1) DEVOLUTION
This is a very sensitive issue here in Northern Ireland. As it affects the women of Northern Ireland, it is a matter that should be decided by the people of Northern Ireland. We are very different and have different viewpoints therefore this should not be something that is just decided by Westminster, especially considering not a single member of Women and Equalities Committee represents a seat in Northern Ireland.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
Where is the most basic human right to live for our most vulnerable in society, our unborn children? We rightly should not discriminate against a person with a disability, why then do people think it is acceptable to discriminate against babies with disabilities? In our society we celebrate all sorts of differences, if we love, cherish, protect those who are vulnerable, they in turn they teach us more about being human than we could imagine. As a special needs teacher for nine years I have seen the love and joy children with downs syndrome have brought to their families and their friends. They have a unique and special gift to see the good in people and yet we threaten them under the guise of "my human right" where is their human rights? In 2016, around 90% of those identified in utero to have Down’s Syndrome in England, Scotland and Wales were aborted. In Northern Ireland on the other hand, 90% of children identified in utero with Down’s Syndrome were born. The law on abortion in Northern Ireland has been proven to save lives. Research conducted by ‘Both Lives Matter’ in 2017 found that an estimated 100,000 individuals are alive today who otherwise would not be had Northern Ireland followed England, Scotland and Wales in adopting the 1967 Abortion Act.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
Although a number of Supreme Court Justices recently indicated that they think that on two narrow points - life limiting conditions and sexual crime - the law on abortion in Northern Ireland is incompatible with Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, these comments were non-binding.
Even if a future court made a binding ruling, the cases in question only engage a tiny number of abortion cases in practice.
Less than 2% of recorded abortions in England and Wales were granted on these grounds.
The argument is frequently made that the UN says that Northern Ireland’s abortion laws are not human rights compliant and that Northern Ireland should decriminalise abortion.
The truth, however, is that this does not refer to the view of the United Nations as a body, but to a report issued by one unelected committee, the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). There is a danger that the Women’s and Equalities Committee accepts the lie that women can only be equal when they have an absolute right to abortion in any circumstance for any reason. This pitches a women against her unborn child and measures their freedom, equality and progress by their ability to end the life of their own child. This is a dangerous and destructive way to view women and humanity more widely. Many women, men and children see a better and more human way ahead which values the life, health and dignity of both as far as possible.

4) PERSONAL STORIES
As mentioned I taught in a special school for none years and one of my closest friends has a little boy with downs syndrome . These children are a delight and a joy. I know all of the families that I worked with and my friend would not swap their children for a "normal" child.