Written submission from a member of the public (ANI0531)

1) DEVOLUTION
I believe this issue is so important to the people of Northern Ireland that it would be very wrong to have a decision imposed upon us by Westminster without giving the people whom it potentially affects the chance to have their say.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
Disability covers a wide spectrum of conditions and the quality and potential of a life cannot be known in utero. There are too many other factors which influence individual lives. I find it very shocking to learn that 90% of babies diagnosed in utero with Down's Syndrome in mainland UK were aborted. I do not wish this to be the case in Northern Ireland.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
I feel there is no excuse for aborting perfectly healthy babies whenever there are others who are longing to be parents and cannot conceive children of their own. Is the life of the unborn child so lacking in value that it is not even worth 9 months of inconvenience to a woman. And what about serial abortions, when are women going to be held accountable for their own birth control choices.

4) PERSONAL STORIES
As the older sister of a brother with Down's Syndrome, I feel very strongly that it is wrong to abort babies on this basis or on the basis of any disability. My brother Thomas has enriched our lives over the last 42 years and is loved by everyone in our village. He has no other health issues and lives a very carefree life. I would say he is happier than most other people I know and yet 90% of babies like him who are diagnosed in utero are being aborted. The tragedy of this situation is obvious to me.

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