I am writing as a woman, lawyer, mother and resident of Northern Ireland to ask you to make no reforms to the current law on abortion. Setting aside the emotive issues, I believe that any reform to the law to be neglectful and a breach of basic human rights of the unborn. Having witnessed my babies’ heartbeats at 5 weeks, I am often astounded at how anyone can deny that a life has begun.

Despite efforts to portray Northern Ireland as backward and behind the times, Northern Ireland is not alone in its stance, with many developed countries sharing our position.

In the mainland UK, 98% of the 9 million abortions that have been carried out since 1967, are carried out for social reasons. As the law stands, our unborn babies are protected from abortion as the majority of our elected representatives made clear in a series of votes in 2016.

Whilst there is no denying the rights of the female, her rights cannot be allowed to trump those of a young child. Perhaps more could be done to support women and families faced with an unwanted pregnancy, more options presented as feasible and more education provided before such circumstances arise.

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