Written submission from Miss Dorothea MacWhinnery (ANI0187)

Executive Summary:
- Devolution is important, and cannot be cherry-picked. Westminster’s attack on our laws represents a true disregard for the principles of devolution.
- Many people are totally opposed to abortion in Northern Ireland, and our voices are not being heard.
- Northern Ireland’s pro-life law upholds the human rights of the most vulnerable, and protects women from the violence of abortion.

Brief introduction:
I am a Christian individual and a British citizen living in Belfast, Northern Ireland. I understand that the issue at hand is proposed reform to the Pro-Life laws throughout the United Kingdom, especially in Northern Ireland today.

Testimony:
Hello and how are all of you today? I am writing to let you know where I stand as a Christian individual, a British citizen living in Belfast, Northern Ireland. I understand that the issue at hand is proposed reform to the Pro-Life laws throughout the United Kingdom, especially in Northern Ireland today.

Devolution still matters, even though the Stormont Assembly is not functioning as a formal legislative body at the present time. Westminster should not set out to bypass the will of our elected representatives which was last made clear in February 2016, almost three (3) years ago. A definite majority of MLA’s backed the sanctity of life from the moment of conception to natural death in a series of votes taken at that time. Ulster’s right to life law must be respected.

Only last year, the Court Of Appeal in Belfast maintained Northern Ireland’s right to determine its own abortion legislation without interference from other quarters. Our province has one of the most Pro-Life legal frameworks to be found anywhere today. This ensures that the value of human life is revered and protected, upheld by medical professionals throughout the state of pregnancy.

An estimated 100,000 lives have been saved by this law, just as in the Republic of Ireland another 100,000 lives have been saved. I wish to make it plain that
I am deeply disappointed at the disturbing repeal of the 8th Amendment of the Irish Constitution which took place in 2018, which paves the way for the most liberal abortion laws – not only in the British Isles – but throughout the world.

I would very much like to see the existing law preserved for the sake of posterity, so that our unborn children can remain protected from all harm and danger. We owe it to future generations to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Let us defend the defenceless to the very best of our ability!

Thanks be to God for the gift of life!

Thank you and God bless you all!

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

December 2018