Written submission from Stephen Begley (ANI0610)

1) DEVOLUTION
This consultation demonstrates the spirit of colonialism is still rife within Westminster when a committee based in England can make decisions that will solely affect the people of Northern Ireland, without even a single minister representing NI on that committee. Such action not only undermines devolution and the Peace Process, but is embarrassing for the UK and Northern Ireland on a global scale. This process signals to both nationalist and unionist parties that Britain will ride roughshod over the will of the Northern Ireland people and government.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
The law in NI seeks to do better for women, children, and society as a whole than implementing a 1950s-era proposal that failed to do what its original proponents intended. Seeking to implement the same strategies in NI, especially when those seeking to utilise such strategies have easy recourse to them in the UK or Republic of Ireland, stifles innovation and holistic social programs aimed at preventing crisis pregnancies and helping struggling mothers. Abortion, a process which no woman wants to go through, is accepted as "thee" solution to an unexpected pregnancy in the mainland UK and consequently social development relating to better solutions is notably lacking, placing the burden of this traumatic procedure on the woman solely, and not on her society which should support her. Forcing abortion upon NI would mean defining that abortion is again "thee" solution for woman facing crisis pregnancies, undermining more modern initiatives aimed at prevention of unplanned pregnancies and support for women in a very distressing situation.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY

4) PERSONAL STORIES

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