1) DEVOLUTION
This is a very sensitive issue in Northern Ireland. I like many am very frustrated that Stormont is not functioning but I do not think the answer is to ignore the principles of devolution. I would have major concerns if Westminster were to legislator on this issue and not our local politicians as to the affect that would have on other devolved assemblies.
I note with concern that there is not a single member of the Women and Equalities Committee that represents a seat in Northern Ireland
I note that recent polling in NI shows that 65% of women in Northern Ireland believe that abortion legislation should be decided by Northern Ireland’s elected representatives.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
I do not agree that the life of the unborn child has no value or rights--- both lives matter. Women with a crisis pregnancy need care, compassion and support-but this can be given without an abortion.To be pro life is not to be anti women. If being a progressive country means we kill our unborn babies may we never become a progressive country. I think it is positive that 100,000 people are alive today because of the present in Northern Ireland legislator. Not valuing the life of unborn babies has a knock on negative effect on how we value other people in society
I think it is a cause for celebration that in Northern Ireland 90% of babies with Down's Syndrome are born. It is a sad reflection on the value placed on children with a disability in the rest of the UK that 90% are aborted.
It is sad to think that the most dangerous and vulnerable place to live in Great Britain is the womb.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
The vast majority of abortions in Great Britain are done for social reasons -- very few are done following sexual crimes and when the baby has a life limiting condition. These two minority condition are often used by the pro abortion lobby to introduce abortion laws that result in millions of healthy babies being aborted. I have major concerns that women who are carrying a baby with a life limiting condition are not given the support they need to continue with the pregnancy and have that precious time with their little one -they are often made to feel abortion is the only option.
Women who are pregnant as a result of rape need to be supported if they wish to continue with the pregnancy-again I have concerns that it is much easier to refer them for an abortion than give the necessary support needed to continue with the pregnancy.
I do not believe that women are made to end the lives of their babies- whether in the womb or outside the womb. No one's right to choose should result in the death of anyone-- even if they are the smallest and most vulnerable in our society. Women and society are not enriched by the availability of abortion, quite the opposite.

4) PERSONAL STORIES
I am a retired GP who worked in general practice for over 30 years. I know some of the 100,000 people who are alive today because abortion was not available in Northern Ireland for their mothers. Without exception each women who felt abortion was their only option and would have had it if it had been available came back at some stage to tell me how glad they were that abortion had not been available and how glad they were to have their son/daughter.
I also had other women who had had abortions and their lives had been one of regret and they needed post abortion counselling to come to terms with the deep loss and regret that they felt.

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