I am a woman born in Northern Ireland, where I have lived all my life. I am very troubled by the ongoing efforts from many quarters to reform this country’s abortion law. This law has protected the lives of 100,000 people here and ensures that the value of human life and the rights of the most vulnerable of human beings, the soon to be born, are upheld.

The 1967 Act in the rest of the UK has allowed for almost 9 million abortions, 98% of these carried out for social reasons. Therefore a potential incredibly large ablebodied workforce has not seen the light of day, as the oldest of those aborted would be aged just 51 today. The nation has been disadvantaged due to this loss, the numbers being far higher than imagined in 1967. I do not want to see a similar dreadful occurrence in Northern Ireland.

Thankfully our politicians in Stormont voted in 2016 to retain our abortion law. This decision should not be changed by the UK Government. I want the present law here to remain in place.

December 2018