think, God’s laws are always in our ultimate best interests. Christians’ views need to be respected and not discarded contemptuously as irrelevant in modern society. Christian nurses and doctors also need to be protected professionally, and liberalising our laws on abortion would have significant effects in discriminating against those who refuse to act against their consciences.

I live in Northern Ireland and as a citizen of that country feel strongly that the law of Northern Ireland must be respected, certainly on this desperately solemn issue. In February 2016, a clear majority of MLAs backed the sanctity of life in a series of votes at Stormont. It is important that Westminster should not set out to bypass the will of our elected representatives on this or any other issue.

Abortion fundamentally undermines human rights-above all the right to life of the most vulnerable in society. To think of so many innocent babies being aborted (almost 9 million abortions in the UK since 1967) is horrific, especially when on the other side so much money is being spent (and rightly so) to ensure that premature babies survive, or to help those who cannot conceive naturally. Giving vulnerable women the help they need with an unwanted pregnancy is what we should be doing; encouraging them to consider allowing their babies to be adopted by those who really want children, would be the much better way forward.

Seeing how much we can tell from ultrasound scans about a baby’s development in the womb should be reinforcing the biological fact that a baby is a loving human being from conception. Many women are so glad they were encouraged to think again about having an abortion. There are so many negative after effects for many who do choose abortions, and this is completely glossed over.

Therefore it is unacceptable to be trying to force abortion on a society where it has been proven that so many object-especially when so many of the really important issues are hushed up or shouted down.

December 2018