I was born in Northern Ireland and have lived here most of my life apart from [5-10] years spent in Scotland and Wales.

1. While in Wales my teenage daughter got pregnant and she and her boyfriend planned to terminate the pregnancy secretly. My husband and I found out and promised to support her. As a result we have a beautiful intelligent artistic granddaughter who brings us much pleasure and already contributes much to society. 95% of all abortions are for social reason I understand and I consider these to be totally immoral.

2. We also have a daughter who has had no regrets, has loved and reared her child and, as importantly, has no mental health issues because she didn't end a life.

3. On the other hand I have a friend who before going up to university found she was pregnant and she and her boyfriend secretly arranged an abortion. Despite going on to marry this boyfriend and have a stable family life with [other] children she has found it extremely difficult to live with taking the life of her unborn child.

4. Thankfully there is a strong and genuinely committed Christian presence in Northern Ireland unlike the rest of the UK. We know that God will honour those who honour the sanctity of life. He will also topple governments who ignore his commandments….. One of which is: you shall not kill.

5. There is proof that human life starts at conception. In laboratories where eggs are fertilised in a dish photographic evidence shows that there is a flash of light when this is successful. I am convinced this is when a soul enters the cells which multiply to produce a child.

6. Abortion or the killing of an unborn child does not take into account the wishes of the child and only serves to feed an increasingly selfish and self centred society who's morality is based on what makes one feel good without any concern as to how one's decisions affect others.

7. I gave birth to an undiagnosed twin who was without oxygen for more than 20 minutes and as a result had severe cerebral palsy. He had a short life – [0-5] years - but he was happy and healthy within a body which he had virtually no control over. He also taught our family to look after others often before themselves. We have amazing memories of a happy little boy. If his life had been terminated early he would have been robbed as would we and many of our friends who enjoyed his company.

8. I also know many families who would recognise the fullness of life that children and adults with disabilities can and do have and the balance which they give a society which craves perfection.

9. I have grandchildren on the autistic spectrum……. Will we soon have a test which will anticipate this condition and legislate to terminate their lives before they are born? …. God forbid. My point is how on earth can we judge the value of a life before it starts and how do we set a cut off point.

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