Written submission from a member of the public (ANI0251)

Executive Summary:

- The Committee should be composed of Northern Ireland politicians.
- Devolution Settlement should be respected.
- Both the child and mother have human rights.
- There is evidence supporting the benefit of existing laws in Northern Ireland.
- Personal story in support of retention of existing laws in Northern Ireland.

1. Should this committee which has no NI MP members be assessing evidence on a devolved issue?
   I would argue that committee members being steeped in the ideology and culture of England, Wales and Scotland who have accepted Abortion, are not in a position to bring a non-biased view to the issue.

2. The Devolution Settlement should be respected. To impose a view from Westminster is likely to lead to further political issues in unrelated areas.

3. Following conception of a human embryo, a unique individual is created. There is no point at which that individual ceases to become a human being or becomes more or less human. There are therefore the rights of two humans involved when considering abortion and both should have their rights respected.

4. Research conducted in 2017 by ‘Both Lives Matter’ concluded that an estimated 100,000 individuals are alive today who would not be had Northern Ireland followed England Scotland and Wales in adopting the 1967 Abortion Act.

5. Our daughter conceived at 14 years of age. She chose to keep her child. I attended every out-patient appointment with her. Only after some years did she confide in me, that on every occasion when I was absent from the room, she was pressurised by the medical staff to abort her child. She was admitted finally because of complications at 37 weeks; even then she was encouraged to abort her child.

   Adopting the Abortion Law here has led to a generation of people, including medical staff, who have become hardened in their attitudes to new life. Had we lived in Northern Ireland my daughter would have been saved this heartless bullying.

   As a medical professional I have always held the sanctity of life to be of the highest priority. Over the years, because of this view, I have been the recipient of confidences from other like-minded professionals. In one instance it was reported to me that having performed a late termination the baby would be delivered alive and then left in the sluice crying until it died. It was suggested that this was not an isolated instance!

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