1) DEVOLUTION
- abortion is a devolved issue.
- this committee has no representative from Northern Ireland.
- I believe this committee is taking an unfair advantage over the political vacuum currently in NI.
- this position threatens the integrity of devolved governments.
- several polls including lobby for life campaigns from the Precious life pro-life group have overwhelmingly voted to keep abortion out of NI.
- our legislative assembly also voted to keep abortion out

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
- Abortion ends a baby's life and destroys the mother.
- More people are alive in NI because abortion is illegal. The "Both Lives Matter" campaign gave evidence for this.
- the law is here for a reason and it matters
- the lives of disabled people are ended by abortion in mainland UK but not NI.
- people with Down's Syndrome are not discriminated against here like they are in the UK where at least 90% have their lives taken from then by abortion
- Lord Shinkwin recently testimonyed to the fact that as a disabled person he would be most safe in NI.
- a progressive society like NI should be self-affirmed because we defend our most vulnerable citizens and not bully them into extinction like what happens in the UK

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
- recent comments from judges about NI's abortion restriction being incompatible with the ECHR guidelines carry no legal weight
- most abortions are carried out for reasons not like rape or life-limiting conditions such as 90%+ of people with Down's Syndrome having their lives ended pre-natally.
- exceptional cases such as babies with life-limiting conditions or those conceived by rape should not be the basis for legislation and they are still unborn children no matter what the circumstances of their conception has been
- it was a small committee of the UN who stated that NI abortion laws violate Himan Rights and not the UN as a whole

4) PERSONAL STORIES
My younger sister was given a pre-natal diagnoses of Down's Syndrome and at that time my mother was offered an abortion by her General Practitioner (GP). Also a Consultant Paediatrician said my mum could go to Newcastle-upon-Tyne for a D+E abortion. We live in Northern Ireland and I believe that if abortion had of been legal in 1996 my mum would have more pressure out on her to end my pre-born sister's life. I am so grateful that abortion is illegal in Northern Ireland.

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