1) DEVOLUTION
I strongly believe that the issue of abortion should be dealt with by the elected people in Northern Ireland as it refers to legislation of our country. It should not be decided upon by politicians from Westminster who are not familiar with the views and cultural / religious beliefs which are held dear by most NI residents. I realise that unfortunately the current political stalemate at Stormont means NI is not currently in a position to debate this issue, however I feel that due to the importance of the matter and implications for the mothers and future unborn babies that this should be retained and decided upon when our Assembly is up and running again.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
I believe the current law in NI on abortion is fit for purpose. It reflects the opinion of a vast majority of the electorate and more specifically it continues to protect the right to life of the unborn child who cannot speak for itself. Even children identified with a disability in the womb are protected in NI. They contribute much great value to our society and the thought that a disabled child identified as such in the womb would be liable to be aborted is abhorrent to me. They are human beings with as much right to live as everyone else. It would be a step too far, like unto the ridiculousness of saying that an adult who is diagnosed with a disability has no right to life. Should they too be sentenced to death? I think not. Huge numbers of the people in the UK would be described as disabled in some form, we may need to adapt but they still are entitled to live their lives, as should these unborn children. People/children are unique individuals and should be respected as such, and given the rights and protections of all of our society.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
I believe every person, child or adult, including the unborn child, has an equal right to the best life it can possibly have. As a society it is our responsibility to ensure there are no hindrances to such a right for all, equally. Abortion legislation is therefore a vital part of this, the protection of currently affords in NI is vital to ensuring this extends to mother and unborn child and facilities and support are required to assist those who find themselves facing such a decision and to respect their decision whatever it should be, but abortion should not be seen as an easy answer. Many women have lived their lives unable to forgive themselves for making a decision to abort a child because they thought they had no other option and continue to envision his their child might have looked throughout its growing life had it been alive. Once the child is aborted, it is final, irreversible. Surely support, counselling and help is what the mother in this situation needs.

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