1) DEVOLUTION

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY

4) PERSONAL STORIES

Happy to share my experience of empathetic care received in NI during a complicated miscarriage in 2014 if that would ever be helpful to Both Lives Matter. I have been appalled over the past year at how stories of miscarriage complications and treatment have been used to sway the public opinion in favour of more lenient abortion policies.

In 2014, I was pregnant for the second time after a previous miscarriage and unfortunately things were going the same way again. Throughout weeks of scans, blood tests and expectant management, doctors were unsure if my pregnancy was viable and suspected that the baby could be developing outside of my uterus. They did all they could to both give the baby every chance and ensure my safety. When the scans and blood tests clearly showed that my pregnancy was not progressing normally, I was offered the choice of methotrexate treatment or a laparotomy and d and c procedure. (Treatments available in Northern Ireland which safely end a pregnancy that is not viable.) I chose the latter. I am grateful for the care that I received here in NI and although it was a very difficult time, I am also grateful that under our laws both the developing baby and I were important to the doctors who gave us time and at every opportunity one more scan, one more chance just in case the baby could be in the right place and developing normally. One Doctor captured our thoughts by musing aloud that the extra scan she was performing was important as I would never want to look back and say ‘What if...?’ Unfortunately for us this pregnancy ended but we have been blessed with two children since then. Looking back, I am very glad that there are no ‘what ifs’ in my life and, looking at the bigger picture, I am also glad that there 100,000 fewer ‘what ifs’ in Northern Ireland due to our laws. What a great burden we have been spared.

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