1) DEVOLUTION
I believe that abortion law in Northern Ireland should be decided by the people of Northern Ireland and their elected representatives. A recent ComRes poll of Northern Ireland adults shows that 64% of people are in agreement with my belief. In fact 66% of NI women and 70% of NI 18 to 34 year olds are in agreement.

I understand that no member of the Women and Equalities Committee represents a seat in Northern Ireland, so it is all the more important that the Committee listens to the voices of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
Northern Ireland's current abortion law saves many, many lives each year, and not least the lives of children who have been identified in utero as having a disability. All lives matter, and discrimination against those with disabilities is unacceptable whether before or after birth.

As a citizen of Northern Ireland I am proud to realise that under the current abortion law here an estimated 100,000 people are alive today who would otherwise have been aborted if the 1967 Abortion Act (England, Scotland and Wales) had applied here.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
I believe that every single unborn baby has a right to life and health and dignity as far as possible, as has the baby’s mother.

With this in mind, I believe that it may be helpful for a slight amendment to be made to the current abortion law in Northern Ireland to clarify procedures where foetal abnormality has been identified which is clearly incompatible with life outside the womb, or where sexual crime has occurred. However, such situations represent only a tiny fraction of cases where abortion may be considered, so no large scale change in the law as a whole is necessary on their account.

4) PERSONAL STORIES

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