I am a wife and mother and I have lived in Northern Ireland all my life. My two [children] were born premature. My [eldest] was born at 32 weeks and fought for survival for 5 weeks in [hospital]. Both [children] are now grown up, educated, good jobs with prospects of promotion. I have seen life being born before its due time and marvelled at the intricate detail which each child bore. Babies in [hospital] with almost see-through skin, yet having perfectly formed finger nails, eyebrows etc. Fighting against the odds and surviving premature births.

I have not personally been affected by abortion but I know a few women who have had abortions and have witnessed the mental anguish of regret years after. Abortion is fundamentally murder within the womb. People shout – “it’s the mothers right to do what she wants with her body!” or “what if she was raped” or “it’s just not the right time”. The problem with these arguments is that there is a life to consider other than the mother. There is a human being growing within the womb. Abortion undermines human rights, especially the most vulnerable in our society – a child.

When the Omagh Bomb happened on 15th August 1998 twins were killed within the womb. Wikipedia quotes:

“The bombing killed 29 people (including a woman pregnant with twins) and injured some 220 others, giving it the deadliest single incident of the Troubles in Northern Ireland.”

The media etc acknowledge that two people were killed that were not yet born. Yet they were included.

Please respect the law in Northern Ireland. Westminster should not set out to deliberately bypass the will of our elected representatives which as last made clear in February 2016. It has been said that Northern Ireland is behind the times. I disagree. Northern Ireland is unique. Family matters. Everybody knows their neighbours and we look out for each other. Having lived the Troubles life matters. Life is precious.

So please do not enforce your wishes of abortion in Northern Ireland. A child’s life is valued in Northern Ireland.

December 2018