I was born in Northern Ireland and have lived here all my life and I’m responding to the consultation on attitudes to abortion in N. Ireland.

We have one of the most pro-life legal frameworks in the world, and this reflects the opinions of many people who live here. The evidence that this is the case is seen in the series of votes in 2016 where a clear majority of our MLAs backed the sanctity of life.

This is an issue which crosses the community divide here in N. Ireland; many people from both Catholic and Protestant backgrounds, are firmly behind the position on abortion as it stands, and were united in their opposition to the liberalising of the abortion law in the Irish Republic, campaigning together at the time of that referendum.

We believe that the safest place for a baby to be should be in its mother’s womb. Sadly, this is no longer the case in other parts of the UK and Ireland. Our society claims to uphold human rights, yet an abortion removes the right to life of the most vulnerable who have no voice.

Those who talk only about the difficult cases fail to mention that in the rest of the UK, there have been almost 9 million abortions since the 1967 Abortion Act was introduced; and many are not aware that in 2016, 98% of abortions in Great Britain were carried out for social reasons.

I am sending this submission to show you the depth of feeling that exists here on this issue; to express the view, as held by many here, that there should be no change to our abortion law.

December 2018