I wish to affirm the importance of **not** liberalising the Abortion Law in Northern Ireland. Insofar as it protects the unborn, Northern Ireland has recognised that the life of human beings at their most vulnerable is at stake. This is an issue of grave importance, both in itself, and in the context of Northern Ireland, a nation which is fragile and is struggling to grow out of its embittered history. For Westminster to weigh in on this matter, tampering with the law of Northern Ireland by removing protections - a matter which Westminster evidently understands differently and would struggle to see through local eyes - would, I submit here, be a huge error.

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