Written submission from Barra McAteer (ANI0554)

1) DEVOLUTION
Westminster should have absolutely no say on such a sensitive matter in NI. The appropriate representatives elected by the people here in NI have reviewed, discussed and voted on the matter as recently as 2016. Any changes to this law (affecting the people of NI) should be discussed, voted on and implemented by the elected representatives chosen by the very people it will affect i.e the NI government. Not a group in Westminster that does not have the appropriate input or representation of the NI people.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
As the recent lord Shinkwin put it “NI is the safest place to be diagnosed with a disability before birth.” It is absolutely disgusting that the Westminster governments should want to remove the last safe haven for people born with lifelong disabilities and devalue them as human beings by legalising abortion. The people of NI are proud to accept all individuals into our society, regardless of gender or ability, and the law to change this is completely discriminatory and has no place in NI society.

Every day that abortion is illegal in NI is another day that lives are saved, with over 100,000 saved since NI made the decision to not follow the rest of the UK in legalising abortion.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
In regards to statements made and lies told about NI being in contradiction to human rights and equality, these claims were not only false but misleading and recklessly dangerous. The idea that a woman only has equality if she has the unquestionable right to kill her unborn child is disgusting. The unborn child is entitled to the absolute protection of its life, a right that we should all be fighting for, not fighting to remove. It’s a contradiction to say that a woman has equality when entitled to abortion as she is aborting another human being who has the same rights.

4) PERSONAL STORIES

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