1) DEVOLUTION
The matter of any change in legislation in relation to abortion is for the Assembly at Stormont, while the Assembly is not running at the minute it will be. Any change to the legislation should be left to it. Would the committee interfere in the affairs of Scotland or Wales in the same way? I think not. Time and time again the Assembly rejected any change to our legislation by all major political parties, as our abortion laws are good laws and recognise that both the life of the mother and of the baby matter. (Sinn Fein only changed its stance against the wishes of many of its supporters to get votes in the South of Ireland) It is also noted that the Women and Equalities committee does not include one representative from Northern Ireland, and can therefore not be representative of the UK as a whole. It appears to be a case of 'we know what's best for them'. Also please look at the recent consultation by the Welsh government about the provision of free abortions to women from Northern Ireland. Over 98%, yes over 98% rejected the proposal. Not one woman from Northern Ireland was in favour.

It is the rest of the UK who need to change their abortion laws in line with Northern Ireland and not the other way and value the lives of the unborn.

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
We in Northern Ireland recognise the unique place that women have in our society. They are truly blessed and privileged to be able to bring another human being into the world. We, therefore, want to support women, especially where the pregnancy is difficult or stressful, to see them carried babies to term. Research has shown that 100,000 people are alive today in Northern Ireland which would not otherwise have been, had NI the same laws as the rest of the UK. We believe that the mother's womb should be the safest place on earth for a baby. So in NI, 90% of babies who have Downs Syndrome are born, whereas in the UK 90% of babies who have Downs are aborted. We have good laws in NI and we do permit abortion but only in very limited circumstances and not as for example killing a baby in the womb as a means of contraception. Abortion in the UK has gone way beyond that which UK legislation permits, it is on demand, another means of contraception, doctors sign blank forms giving authorisation to patients they have never met let alone examined, babies are aborted because of their gender. In fact 98% of babies in England and Wales are killed in the womb for social reasons and not in accordance with the law. Again I stress we in NI have good laws and Northern Ireland is the safest place for a baby to be conceived. We would rather see any more finance being made available to support those in crisis pregnancy situations.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
The right to life if the most basic human right and the UN convention says nothing about abortion, only a small committee within supports abortion. We believe that babies in the womb are live, developing human beings and therefore deserve to be protected. We don’t permit babies to be killed after they are born so why should be beforehand. A society is also judged by how it treats its weakest members. We in Northern give legal protection to our weakest members, the unborn. Respect this.

4) PERSONAL STORIES
Reference is often made to the fact that Northern Ireland does not permit abortion in cases where a victim is raped and becomes pregnant. These hard difficult cases are used to promot abortion on demand yet they thankfully they occur very, very rearly. I know of a case where a teenage girl was raped and sent to England for abortion. She said that she got over the rape, but never got over the abortion. Finally I will make this comment, on television we see either in medical dramas or where cameras are admitted to operating theaters, many and various medical procedures. But there is
one procedure that you will never see, an abortion. Why, because it is horrific. Its is the killing of a human being.

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