As a resident of Northern Ireland I wish to respond to the House of Commons Committee which is seeking views about changing the current abortion laws in the Province. In my view this is a matter that should be left to the elected political representatives in N Ireland as and when the governing authority at Stormont is restored. Undoubtedly there needs to some amendment to the current law to make provision for the so called hard cases but it should always be remembered that tragic as hard cases are they represent a very small proportion of the overall number of pregnancies each year. It should also be borne in mind that an estimated 100,000 people are alive at present in Northern Ireland who lead perfectly normal and productive lives who would probably not be there if the current abortion law which applies in the rest of the UK had been applied in the Province.

I am personally aware of a case where an individual is alive and leading a productive life who was born following an aggressive attack on his mother and who would not be here if his mother had opted for an abortion. This is a sobering thought and very much influences my thinking on the question of abortion.

Again I respectfully request that the Committee’s report will conclude that this matter is best left to the local Assembly and use your best influence to encourage the local politicians to have it restored as soon as possible.

December 2018