1) DEVOLUTION
I appeal that devolution continue to be respected and that the will of the people of Northern Ireland be respected, that is that abortion law for Northern Ireland be decided in Northern Ireland by our elected representatives when the assembly returns.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
As a teacher of children with disabilities, this is an issue close to my heart. It grieves me especially that the law surrounding abortion in Great Britain has contributed to the situation today in which 90% of human foetuses in the womb that are diagnosed as having Down's Syndrome, have their lives terminated by abortion. This seems to me like an issue of grave discrimination and an area in which other nations striving for equality for those with disabilities may learn from Northern Ireland.

In October, Lord Shinkwin stated in the House of Lords, "Northern Ireland is the safest place in our United Kingdom to be diagnosed with a disability before birth."

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
In the interests of human rights and equality, the claim that women can only be equal when they have an absolute right to abortion in any circumstance and for any reason, pitches women against their unborn children. Freedom, equality and progress, in a progressive, modern and liberal society, should not and cannot be measured by the ability to end another human's life.

As far as possible, I appeal that the humanity and dignity of pregnant women and their unborn babies be respected and upheld. Abortion on demand does not allow for this.

4) PERSONAL STORIES
My personal story is that I was conceived in an unplanned pregnancy in 1985 in Northern Ireland. My parents terminated their relationship soon after they discovered that I had been conceived. Thankfully I was born into a culture that largely saw it as wrong to end the life of a human being and into a family who believed that taking the life of a human, no matter how unplanned or inconvenient that life may be, was wrong. I believe that I am one of the 100,000 people alive in Northern Ireland today because of the laws (which are not perfect) surrounding abortion and that had I been conceived in Great Britain it is likely that my life would have been ended.

I therefore appeal on the simple basis of human rights that laws akin to the 1967 law are not introduced in Northern Ireland in order that all humans have their fundamental right to life respected.

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