1) DEVOLUTION
This is a devolved matter, which needs to be decided by local politicians in Northern Ireland. Even though the NI Assembly is not active at present, this is such a sensitive issue that it needs to be decided by the people elected to power by the people of NI. No member of the Women & Equalities Committee holds a seat in Stormont and, therefore, cannot speak for the people of NI. A recent poll showed that between 64% - 70% of people in NI think that abortion should be decided by our own politicians.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
The existing abortion law in NI has saved circa 100,000 lives since 1967. This has made a positive difference to 100,000 families. The existing law protects disabled people as, under the law in England, Scotland and Wales, a disabled baby can be aborted up to full term! This is horrendous. In 2016, around 90% of those diagnosed with Downs Syndrome were aborted in England, Scotland and Wales. In NI 90% of babies diagnosed with Downs Syndrome were born. Lord Shinkworth recently stated in the House of Lords that NI was the safest place in the UK to be diagnosed with a disability before birth.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
The law always focuses on the “hard” cases such as life limiting conditions and secular crime, yet less than 2% of abortions performed in England and Wales were granted on these grounds. Human Rights advocates focus on the mother’s human rights. What about the unborn baby’s human rights? This is not considered, despite the fact that this unborn baby is living and surviving in his/her mother’s womb for 9 months. She is giving life to another member of the human race. How can she decide to kill that baby developing inside her body? How can the law protect someone who is content to kill their own baby? What sort of a law would protect someone with murderous intentions?

4) PERSONAL STORIES
N/a

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