As a member of the general public who was born in, and continues to live in Northern Ireland, I wish to make my views known to the Women and Equalities Committee in relation to their inquiry on abortion law in Northern Ireland.

Firstly I feel very strongly that decisions in relation to this matter are for the local devolved assembly here in Northern Ireland to make. Any attempt by the Westminster parliament to impose a decision will further undermine confidence in the local Assembly at a time when confidence in the devolved structures here needs to be rebuilt. This is particularly unnecessary in regard to this matter when as recently as February 2016, our elected representatives made their position clear.

Secondly, I believe strongly in the protecting of the most vulnerable in our society, that of the unborn child. Abortion undermines one of the most fundamental human rights, that of the right to life, and does this to those in society who literally cannot have their voice heard, being yet unborn. I believe the population in general in Northern Ireland continues to recognise the need to protect these lives, lives which will one day enrich our society with their contribution.

Overall therefore I believe that the current law on abortion should remain unchanged, with any potential future changes being left with the local devolved assembly to consider and make, thereby providing a position representative of the population here in Northern Ireland.

December 2018