1) DEVOLUTION
MPs seem to have lost sight of the fact that this is a devolved issue, and that 64% of NI adults want abortion for NI to be decided by our OWN elected representatives (including 66% of women and 70% of 18-34 year olds!)
It is going to completely counterproductive to interfere with devolved government even with temporary suspension, and will have implications for the remainder of the UK.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
What sort of society promotes the abortion of disabled children, especially up to birth and particularly Down babies - 90% of Downs babies are aborted in GB, and in NI 90% were born...in the cold light of day NI presents as a more advanced society, and we don't want to change that and move backwards- already almost 9 million babies have been aborted in GB in 50 years....that is no mark of an advanced society!

As lord Shinkwin put it ' NI is the safest place to be diagnosed with a disability before birth.'

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
The distorted view that women are only equal when they have the absolute right to abortion in any circumstances for any reason is a dangerous, misguided and factually unsustainable view and when we as human beings realise the implications and learn to value life health and dignity for all we will have a more constructive and wholesome society. We can provide proper prenatal and perinatal care for those in pregnancy crisis.

What society can with integrity convince it's self that it's mark of achievement or advancement is its ability to kill it's unborn children.

Perhaps, as part of deliberations the committee should view the clinical procedure involved in late term abortion, from the moment the child is poisoned to the removal limb by limb..they will be in no doubt of the implications and the basic facts.

Some would suggest that 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.

4) PERSONAL STORIES
Many mistakes have been made in the past, there have been horror stories fuelled by reaction to unwanted pregnancies - we hear of babies bodies being discovered in Tuam, and the reaction it invokes, we expect people to be brought to justice.

However-for the future is the answer not to provide better supported care, better education... as opposed to taking the legal right of life away from our unborn children, the weakest in society - and making the Tuam experience lawful, before birth.... are we saying that the practice of leaving a new born disabled child on a window sill a 100 years ago was actually legitimate ( as long as a Doctor does it prior to birth?)

November 2018