Written submission from a member of the public (ANI0438)

"My personal experience affected by abortion laws in Northern Ireland: I fell pregnant unexpectedly. I did not consider abortion myself but thought numerous times that if I were in a different situation and had felt unable to raise a child then how a horrific decision would be compounded by the logistics of trying to arrange banal things such as transport and the financial implications that those things would have. Never mind the impact on mental health.

I find it abhorrent that policy in Northern Ireland is so dramatically different by comparison to the rest of the UK. We should be brought into line with mainland UK. If someone does not agree with abortion then that is their right; they can choose not to have one. However, they should not have the ability to control another person's ability to access a procedure that is legal and authorised in another part of the country.

I am beyond thankful that I have never been placed in a situation which I would consider one, but I would never judge another person who exercised their right to choose to end a pregnancy.

My friends/family/colleagues view on abortion: Mostly similar.

An example of how views on abortion have moved on: The majority of people whom I have discussed abortion with believe that it is a personal issue. It is not an issue for the state to decide upon outright.

What should the UK govt. do?: The UK must repeal sections 58 & 59 to bring NI policy in line with that of mainland UK.

Why is devolution not a barrier?: Devolution is not even in place and has been suspended for 2 years. The UK must step in to correct this outmoded and out of touch policy."

December 2018