Written submission from Grace Barber (ANI0464)

1) DEVOLUTION
I agree that abortion should be decided by Northern Ireland’s elected representatives that what has happened in Parliament recently is constitutionally inappropriate.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
I agree that Ireland is the safest place for children to be born with disabilities. I heard Lord Shinkwins speech in the House of Lords and applaud this man for being a voice for the disabled in the womb. It is sad that in other parts of the UK we have discriminated so badly that if a child is disabled they can be dispensed with. This is so wrong. Whilst I appreciate there are some cases when the disabilities of a baby in the womb are incompatible with life and hard decisions are made I believe too many pregnancies are ending in abortion.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
We need to carefully consider the way ahead that values the life health and dignity of both the mother and baby and be a voice for those who have no voice. We should protect and guard the weak and vulnerable not dispense with them so easily.

4) PERSONAL STORIES
I was a midwife when that abortion act was first introduced. Sadly I heard off tragic instances of babies being born who were aborted and breathing at birth and left to die in a kidney dish in the sluice. Alongside this we have neonatal units trying to preserve the lives of premature babies at 22 weeks. The contradiction is stark and damning on our society. Since the abortion act was formed 9,000,000 babies have been killed. Little lives who are torn limb from limb in their mother’s womb today often for the sake of convenience and also as a means of birth control. Whilst women find themselves in crisis with an unwanted pregnancy, help is needed to support and give advise at this time to make a better choice. Lives have been saved as a result of such help. It’s time to look again at what we are doing to these little lives. We have as a nation become guilty of mass infanticide. For that is what it is

November 2018