Written submission from Gail Cameron (ANI0528)

1) DEVOLUTION
As a citizen in Northern Ireland, I feel that the beliefs and values which shape the laws should be reflected by the people of Northern Ireland and important decisions surrounding abortion should only be made and voted on by the people of Northern Ireland and their voice is heard.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
In Northern Ireland, many lives of the unborn babies have been saved due to the current law. Both lives matter before and after birth. Every child should have a chance to life. I strongly believe that those who have disabilities or risk of foetal abnormalities should be offered a compassionate approach and medical care based on the infants needs. If the infant has a poor chance of survival and resuscitation after birth is not deemed appropriate the parents should be offered time to spend time with baby and and comfort care can be given and a holistic approach to both support mother and baby at this difficult time. In Northern Ireland there is a high rate of people and children with disabilities who all have a positive impact on society and contribute, and passing any changes in abortion law, would alter the social make-up of Northern Ireland. What also must not be forgotten is the long term impact of a mother’s mental health following abortion also needs to be considered.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
There should not be a distinction of which life matters most, but instead the focus should be on how to protect and support both lives through pregnancy and delivery and in the post-natal period.

4) PERSONAL STORIES

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