I am writing in a personal capacity

As a woman and scientist I struggle to understand how abortion can be ever be presented as a woman right. It involves taking a human life and, as in any situation where human life is involved, should be regulated by the criminal law. In the case of abortion, two human lives are simultaneously affected, both mother and baby need to be protected.

The immensity of the numbers of the abortion statistics in England and Wales is a testimony on how the current Abortion Act has been abused in our current practice, and how the medical profession has walked away from the Hippocratic Oath in trying to present it as a normal medical procedure and forsaking duty of care.

One human life lost, another living with the loss, “forever” closely intertwined and inseparable - the suffering of the two victims, babies and mothers, reverberates throughout the entire fibre of the society, it is palpable and unescapable. In this sense, I regard North Ireland women as privileged; privileged for being cared in a holistic manner by the medical profession; privileged for being cared by the society as a whole and by a culture of life.

A young physicist, freshly graduated, with a temporary job, simultaneously studying for a 2-years course that would open a career in Medical Physics, leaving in an accommodation offered by a friend as the family has kicked her out because not approving of the man she loves and who lives thousand miles away… and she fells pregnant when they last met. That was me some 28 years ago. Panic was only natural and, sadly, I know that such a situation would tick all the boxes in current times and that I would have no trouble in satisfying two independent doctors that abortion would be necessary – a simple tick - for “social reasons”. But what an injustice that would have been, perpetrated at the expense of an innocent human being, voiceless and powerless to defend herself! And what a loss that would have been, not only for me, but for all the people who have been touched in their lives by my wonderful daughter.

Please, when talking of human rights, never forget that everyone has the right to live!

Finally, I am from North Ireland and yet, I have decided to post my little contribution for the sake of a more general principle, respect for humanity and protection of human life. But I cannot help wondering who in this committee is from North Ireland?

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