Written submission from Sarah Wright (ANI0657)

1) DEVOLUTION
I'm concerned that the move to force abortion law 'reform' in Northern Ireland by MPs in Westminster undermines and ignores the devolution process. Our politicians, who speak for and represent their constituents, have repeatedly backed our life-affirming stance on abortion, and as a citizen of Northern Ireland, I believe that Westminster's involvement in this issue sets a precedent for the British government to overstep the bounds of legitimate self-governance protected by devolution.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
Our abortion laws in Northern Ireland afford protection to citizens born with disabilities in a way that no other country in the UK does. 90% of NI babies diagnosed in utero with Down's are given the chance to live by their parents. 90% of babies diagnosed with Downs in utero in the rest of the UK are aborted. We cannot be a country that discriminates based on disability. We value our citizens with Down Syndrome and other disabilities: they are as deserving of life and opportunity as any other person in Northern Ireland.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
I believe it is reductive and essentially flawed to argue that women in Northern Ireland are somehow being denied human rights because of our current abortion laws. Women are not more free or less marginalised by being given the legal 'right's to murder their children. Abortion is not a human rights, civil rights of women's rights issue (unless we're talking about the flagrantly ignored and preeminent right to life, which is taken from the unborn citizen by abortion). As a young woman in Northern Ireland, I would like our Women and Equalities Committee to spend time, resources and effort in making changes for our women that will actually benefit us, such as equal pay rights, increased support for stay at home mums and families with children with disabilities.. the scope for change is vast and the work you do is important. Please don't waste it on making murder legal and palatable in Northern Ireland.

4) PERSONAL STORIES

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