Written submission from Clare McIntyre (ANI0228)

I am making this submission to the above Committee as a member of the general public in Northern Ireland.

1. What are the views of the general public, women and medical and legal professionals in Northern Ireland about the law on abortion and whether it should be reformed? How have those views changed over time?

I am a resident in Northern Ireland and I feel Northern Ireland’s law must be respected. Westminster should not set out to bypass the will of our elected representatives which was last made clear in February 2016. I believe that God, the giver of life, has to say about when life begins and that this fundamental Christian view will stand the test of time throughout generations. I think when it comes to saying what’s right and wrong, God must be trusted. “Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee.”

2. What are the experiences of women in Northern Ireland who have been affected by the law on abortion?

I have no experience personally of being affected by the law on abortion but I have heard of experiences of families where God has answered prayer where the prognosis for the health of the baby whilst still in the womb has not been favourable; the baby has been born healthy and on the whole developed and was able to lead a normal life.

Looking to God’s Holy Word for the answer if anyone has the right to end the life of an unborn child, God recognises the unborn child as a human life and confers upon the unborn child the right to life, just like those that are already born have a right to life. God says in Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

3. What are the responsibilities of the UK Government under its international obligations for taking action to reform abortion law in Northern Ireland? How should these be reconciled to the UK’s devolution settlement?

Reformation of abortion law is not a responsibility and my view is clearly that when something is morally wrong, wanting it to be otherwise won't make it morally right. Whether or not a mother wants or doesn't want her unborn child cannot change the fact the unborn child is real human life. Suggesting otherwise is neither scientific nor is it moral. To kill an unborn child for reasons of convenience, life style or ‘not feeling ready to be a mother yet’ will not change how God views the decision. Unborn children and their mothers, deserve our protection, our care and our help.

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