1) DEVOLUTION
I am deeply concerned that members of the Women and Equalities Committee, who do not have a single MP from Northern Ireland on their committee, should assume that they can take it upon themselves to impose their views and opinions which are contrary to the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland assembly is currently suspended, however, this is only a temporary situation and something as emotive and contentious as the abortion issue should be left to the politicians who have been democratically elected by the people of Northern Ireland. This is a devolved issue and Westminster should not be obtruding in any way.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
The current law on abortion in Northern Ireland is a life saver, as evidenced by approximately 100,000 people who are alive today in Northern Ireland, thanks to the protection that this law affords - surely a living testimony! I am also proud that in Northern Ireland we do not discriminate against the disabled in the womb, but value and respect all life equally. This law is crucial to every unborn child and to ensure equal rights for all.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
Under the guise of equality there is always the danger of women being duped in to believing that women must be allowed access to abortion for any reason, whatever the circumstances. This sets women at odds with her unborn child, giving rise to a conflict of emotions, whereby her progress, status and equality are measured by her ability to terminate the life of her own child. This should never be the case, as both lives are of equal importance.
In England and Wales a very small percentage of women, approximately 2% were granted abortions based on sexual crime or life limiting conditions which would suggest that the remaining 98% are based on other reasons, such as not feeling ready for child birth. The fact that approximately 80% of abortions are carried out on single women would suggest that abortions are carried out more for convenience than necessity.
Surely in this modern age in which we live there is a much more dignified and humane alternative to abortion in which both lives are valued.

4) PERSONAL STORIES
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