1) DEVOLUTION
This is a devolved issue which should be decided by politicians in Northern Ireland, not Westminster. Not a single member of the Women and Equalities Committee represents a seat in Northern Ireland.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
The law on abortion in Northern Ireland has been proven to save lives. Research conducted by ‘Both Lives Matter’ in 2017 found that an estimated 100,000 individuals are alive today who otherwise would not be had Northern Ireland followed England, Scotland and Wales in adopting the 1967 Abortion Act. Complaints were made to the Advertising Standards Authority about this claim but after a 5 month investigation, involving health statisticians, the ASA concluded that the 100,00 figure was indeed reasonable.
In addition, the law on abortion in Northern Ireland protects individuals who are disabled from unjustified discrimination. In England, Scotland and Wales, unborn children can be aborted up to term if a disability is identified in utero. In Northern Ireland, this is not the case. This makes a major difference.
In 2016, around 90% of those identified in utero to have Down’s Syndrome in England, Scotland and Wales were aborted. In Northern Ireland on the other hand, 90% of children identified in utero with Down’s Syndrome were born.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
The argument is frequently made that the UN says that Northern Ireland’s abortion laws are not human rights compliant and that Northern Ireland should decriminalise abortion. The truth, however, is that this does not refer to the view of the United Nations as a body, but to a report issued by one unelected committee, the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
It might be believed that the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which defines the remit of the CEDAW Committee, sets out a right to abortion which Northern Ireland is failing to deliver. In truth, however, at no point does the Convention mention abortion.

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