We wish to respond to your consultation as a husband and wife with six children from Northern Ireland. Within our circle of family and friends we have witnessed at close quarters the deep pain of childlessness and the difficulties of adoption as well as the joy that children with Downs Syndrome have brought. Both of these situations are closely intertwined with the debate on abortion.

We write to urge to preserve the existing law in Northern Ireland to protect the lives of unborn children.

In our opinion it is a national tragedy that almost 9 million of the most vulnerable people in our society (helpless and totally dependent unborn children) have been aborted since the 1967 Abortion Act came into force in the UK.

It is heart breaking to learn that in 2016, 98% of the abortions carried out in Great Britain were for social reasons.

In Northern Ireland there are approximately 100,000 people alive today who otherwise would have been aborted if the Abortion Act had been extended to the Province in 1967.

Reflecting on the contribution those 100,000 have made to society and the contribution the “lost” 9 million of those aborted in Great Britain could have made, it is tragic that the social, moral and economic impacts have seemingly been largely ignored.

Please respect Northern Ireland’s law and the right of representatives elected by the people of the Province to uphold it – as they most recently did in 2016.

December 2018