I am a woman living in Northern Ireland and the mother of 2 boys.

The law on abortion in Northern Ireland is unique in the United Kingdom in the protection it gives to the most vulnerable in our society, the unborn.

The current debate over women’s rights is riding roughshod over the rights of those who most need our protection. The womb should be respected by both the law and women as a place of safety for the child. The unborn child whether or not wanted by the mother, whether or not handicapped in some way, is a human life. That life has a right to the protection the current law in Northern Ireland affords it.

In no way do I seek to minimise or dismiss the distress and burden which a woman comes under when she experiences an unplanned pregnancy or receives news that a wanted child is likely to be stillborn or seriously handicapped. However, the deliberate and premature termination of that human life is unconscionable in any right thinking society.

Northern Ireland’s law on abortion should be respected. I want the existing law here to be preserved and celebrated as legislation which in protects the rights of unborn children regardless of their sex, race, religion, physical or mental abilities.

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