1) **Democracy**: the inquiry disregards the principle of democracy and the reality that northern Ireland has voted on this matter. In April 2015 over 99% of responses to the then justice minister David Ford MLA’s consultation on changing the law to allow abortion in cases of "lethal foetal abnormality and sexual crime" opposed any change in the law. 25,140 of the 25,320 responses to the consultation opposed any change in the law. Northern Ireland rejects abortion in every case. An amendment to legalise the abortion of babies with life-limiting disabilities was defeated in Stormont in January 2016 by 59 votes to 40. The amendment to legalise the killing of babies conceived in rape or incest was defeated by 64 votes to 32 a even bigger margin. On 28th November 2016, 300,000 pro-life petitions were presented at Stormont Parliament Buildings. This was a strong reminder that unborn children must continue to be protected by our laws.

2) **There is no human right to abortion**: There is no treaty or convention acknowledging a supposed right to abortion. The United Nations convention on the rights of the child states “the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth” Treaty monitoring bodies have no authority either under the treaties that created them or under general international law, to interpret these treaties in ways that create new state obligations. Any such monitoring body that interprets a treaty to include a right to abortion acts beyond its authority and contrary to its mandate.

3) **Maternal mortality rate**: The maternal mortality rate in Northern Ireland is the lowest in the UK and one of the safest places in the world for women to have a baby. See report in Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons Summer 2013.

4) **UK law**: Section 58 and 59 of the Offences against the Person Act(1861) and section 25 of the Criminal Justice Act (NI) 1945 both recognise that the unborn child at every stage of development is a human being, a person deserving of protection under the law.

5) **Mental health effects**: An analysis of 22 studies published in the British journal of Psychiatry in 2011 showed that women who had an abortion experienced an 81% increased risk of mental health problems including anxiety, depression, alcohol and drug dependence and suicidal behaviour (Coleman Report)

6) **The Peace Process**: To interfere with the law in Northern Ireland would have a serious effect on the peace process. The spirit of the Good Friday Agreement was about respecting devolution and was founded on the principle of full respect and equality of all rights.
7) **Results:** Over 100,000 people are alive today because of the pro-life laws in NI. By contrast in GB there have been almost 9 million abortions with one in three pregnancies now ending in abortion. GB now has abortion up to birth in the case of babies with disabilities—leading to 90 percent of babies with Down’s syndrome being aborted and of little girls merely because of their gender. The people of Northern Ireland from all parties do not want this culture of death and eugenics in Northern Ireland.

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