1) DEVOLUTION
It is blatant and obvious that it is unfair for Westminster should make a decision on Northern Ireland’s behalf - not only since our own government is currently suspended but also because we have no Northern Irish representatives in the Women and Equalities committee. That in itself should be reason enough to not make a decision for an entire country without acknowledging their view or vote - on any issue or law, let alone one as sensitive and two-sided as this. But much more important, is the fact that this decision has so many lives at stake; we should be taking so much time and care and consideration for this law to be changed- and this should be a decision made by the people of Northern Ireland, as it will affect the lives (or lack of lives) of the people of Northern Ireland. It is literally a life or death situation and should not be taken lightly or taken for us.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
Do we not realise that abortion is literally killing babies? And much more than this, killing the most vulnerable in society- that is, babies with disabilities? Having a disability is not justifiable with the death penalty. Many disabilities are a matter of genetic lottery- it could have been any of us who had a disability in utero. Therefore if the abortion law had been passed, it could have been any of us who would be killed without a chance to live and prove that life can be (and absolutely is) worth living even with a disability. I am scared to think where this “in utero disability” definition will be stretched to- will it lead to designer babies? Will it be a case in the future that babies will be killed if they have asthma or diabetes? Or if they have the wrong genes for eye colour or hair colour? The only way to stop this for sure is to stop babies being killed for simply having a condition (that’s not even going to detrimentally effect the birth or pregnancy for the woman).

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
I do not agree that human rights equates to the right to end human life. Surely that is murder, and it is not anyone’s right to take away anyone’s life- whether they are inside or outside the womb. Abortion is not ok. Killing babies just because they’re not born and not planned for is not ok. Killing disabled babies just because they’re disabled is not ok. The right to kill is not a right- it’s a crime. Northern Ireland is in no way failing to deliver rights and education and support for women. In fact, there are services here in Northern Ireland for women that there aren’t in England or mainland UK. Such as Both Lives Matter- which campaigns for the support and wellbeing of both the baby AND the woman. Why can’t we have both? And the charity organisation “Love For Life” is a charity that educates young people about sex and the consequences of having babies and learning about contraception. It is important that we educate our young men and women about sex and the reality of pregnancy- so they are well enough informed and prepared for the potential results of sex, and so they can prevent becoming pregnant in the first place if that is what they should want. The choice whether or not to have a baby should be made BEFORE sex with contraception- not AFTER by killing a child.

4) PERSONAL STORIES

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