1) DEVOLUTION
The issue of abortion has always been a devolved matter, stretching back to the introduction of abortion in GB. Why after so many years, is it suddenly appropriate to ignore the democratic precedent and impose laws direct on NI? What has changed constitutionally to enact this change? Such a move would call into question the principle of devolution, if at any time, Westminster can impose unwanted laws on one of the home nations. The current suspension of the NI assembly, does not effect the constitutional principles unpinning devolution and our democratic arrangements.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
It is a source of great pride to many of the people in Northern Ireland, both Protestant and Catholic, that our current laws have saved the lives of so many people including those with Down's Syndrome. I am sure you have been furnished with all the statistics to support this statement, but is it not a basic feature of humanity that all humans are given an equal chance to live? Disabilities do not make a person any less of a human and to allow abortion in these cases is to introduce a hierarchy of importance for humans.
We are proud of our compassionate society and hope that other countries would learn from the richness our society has from giving all our less able citizens a chance to live.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
I urge you to think outside of the narrow constraints usually placed on this debate and consider the rights and equality of the unborn women. Pitching a woman against her child does not bring a benefit to any woman and completely disregards the rights of the unborn. What is the moral justification for doing this? NI abortion laws are legally compliant and there is no grounds whatsoever for a compulsion from Westminster to change this.

4) PERSONAL STORIES
Having spent 7 months in hospital with a 27 week old baby, I have seen first hand the great skill care and effort taken to protect these premature babies. I have stood beside the cot of a 23 week old baby, perfectly formed and awesome. I marvelled at the efforts of the NHS to provide 24/7 nursing care with no hesitation to try any treatment and means possible to save this baby's life. Yet, should the barbarism of abortion be legalised in Northern Ireland, in the same hospital, the same age of baby could be legally separated limb from limb and discarded. How does anybody align these opposing ideals?

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