Written submission from John Gurlides (ANI0459)

1) DEVOLUTION
Abortion is - and should be - a devolved issue which should be decided solely by the people of N. Ireland and their representatives, not imposed by outside politicians, judges or unelected groups that represent no one by themselves.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
N. Ireland is distinct from the rest of the United Kingdom. We do not live in a "post-Christian era". Our faith is very important to us and so are its values.
To us, ALL human life is precious, including that of the unborn and the disabled.
As Lord Shinkwin - himself a disabled person - so eloquently put it: "Britain's laws on abortion are a license to kill for the crime of being born disabled" and "Northern Ireland is the safest place in our United Kingdom to be diagnosed with a disability before birth."
I think any "equality" commission should concern itself first and foremost with protecting the vulnerable. The unborn and the disabled certainly fit into that category. Perhaps it is the rest of the United Kingdom that needs to change their laws?

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY

4) PERSONAL STORIES
Finally, let me introduce myself: I am the single father of a son who was awarded the enhanced rate, on both mobility and care, of the Personal Independence Payment (formerly DLA).
My son is a source of pride for me. His life is precious to me and to his Creator - the source of all life. I am proud - and, at the same time, humbled - by the honour God has bestowed upon me to trust me to bring him up.

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