1) DEVOLUTION
Here in Northern Ireland a majority of women do not think they need the “right” to abortion to be “equal” with men. This may be different in mainland U.K., but as we all know, there are differences between the cultures of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Each should be valued for these differences and we as Northern Irish women should never have our decisions made for us by people who don’t understand our culture, especially by a committee that has no members from Northern Ireland.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
A woman I know well is called [name]. Her daughter is [age]. When her daughter was born, her life expectancy was less than that, but because of scientific advancements, the life expectancy for her is now at least [age]. We studied this at university, and yes, her daughter has [condition]. As a student [scientist], it saddens me that some people view those with [condition] and other disabilities as a burden to society, enough to encourage abortion of these “inconvenient” foetuses. These little ones (the translation of foetuses) are helpless, unaware that their genetics cost them their life. They are not to blame, but they are the ones who are punished. I love that I live in a country where those with disabilities are honoured from the embryonic stage. It seems strange that these lives would be even more marginalised in the mainland. Please do not interfere with our protection of these people who require more protection.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
At the end of the day, abortion does end in the termination of further growth of a human. In other words it is death of another human on purpose. Ending a life. I think it is strange that as women we “need” a right to end a life to be seen as equals with men. Surely it is more equal to support women more through times where abortion really is an option.

Another thing, and this actually angers me- “my body, my choice”. I have always loved science, and as a result I am baffled by this phrase. It is blatantly unfactual. An untruth. A lie. To put it simply, as soon as an embryo is formed, it has unique DNA. This DNA is not the same as it’s mother. It is inside it’s mother’s body, but it is a different human. It is a very toxic idea to portray a foetus as just an extra part of a woman that can be removed if she doesn’t want it. Every human should be allowed the right to life, so I would really prefer abortion remained an absolute last resort and believe that our current laws allow that.

4) PERSONAL STORIES
My [contact] is called [name]. She has a major [condition] where she has as unusual [medical condition]. When her parents found this out, it was implied that this baby would never have a normal life, but they ignored all offers of termination. [Name] is now [14-18]. She lights up the room when she walks in, her laugh is contagious, she goes to a mainstream high school, and honestly, I didn’t know there was anything different about her until my friend explained it one time. If abortion is made more easy an option, there will be less [name] in the world.

The fact is that abortion is a negative thing. And any “pro-choice” campaigns present abortion as a positive thing- a right, a means for equality. Really? We can’t keep living in that delusion. Abortion is never a “good” thing. It is sad, heartbreaking, awful. It should never be an easy decision. It should be a last resort.

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