Conception
• Life begins at conception. The potential for a child to be born into our world begins at conception. As people, we do not have the power to create the life which results from fertilisation. Abortion fundamentally undermines human rights – above all the right to life of the child in the womb, the most vulnerable of the human in our society.

• If we deliberately kill or terminate a child when it outside the womb, after it is born, it is deemed an act of murder. When we deliberately terminate or kill a child inside the womb, before it is born, it is called abortion. Evaluating the relative worth of a human life in this way lacks integrity.

• Carrying out abortions also requires the medical profession to violate their ethical code to protect life.

• No expectant mother says they are just carrying a foetus - they say they are “having a baby”.

Medical Intervention
• If the health of the child’s mother is at risk which leads to medical intervention in the pregnancy, this is, in my view, a valid reason for terminating the child’s life. Such intervention is very different to the plea for abortion rights for mothers for whom there is no a medical problem.

Adoption
• More could be done to promote adoption as an alternative to abortion. More support for mothers who feel unable to care for their child may need to be put in place to help them explore adoption as an alternative to abortion.

• Some couples cannot have children and may be only too willing to provide a good home to a child.

Trauma
• Someone has said that mothers were never designed to kill their babies.
• Very little research appears to be carried out with regard to the long-term mental and emotional effects of abortion on the mother.

I support the law on abortion in Northern Ireland as it currently stands

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