1) DEVOLUTION
I believe changing the law on abortion in Northern Ireland should be discussed and agreed within Northern Ireland itself. This is a massive issue and we should have our say on it. You aren’t even including a representative from Northern Ireland on this committee which is appalling. England would not stand for another country deciding their laws so we should be given the same respect in Northern Ireland. Setting a precedent on this issue would not be good for our future.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
In Northern Ireland we have a different culture and view towards abortion. We value the rights of the unborn child and we don’t want this to change. 100,000 people are still alive today because abortion is not readily available in Northern Ireland. More resources need to be put into caring for people carrying unwanted babies rather than encouraging them to abort them. There are many other options available, which have worked successfully for these 100,000 babies in Northern Ireland so far.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
One of the major arguments for allowing abortion is due to life limiting conditions and sexual assault but this is only a small percentage of the number of abortions carried out in England. The main reason by far is because a baby just isn’t wanted at that time and I don’t believe this is acceptable to the rights of the unborn child. This isn’t about moving forward in women’s rights, it should be about balancing the rights of the woman and the unborn child, both are precious.

4) PERSONAL STORIES
I had an ectopic pregnancy that ruptured and had to be removed. I’m so glad to know i was safe in the knowledge that the doctors were working in the best interests of me AND my baby. If there had been any way to save it, I know they would have had to explore that option due to the law in Northern Ireland. Had this happened in England, where abortion is legal, I wouldn’t have had this confidence in the doctors, as by law, my life would have taken priority over my baby no matter what.

December 2018