I would like to make a response to the Women and Equalities Committee regarding the issue of abortion laws in Northern Ireland.

I live in Northern Ireland and firmly support our current legal framework regarding abortion. I strongly believe that no one has the right to take another person’s life whether that life is in utero or not. The value of a life cannot be determined by whether that life is ‘wanted’ or not. All life is given by God and no person has the right to decide that a life is worthless.

In 2016 98% of abortions in Great Britain were carried out for social reasons. I find this figure truly horrific and have no desire to live in a society where it is socially acceptable to take the life of our unborn babies if we deem it to be inconvenient to allow that baby to live.

I am aware that for a much smaller percentage a baby is very much wanted but the parents have been given a diagnosis for their child of a life limiting condition that may prove to be fatal. These cases are devastating for all concerned however I believe the added pressure to agree to a termination in these cases is most definitely not in the best interests of the mother. Instead we should endeavour to strengthen our support systems for families and individuals who are struggling with a pregnancy whether due to social reasons or medical reasons.

I believe we should be proud of our current legal framework on abortion. We must protect the lives of our unborn babies.

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