Written submission from Ken Neely (ANI0665)

1) DEVOLUTION
I am very concerned that a committee at Westminster is looking into the issue of abortion in Northern Ireland. This is a devolved issue and even though Stormont is not sitting its authority should not be usurped by a committee in Westminster, particularly one that has no Northern Ireland representation.

The people of Northern Ireland wish to make their own decisions. What confidence will the people of Northern Ireland, or Scotland and Wales, now have that this 'we know best' approach would not be used for other sensitive issues.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
I believe very strongly that both lives matter. There are some very sad and tragic cases that are being put forward in support of abortion but these are being used to hide the fact that abortion is now primarily seen as an extension of contraception.

Unborn disabled children are still children. We don’t at the moment see a new born baby or any young child that becomes disabled after birth as someone to be killed but maybe that terrifying scenario is not far off if moving out of the womb is the only difference.

It has been said that Northern Ireland is now the safest place in the UK to be diagnosed with a disability before birth. Long may that be.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
It is extremely dishonest to use exceptional circumstances in support of making abortion available for all women. Life limiting situations and sexual crimes are truly tragic for the women involved but again I believe that in each situation there are two lives involved. Currently only 2% of abortions in England and Wales would fall into this category.

The pro-abortion lobby continually refer to the fact that Northern Ireland’s abortion laws are not in compliance with human rights and point to the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Woman. Again, both lives matter - who is discriminating against the child? Perhaps we can salve our consciences by using the hard cases such as life limiting situations but unless you believe the child only becomes a child outside of the womb then hard cases do not excuse the abortion of thousands of otherwise healthy children. If the physical (non life threatening) or mental state of the mother is said to be a reason for abortion then any child at any age should be in dread of 'post term abortion' - what is the difference?

4) PERSONAL STORIES

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