Written submission from a member of the public (ANI0333)

Executive summary:

Please see below my views as a young woman living in Northern Ireland who has just become a mother, on the questions the Women and Equalities Committee asked in their abortion law inquiry scope. In summary I disagree with any changes in the law for the reasons explained below.

Main body:

Q1) What are the views of the general public, women and medical and legal professionals in Northern Ireland about the law on abortion and whether it should be reformed? How have those views changed over time?

In my view the law on abortion here in Northern Ireland is far superior to the law on abortion in England and Wales for the following reasons:

- Our current laws support the fact that women do not need to kill the weak in order to live fulfilling lives and that women are strong and courageous enough to bring new lives into the world. Research estimates that approximately 100,000 innocent people are alive today because of our laws. The law from Westminster supports the opposite sentiments and has ended in the killing of millions of innocent people—so far!
- Our current laws support the creation and maintenance of facilities set up to provide any advice, financial or social support needed by pregnant women in any circumstances. The laws in Westminster work against the provision of such assistance with abortion recommended as a “quick fix” to women’s circumstances.
- Our current laws do not discriminate against disabled babies, the possibility of killing disabled babies up to birth is completely barbaric and has a eugenic effect. Around 90% of those babies identified in utero to have Down’s Syndrome in England, Scotland and Wales are aborted.

Q2) What are the experiences of women in Northern Ireland who have been affected by the law on abortion?

As a new mother of an almost 8 week old baby I can tell you that the laws in Northern Ireland support a positive view of pregnant women and mothers as strong, leading fulfilling lives and well able to bring new lives into the world. If abortion was available here it could quickly become the quick fix to pregnant women, those in difficult circumstances and those who just had doubts about their ability to be a good mother.

When I was pregnant I had doubts just like every mother does but I know from the example of women in normal and difficult circumstances that we are stronger than we know and that we do not need to kill our innocent children to improve our lives.

I experienced a difficult birth due to issues in pregnancy but in going through this I have shown myself to be stronger than I imagined, I am proud to be a mother and he brings me so much joy. It makes me sad and sick to think that in different circumstances I might have opted to have him killed under the illusion that I needed to kill him in order to have a fulfilling life or that I wouldn’t be a good mother.

If your barbaric laws were in place here this beloved child of mine might not have been and he is the best evidence I can provide:
Q3) What are the responsibilities of the UK Government under its international obligations for taking action to reform abortion law in Northern Ireland?

My view on this question is the same as 70% of young people (age 18-xx) in NI – you have no responsibility or any right to touch our laws. As a young woman living in Northern Ireland I am insulted that the members of the Women and Equalities Committee in Westminster have made what can only be described as a colonialist inquiry into how to force their own agenda of changing our laws regarding abortion by completely bypassing the representatives of the people of Northern Ireland. There is no basis in human rights law to overturn the devolution settlement.

Q4) How should these be reconciled to the UK’s devolution settlement?

The Committee need to respect our devolution settlement and stop trying to force their views on this or any other subject on the people of Northern Ireland, who are not calling for such changes and who are completely capable of creating their own laws without interference from Westminster.

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