Written submission from Mary (ANI0414)

This is my story. My name is Mary and I was conceived in rape, my birth mother was just 16 years old.

By the time that she realised she was pregnant she was almost five months along, her family and older siblings were not happy and two of her older sisters said you can go to England and get rid of the baby. To which my birth mother said no. I did not deserve the death sentence for the crime of my birth father as I was an innocent child with a life ahead of me, I thank my birth mother for the gift of life.

I was also born nearly three months early and was born with septicaemia and was fighting for life. I was baptised straight away in case I would not make it, I also spent four months in an incubator that, if our laws were different today, I possibly wouldn’t be alive today. Thank God for the doctors and nurses also. I was very lucky to be adopted by two wonderful loving parents.

My name is “Mary”, I am that exception. An unborn baby is a human being and a person deserving human rights, by virtue of his or her humanity. Our maternal mortality rate in Northern Ireland is the lowest in the UK.

Hard cases make bad law. Every person born and pre-born deserves to be protected, the value of human life cannot be ranked, based on the circumstances of conception. There is no human right to abortion, all human beings as members of the human family are entitled to recognition of their inherent dignity and to protection of their human rights.

Abortion hurts women and significantly increases the risk of mental health problems. Research shows that abortion carries increased risk of mental health problems, anxiety, depression, alcohol and drug problems, self-harm and suicidal behaviour.

It is totally unfair for another government, such as Westminster, to try to override the democratic process and force their own abortion culture on Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland rejects not only abortion on demand, but abortion in every case.

In Northern Ireland over 100,000 people are alive today because of our pro-life laws. In Great Britain there have been almost nine million abortions, Britain now has abortion up to birth, in the case of babies with Down’s syndrome being aborted, and of little girls merely because of their gender.

We do not want this culture of death and eugenics in Northern Ireland.

Westminster’s attempt to push abortion onto Northern Ireland clearly undermines and endangers the peace process here.

The right to life must always be respected and upheld.

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